

October 26 2009 workshop

BOARD APPROVED AS CORRECTED NOVEMBER 2, 2009  
TE PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORKSHOP

OCTOBER 26, 2009  
9:30 a.m.  
LARGE HALL  
1903 69th AVENUE WEST  
RADENTON, FL 34207

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by John Vander Molen

1. Wii Games--Joe Salerno

Joe will meet with the 35 people who have signed a sheet indicating an interest in the games. The meeting announcement will be on Channel 95. He presented a package of information to the board for consideration but recommended the purchase of a 42" TV instead of a 32". He was told by various sales people that he wouldn't need a high-power TV for the games. Though Nintendo sets the price of the games, the price has dropped dramatically. Joe stated that he would like to purchase two Wii games, two 42" TV's, two combo remotes, two TV brackets and two Fit games. The total cost would be \$1,998. He has collected \$3,101 via the 50/50 raffles so there would be no cost to the park for this purchase. He has no idea how to handle security issues. John suggested an extra bracket for the TV and a box mounted on the wall. Joe said that the YMCA has a locked box on the wall for the remotes. Pam wondered how many people could use the room. Joe replied that two people will "bowl" at a time. He wondered if the board would have to vote on this since he already has the money. Yes, that would be necessary. He feels the computer room is the best place to hold the games. According to Gail's activities calendar, the computer room is used at "various times" Monday through Friday but mainly from 1-4 p.m. those days. Joe asked Gail to check into that and find out for sure when the room is used.

2. Waste Management--Joe Salerno

Our contract with WM expires in February of 2011. Joe contacted them before he left TE in the spring and they told Joe that they might have to raise our rate. Joe wrote a letter to WM two weeks ago and listed four potential options: One pickup a week with two dumpsters, one pickup a week with two compactors, one pickup a week with recycling and two compactors, and one pickup a week with recycling and two dumpsters. WM told Joe that none of these would work and offered a fifth: Keep all rollover containers but reduce curbside to one time. This would result in a 10 percent reduction. One pickup per week instead of two would reduce costs by \$1 per household per month. Joe does not recommend compactors for yard waste but does recommend one pickup per week and suggests we get competitive bids. Last year Joe called 22 parks. Fifteen responded--four parks have one pickup, while three have compactors. For compactors, you must have electrical service plus a slab. These parks recommend leasing a compactor rather than buying one, due to maintenance costs. Board discussion ensued. Harry felt one pickup a week may increase the rat problem. Joe said that WM may give barrels and said that parks that have one pickup don't have a problem. Harry asked if we must have an eight-year contract. Joe said no, we can negotiate. If people don't like the once-a-week pickup, it can be changed. Some people want to recycle, but that isn't cheap. John explained that the Charter says we will provide trash and wonders what Bayshore Gardens pays and what services they get. Joe felt the once-a-week pickup is the big thing. Fred asked what the cost is between the one time a week and two. Joe said it is \$12 a year per household.

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Joe feels we have a little better deal than the county. Pam said that charges will go up for fuel, etc. She could get a group of residents together to negotiate. John took a straw poll of the audience asking how many would accept once-a-week pickup. The majority were for it. He stated we should get containers for our garbage rather than simply putting bags in front of our homes. Residents comments on trash pickup: Bev Lew, 2008 IL: wanted trash in a can rather than a bag. Can we opt out of trash pickup? How much do we pay for extra things in dumpsters? If there is a disaster, we have to have our paperwork filled out correctly. Anna Maria didn't and paid a big fine. John stated that we get so many overages a year in our trash contract. Connie Zack, 6819 MA: Suggested that on election day, we take a poll about once-a-week trash pickup. Joe felt that was a good idea and Pam felt it could be done without violating county election policies.

### 3. Park Directory--Gail Opper

In the spring, Gail had suggested the park directory be done sooner than last year. She asked the board if she could begin the process now and if they had any suggestions. It was decided that information could be gathered now but the order placed around Jan. 15. A discussion ensued as to whether owners or renters should be in the book. Since "occupants" or renters are in the book, we need to be certain we have renters' names for the book. Residents comments--Mary Huston, 1714 MN: She feels the owners' numbers should be in the book and asked if both home and cell numbers could be in it. Gail replied that doing that would require more pages in the book and, thus, a greater expense.

