



**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  
February 21, 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 Bill Phillips, Councilwoman Judy DeBella Thomas, Councilman Jeff Starkey and Councilman Chopper Davis.

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 Assistant to the City Manager Martin Murphy.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

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City Manager Manns introduced the item to Council. She stated the purpose of the work session was for Council to review the Needs Assessment for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. She then introduced David Barth of Barth Associates who then made a presentation to Council.

Mr. Barth began his presentation with an outline of the Needs Assessment findings. He stated that the top priority needs included improvements to existing parks, additional walking, hiking biking trails, off-leash dog parks, small neighborhood parks and natural areas and nature parks. The top priority programs included adult fitness and wellness, summer concerts and nature programs.

The demographics analysis found that the population and population density is growing. The median age of residents is growing older. There is a large population at the poverty level. Mr. Barth stated that there are things that can be done in regards to recreational and social programs. Councilman Starkey stated the focus is on the future and not the current demographics. The City's Comp Plan and CRA Plan contain elements that will be enhanced by the Master Plan.

Evaluated all the parks on a scale of 1-5 with 1 not meeting expectations and 5 exceeding expectations. The Level of Service analysis showed that park acreage per the Comp Plan was

fine from 2015-2020. Councilman Davis stated that the acreage at the Grey Preserve is all in one location. Deputy Mayor Phillips stated that the river was not taken into consideration as it is a greenway throughout the city. Mr. Barth stated the Level of Service is subjective and focuses on developable park land. Mr. Barth and Council then discussed picnic areas and parks that are not open to the public on a regular basis. Councilman Starkey suggested meeting with County officials quarterly to discuss issues including the lack of ball fields for various sports and travel leagues.

Mr. Barth then discussed the surveys that were mailed. The demographics of those that responded corresponded with the people in the community. The top priorities identified on the survey included walking and hiking trails, paved bike trails, natural areas, off-leash dog parks and small neighborhood parks. Mr. Barth then went over some of the questions and the results from the survey. Mr. Barth then discussed the on-line survey results. The on-line results echoed the same as the mailed surveys. Mr. Barth stated the next steps would be to move to visioning and then formulating the actual Master Plan.

3           Adjournment

There being no further business to consider, upon proper motion, the meeting adjourned at 6:24 pm.

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

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

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

Judy Meyers, City Clerk