

BOARD APPROVED MAY 3, 2010
TRAILER ESTATES PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES WORKSHOP
APRIL 26, 2010
SMALL HALL
1903 69TH AVENUE WEST
BRADENTON, FL 34281

The Workshop was called to order at 9:32 a.m. by 1st Vice Chair Gail Opper.

Attorney Mark Barnebey sat at the Board table to assist in the writing of a PP on behavior at Board meetings and workshops. Since he was present, Gail asked the Board if anyone objected to moving agenda items 1 and 2 to the end of the Workshop and moving items 3 and 4 to the beginning. With no objections, that was done.

Gail stated that she did not ask Mr. Barnebey to come to the meeting. Martha did. Gail apologized to the residents for calling Mr. Barnebey during the week in preparation for today's meeting, but she didn't know he would be there and she wanted to be sure she understood the Board's legal rights.

Gail then discussed the incident that had occurred at the Board meeting the week before: Gail stated that she was disappointed the Sheriff deputy left empty-handed, as others were; but in defense of Martha, Gail stated that Martha wasn't 100 percent sure of the Board's legal rights. After researching, Gail believes Martha could have followed through but hindsight is 20/20.

In Gail's discussion with Mr. Barnebey during the week, she learned that there is a new ruling in the Florida courts that states public comment is not required at Workshop or Board meetings. She also learned that residents can be removed from meetings for disruptive behavior to the Board or in regards to residents trying to listen at Board meetings.

Mr. Barnebey stated that we would have to amend our by-laws to eliminate public comment, except in public hearings where public comment is required.

Harry: We once talked about a security guard. Would that help?

Joe: Should we allow public comment? I think we should. All trustees present agreed with Joe that it should be allowed.

Gail passed out to the trustees and read out loud to the audience the information she had obtained from the city of North Port in regards to their rules about behavior at meetings.

Joe: It doesn't say what is done if people don't obey the rules.

Mr. Barnebey: You should talk to the Sheriff.

Gail: It doesn't cover everything I think happens in our audience.

Harry: It allows people to speak on agenda items only. What if they have several items to discuss?

Mr. Barnebey: They get three minutes. People can get information to the Board other ways than speaking at the microphone.

Harry: Perhaps we could have a specific time for people to speak at Workshops and Board meetings and have the Sheriff come only at that time.

Margo: Do we rescind Workshop comments to a specific time?

Joe: The problem we have is disruption not comments.

Fred: Lots of things go on that Martha doesn't catch. I am not for the police being here.

Mr. Barnebey: You should make the chair aware that your thought processes are being disrupted.

Gail: Ken and I have both spoken about that to Martha but she is so busy with what is going on, that she doesn't see what is happening in the audience.

Joe: We had no policy last week and Martha didn't know what to do.

Margo: We need one cell phone allowed at the Board table during the meeting. The Sheriff should be called from that phone so everyone can hear the conversation.

1. PP58A Behavior Policy regarding resident behavior at the microphone and in the audience at meetings and workshops.

Using the North Port example as a model, the Board wrote a policy for Trailer Estates. Gail will type it.

Residents Comments

Mary Huston, 1714 MN—She doesn't feel the behavior last week was necessary to be corrected. Letters written by residents should be read.

Bev Lew, 2008 IL—Put a copy of the First Amendment before the policy. Don't turn off the microphone. She obtained a copy of the police report and claims it is wrong. She sent a complaint about the incident to the First Amendment Commission.

Flo Mallory, 6919 West Bayou—Simple housekeeping rules will handle the problem. The new policy is a burden.

Joe Langton, 2107 OH—He doesn't feel the chairman lost control at last week's meeting. She used restraint. The speaker refused to stop and wouldn't leave.

Lonny Stanley, 6620 NJ—Most people by vote and comments support the Board. People speak time after time with negative comments. We shouldn't make rules for some that hurt all of us.

Connie Zack, 6819 MA—I was recording secretary last summer. I couldn't hear what was being said because of problems in the audience. I would like to thank all the Board members for their restraint. Lies are being told in the park.

Trustee Comments

Harry: We must spend money to defend ourselves.

Gail: In regards to a resident's First Amendment comments, Gail asked Mr. Barnebey to comment on something she has heard, "Your First Amendment rights end where mine begin."

Mr. Barnebey: I haven't heard it said quite like that. Comments in the audience are disruptive. Personal attacks against the Board are not ok.

Mr. Barnebey left the meeting at this point and took a copy of the new Board policy with him to make sure it meets the letter of the law. We will vote on the policy at the next meeting.

2. Policy for protection in the District in general. Do we need one?

Joe: We are not going to change someone's personality.

The Board agreed that writing a policy for this is not necessary.

3. Laundry survey and options for the laundry.

Joe did a two-week survey in an attempt to save energy. He learned that most activity in the laundry occurs between 7 a.m. and 12 p.m. plus the biggest cost and use is May through October. He recommended we close the laundry all day Sunday and close at noon Monday through Saturday.

Harry: If you closed the laundry at 2 p.m., more people would be covered.

Joe: Good point. We should have a sign that tells people to turn off the lights when not needed. His new recommendation is to close the laundry at 2 p.m.

Joe gave us some options to think about: 1) We can wait three years until the contract runs out and decide what we want to do; 2) We can renegotiate the contract with less washers and dryers; 3) We can discontinue the laundry altogether—in 2009, we lost \$7,642 plus \$3,120 in cleaning costs and \$500 in maintenance; 4) We can discontinue the laundry and run it ourselves. Tri-Par owns its own laundry.

Residents Comments

Bev Lew, 2008 IL—Governments do not own businesses that are R16. Leave the laundry open one night a week for the residents who work.

Jim Angerame, 1614 MN—Less than one or two people are at the laundry. Open with very restricted hours or not at all. People from outside the park use the laundry.

Joe will check with the vendor and Gail will check to see if we have to vote on the closing of the laundry for certain hours of the day.

4. Large Hall and Small Hall amenities.

The Board went over the list Gail prepared and added items to it. There were no residents' comments on this issue.

5. Energy conservation in the Large and Small halls.

Gail read the report she had prepared about moving activities to conserve energy.

Joe: We should ask the Woodshop to devise its own plan to save energy. They are trying to do a good job and have made some positive changes.

Harry: They said they're doing all they can to conserve.

Fred: They turn off lights and use no air conditioning, just a fan. Let's let them decide.

Residents Comments

Bev Lew, 2008 IL—Hand and Foot plays. Can this continue in the summer? What will be the procedure to get a function registered this summer? Last summer people waited five weeks to get a reservation approved.

Gail: Hand and Foot will play as it has played all year. Though nothing is written in stone, it is possible that reservations will be faxed to me, I'll approve them, and fax them back. Lots of people did not wait five weeks for a reservation approval last summer. That may have happened once.

A motion was made by Joe, seconded by Ken, to adjourn the Workshop. The Workshop was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Opper, Secretary