### 4. Summer Board Meetings--Gail Opper

Gail asked the board to think about the possibility of having only one meeting a month during the summer except in the case of an emergency. Since she was gone all summer and received the information covered in the meetings, she felt the majority of board business should be conducted when most residents are in the park; and she also felt that board members could use a break from weekly meetings and would come back fresh in the fall. She thinks this idea should not be decided until the new board is in place. Many on the board felt this was a good idea. Pam said we would have to change the by-laws and wondered if most of the people who came in the winter are renters versus owners. Joe replied that the winter meetings are much better attended than summer/fall meetings. Gail said she would bring the issue up again in January and just hoped people would think about the idea between now and then. Residents comments--Bev Lew, 2008 IL: She asked us to consider night meetings and wondered what constitutes an emergency. She, too, wondered what percentage of winter residents are renters. Flo Mallory said she feels we need more information from residents and wants a discussion of cost cutting. She also said she feels the three-minute rule is a form of board control. Gail said that some kind of time limit is placed concerning resident comments in every government she is familiar with, and, thus, she doesn't believe that has been done for board control.

### 5. Beach Pavilion--Gail Opper

Gail explained that there is only one beach pavilion and residents had complained last winter about sunsetters' having the facility every Friday. Due to problems in the park, some residents who would like to go down to the beach won't go, while others won't ask for the facility despite the fact that Toni Gaeta wrote on the reservation form that she would be willing to give it up if someone else wanted it. Gail asked Toni if she would add to her 2009-10 form that she would again relinquish the pavilion if someone else wanted it. Toni agreed but added that she would like a phone call to that effect. Gail asked the board how they feel about a continual reservation at the only beach pavilion we have every Friday night. Joe felt it was fine--first come, first serve--and felt it was available plenty of other times for residents. He said

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the group has accommodated Bocce very well. Residents comments--Bev Lew, 2008 IL: The group had a discussion about the issue and felt that we only have one pool but people work around that and the Sunsetters are willing to share.

## 6. Role of Attorneys at TE

John reminded clubs and organizations that they now must provide their own copies and can no longer use the park's tax exempt status for their purchases. Gail said she feels this is a problem because it came from the attorneys and became the law of the park without discussion by the board, as has several things recently. She believes the attorneys are advisors and not legislators. New policies are advanced in the park as coming from the attorneys with no board input. Gail stated attorneys are not always right. If they have an opinion, it should be in writing with the supporting law so trustees can investigate. The board should then discuss the opinion, write a policy for the park--if deemed necessary--and vote on it. If the attorneys are going to be legislators, there is no need for a board. Gail stated she is not against the attorneys and feels they have done a great job, but they should assume the role of legislators. Gail went on to say that a new opinion had just been sent via Martha and the attorneys that morning, a decision was made but nothing had not gone through the board. John wondered why we would not accept the opinion of the attorneys and the auditors. Gail explained that was not the case. It is simply that the proposal should come before the board; and the board, elected by the people to legislate, should discuss it, write policy and vote on it. Joe said that he could not understand why clubs/organizations have to pay for copies. They contribute a great deal of money to the park and it is ridiculous for us to ask them for money. Harry felt the attorneys should not have the authority to make decisions for TE. He said, "Does everything have to be run through the attorneys?" He reiterated a concern he had a month or so ago when he wasn't allowed to give an opinion until it was run by the attorneys. Harry felt that was a freedom of speech issue. Pam, too, felt the attorneys should not make park policy. Residents' comments--Lillian Walsh, 6609 Kansas: Where she works, they say, "Pay the bill and we'll reimburse you." Bruce Smith, 2316 New York: He agrees that it is the board who should make the decisions. Auditors and attorneys should give us the law upon which they made the decision. The ultimate responsibility, though, does rest with the board. Jim Mcilveen, 1708 New York: Lawyers have their opinions but go to the people who write the laws and ask them.

## GENERAL RESIDENTS COMMENTS

Mary Huston, 1714 MN--She is concerned that the office is closed for a half hour every day. She feels the secretaries should take their lunches at different times, and the office door should not be locked. Gail stated that this is not a lunch break but two 15-minute breaks that the girls choose to put together. Those breaks are required by law and no work should be done on them. John said the board voted on this method and can change it if they choose.

Barb Durrin, 6517 WA--She read a letter she composed regarding all the problems at TE. She feels there is a cancer and that the group is trying to "micro manage" the park. She reminded everyone that CNN came and felt we had a great park as did the Smithsonian magazine. She wondered where all the great people in the "silent majority" are and why aren't they speaking about this great park.

Margo asked if she could discuss Bingo based on information written in a recent memo. She has a letter from the Florida legislature that states that as a special district, Bingo at TE is just fine; and until she hears differently from them, she will continue Bingo as it has been done. She also stated that under no circumstances do we ever pay out more than \$250 in a jackpot--not even close.

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John called for a motion to adjourn. Pam made the motion and Joe seconded it.  
The workshop was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Opper, Secretary