

**WORKSHOP
LAKE HELEN CITY COMMISSION
April 29, 2010
7:00 P.M.**

MINUTES

A WORKSHOP of the City Commission of the City of Lake Helen, Florida was called to order by **Mayor Snowden** at approximately 7:05 p.m. Present were **Mayor Snowden, Commissioners Basso, Burton, Lane and Robbins**. Also present was **City Clerk Nancy Wilson**.

Mayor Snowden announced that we can't take official action at this meeting

Commissioner Lane gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation by Diane Jennings regarding a new playground in Blake Park
Ms. Jennings is a member of the Parks & Recreation Board. She gave a Powerpoint presentation outlining the scope of this project. The goal of the workshop was to describe the project, answer questions and gather suggestions. She described the four phases:

- Phase 1 – getting started; this includes getting City approval, forming a Steering Committee, getting supporters, completing forms, surveying land, scheduling and organizing Design Day
- Phase 2 – Design Day; this includes interviews with schools and children, gathering input from the community and unveiling the initial draft and design
- Phase 3 – Fundraising; this includes holding events to raise funds, getting corporate and component sponsorship, applying for grants and getting support from local corporations and organizations
- Phase 4 – Construction; this includes removing and repurposing existing playground equipment, ground prep/building/construction and providing volunteer support supplies and facilities

The consulting firm that will be utilized is called Leather and Associates. They will provide management, drafting, design work and construction guidance. They have over forty years experience, have successfully completed more than 2000 projects and use eco-friendly materials.

Ms. Jennings asked for community and City commitments. From the City, she requested a maximum of \$2,000 for seed money, permission to use park land and repurpose existing equipment and general support, including volunteers. From the community, she requested general support and the bulk of the volunteers to help with

fundraising efforts, donating time/materials and expertise. More than 400 volunteers will be needed during the week of construction.

The goal is to have the project completed in a years time though it could be a two year project depending on how successful the fundraising activities are. The total project costs will be between \$125,000 and \$150,000 which will include materials, components, ground cover, special components, money earmarked for maintenance, contingency funds and consulting fees.

The ultimate goal is to increase park utilization, beautify our City center, create a space for everyone to enjoy and invest in our community, among other benefits.

There was some discussion and Q&A about the specifics of the project after which, the Commission was overwhelmingly in support of her proposal and gave their tacit approval to move forward. On May 6th, the Commission will vote formally.

The presentation that Ms. Jenkins gave to the Commissioners is available at City Hall from the City Clerk's office.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Buddy Snowden, Mayor

Nancy Wilson, City Clerk