**AMENDED**

**Meeting Minutes for the March 7, 2013 Metro and Urban Parks Ad Hoc Committee**

March 11, 2013

9:15 a.m.

**Topic:** Presentation of a series of assigned reports

**Location:** Conference Room A, Suite 425, City Hall, 117 West Duval Street

**In Attendance:** CM Don Redman, CM Bill Gulliford, Kelley Boree, Parks & Recreation director; Robert S. Pace, EQD; J. Richardson, EPB; Paige Johnston, OGC; Jeff Clements, Council Research; Tonisha Gaines, Special Events manager; Max Marbot, Daily Record; Mike Yokan, DWP; Daryl Joseph, Parks & Recreation; Richard Robinson, EQD; Janice Billy, CAO; Jennifer Hewett-Apperson, DVI; Kimberly Patrie, RS&H; Scott Wilson, ECA District4; Tony Allegretti, Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

The meeting was called to order by Council Member Bill Gulliford at 10 a.m. He was asked to chair the meeting by Chair E. Denise Lee who was unable to make the meeting due to an emergency home repair. In that both Council Member Lori Boyer and Council Member Dr. Johnny Gaffney had excused absences, a quorum was not present resulting in the waiving of passing of the February 21 minutes.

CM Gulliford asked that the requested the presentation of reports. (Note: Reports are included in the Minutes package.)

Paige Johnston reported on regulating vulgar language. Her recommendation is that the committee concentrate on reducing ambient volume crossing the river from Metropolitan Park concerts so that the offensive language is contained within the park.

CM Redman asked why the City Council can regulate vulgar language at its meetings in City Hall but it can’t be regulated in a similar manner at a Metropolitan Park concert. She explained that courts have ruled that free speech protection in traditional spots for public gatherings like parks is given a wider berth.

Jeff Clements gave his report on comparable park concert facilities around the country. He did note that as part of the permitting process in Chattanooga, Tennessee promoters have to notify neighborhoods that may be affected prior to getting a concert permit. This allows citizens to voice complaints prior to the show rather than afterwards when nothing can be done.

Tonisha Gaines gave a report on Special Events as it pertains to Metropolitan Park. She reported that there were relatively few noise complaints but this is due to the fact that there is no 24-hour line for people to call with such complaints. She said a Special Events staffer is on the grounds at all events. She suggested that number be made public so that neighbors will be able to talk with someone when there is a problem.

CM Redman asked if a person certified to measure sound could be employed by the promoter to measure sound during performances as part of the permitting process. Ms. Johnston said such a provision could be added to the existing ordinance in that events at the park require EMTs and JSO personnel to be on site at the expense of the promoter.

Kimberly Patrie of the Reynolds, Smith and Hill architecture firm offered that sound is best controlled closer to the source. She suggested the city look into directional speakers that surround the park with sound so that it can be contained rather than using a wall of speakers set up around the stage that project the sound outward. She said that berms and walls could be constructed at less expense, but would ruin the esthetics of the park and the river.

Janice Billy gave her report on park finances as of March 6, 2013. Ordinance 2010-61-E appropriated $7,748,697. Ordinance 2010-330-E transferred $3 million to JLI Parking. Ordinance 2011-366-E transferred $3,507,226 to Parador Garage. This left $1,241,453 minus $566,648 in expenditures leaving a balance of $674,805.

Mike Yokan presented a report on the extra costs promoters incur when doing business at Metropolitan Park.

Kelley Boree and CM Gulliford got into a brief discussion about Metropolitan Park upgrades. She said past studies have estimated refurbishing the stage and its canopy would be in the $1 million range.

Ginny Myrick, who lives in an affected neighborhood, stated that neighbors need to know what the phone number is that they can call to talk to a person as the sound problem is happening. She also wanted the committee to pursue looking into requiring promoters to hire certified sound engineers to monitor sound levels during concerts. She wants a record of what sound levels were throughout the show. By hiring a third party, it keeps city employees from having to be sound police.

CM Gulliford asked that a representative from the JSO be asked to attend the next committee meeting. He wants to know about feasibility of having the two certified JSO officers on duty at all Metropolitan Park ticketed events.

CM Redman again reminded the committee of its mission: To control noise from Metropolitan Park events as to not disturb neighborhoods across the river or near the park.

CM Gulliford asked that the committee discuss at its next meeting immediate temporary measures that can be taken to avert the problem at a scheduled show in April.

The next meeting is set for 11 a.m. Thursday March 21 in Conference Room A in the City Council Offices.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8

Included:

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Minutes

CM Boyer and Gaffney Excused Absence

Attendance Sheet

Reports

Audio CD