



**MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY**

**NEW PORT RICHEY CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**5919 MAIN STREET, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA**

**May 2, 2017**

**5:00 PM**

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**ORDER OF  
BUSINESS**

**1 Call to Order - Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rob Marlowe at 5:00 pm. Those in attendance were, Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas and Councilman Chopper Davis. Councilman Bill Phillips was excused.

Also in attendance were City Manager Debbie Manns, City Clerk Judy Meyers, Development Director Lisa Fierce, Public Works Director Robert Rivera, Parks and Recreation Director Elaine Smith and Technology Solutions Director Bryan Weed.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**2 Parks and Recreation Master Plan - Page 2**

City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated that the purpose of the work session was for Council to review the proposed Parks and Recreation Master Plan Draft. She then introduced David Barth from Barth Associates who then made a presentation to Council. Mr. Barth began his presentation by reviewing the key issues from the Needs Assessment. Mr. Barth then discussion the mission, vision and values that were created from the Visioning Workshop. Mr. Barth then discussed recommended city-wide improvements including increased marketing efforts, requesting additional information from residents on communication techniques and to conduct an annual on-line survey. Mr. Barth then stated that the river should be considered the most valuable recreational, social, economic entity. He stated that there was nothing that shows the river being treated as an asset. He suggested installing wayfinding signs along the river to identify where a person is at and also perhaps a kiosk at one of the kayak launches which shows other parks and restaurants in the area along with other amenities.

Mr. Barth then moved on to other amenities that can be increased including adding adirondack chairs in Sims Park or installing public art. He also talked about the increased collaboration between the city and the school district. Mr. Barth then discussed improved

bicycle and pedestrian connectivity.

Mr. Barth then discussed the need for area neighborhood parks. Mr. Barth stated by modernizing the other parks the way that Sims Park was done will help attract the kind of residents that the city is looking for. Mr. Barth concluded his presentation by discussing options for the Pine Hill ball park and recognizing the Recreation & Aquatic Center as the city's premier indoor facility. Mr. Barth also briefly commented on Meadows Dog Park. City Manager Manns stated that by having a physical plan it will aid the city in achieving more grant funding opportunities. Mr. Barth suggested Council plan a trip to New York City to see the work they have done on the transformation of their signature and neighborhood parks.

Council then discussed with Mr. Barth about experimenting with a pedestrian connection along Grand Blvd. The discussion first was about turning north Grand into a one-way heading north and using the southbound lane as a pedestrian and bicycle lane. The discussion then shifted to conducting the experiment along south Grand as that would be more feasible.

Mayor Marlowe then invited Jon Tietz to speak. Mr. Tietz stated he reviewed the documents and thought the recommendations were very good. He stated that opening up Grand Blvd. as an experiment would be amazing. He stated that riding his bike in his neighborhood is challenging and he would take advantage of a greenway. Council then discussed the further experiment along Grand Blvd. Mr. Phelps stated he would recommend spending a lot of time marketing to residents before conducting the experiment. Mr. Phelps then talked about traffic along Central Avenue.

The work session concluded with Council giving their individual thoughts on the north Grand experiment and when the experiment could take place along south Grand.

3 Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ (date)

\_\_\_\_\_ (signed)

Initialed: \_\_\_\_\_

Judy Meyers, City Clerk