June 10, 2013

5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes for the June 6, 2013 Metro and Urban Parks Ad Hoc Committee**

**Topic:** Subcommittee reports. Discussion of Entertainment District legislation.

**Location:** City Council Conference Room A, 4th Floor City Hall.

**In Attendance:** CM Don Redman, CM Lori Boyer; CM Bill Gulliford, Steve Pace, EQD; Paige Johnston, OGC; Janice Billy, CAO; Mark Hartley, Jacksonville Parks; Michael Boylan, WJCT; Mike Yokan, Promoter; Tonisha Gaines, COJ Special Events; Scott Wilson, ECA District 4; James Richardson, COJ- EPB; Daryl Joseph, COJ Parks & Recreation; Cheryl Brown, COJ, and Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

CM Dr. Johnny Gaffney had an excused absence.

CM E. Denise Lee did not attend due to illness.

The meeting was convened by CM Redman at 11:03 a.m.

CM Boyer reported that she has been meeting with Paige Johnston to draft proposed legislation that will define sound levels, stage placement and fees for future Metropolitan Park lease contracts.

CM Redman reminded the committee that they needed to approve the May 26 minutes. They were approved by a 3-0 vote.

CM Gulliford said his subcommittee had not met due to scheduling conflicts with local sound experts. A meeting has been set for Thursday June 13 at 9:30 a.m. in Conference Room A.

Due to a scheduling conflict, CM Daniels was unable to attend the meeting so discussion of bill 2013-166 concerning expanding the Entertainment Zone was tabled.

CM Gulliford said he would extend an invitation to CM Daniels to attend the Subcommittee meeting. CM Daniels said she would notice her upcoming meeting with Jim Baily of the DIA to discuss the Myrick proposal for appropriate uses of Metropolitan Park and invite CM Daniels to attend.

Under New Business, CM Redman began a discussion of moving outdoor concerts to the Equestrian Center. He engaged Tonisha Gaines, COJ Special Events, about the non-ticketed events that are held at the park. She spoke of the recent free School Board rally that brought several thousand people to the park.

CM Gulliford said he’d prefer to see an outdoor concert facility constructed near the airport because hotels, restaurants and shopping already exist in that area. Promoter Mike Yokan said he has been looking for an appropriate spot in that area for 10 years.

Ms. Johnston said there may be some development restrictions due to the proximity of the airport. She will investigate the existence of any restrictions.

CM Redman said he brought up the Equestrian Center because Council President Bill Bishop had suggested it as an alternative concert site. He noted that if it was used regularly for such concerts that hotels and amenities would follow. In the past during the budget process there has been talk of closing the Equestrian Center due to lack of use. CM Redman sees concerts as a way to increase use and revenue.

Ms. Gaines told the committee that Metropolitan Park is already receiving calls about possible 2014 events. Mr. Yokan said that due to weather and heat conditions big concerts would only want to come to Metropolitan Park in the early spring and in the fall.

CM Boyer said a study needs to be done before creating another concert venue that would in essence compete with other city facilities like the Arena and the Times-Union Center.

The Committee discussed the success of the St. Augustine Amphitheater. It was mentioned that St. Johns County is an active participant in attracting business to this facility and shares in the profits. CM Gulliford favored taking a similar approach.

CM Boyer asked that an item be placed on the next Committee meeting’s agenda to discuss a resolution asking the Parks and Recreation Department to look into alternative places for events.

Steve Pace briefly explained the notebooks he distributed that contained the final results and recommendations from the sound studies conducted during the Boat Show, Welcome to Rockville and Funk Fest. He discussed the possibility of requiring a sound deposit from promoters. Funds would be withdrawn from that fund for every violation. Mr. Yokan said he is not familiar with any other cities where he promotes concerts having a similar clause.

CM Boyer brought up that during discussions with Jacksonville Suns owner Peter Bragan he said noise from nearby restaurants, bars and the fairgrounds can cause problems for his operation. Mr. Yokan asked that the Committee consider doing sound tests at Jaguar games, baseball games and during the fair to provide additional information about sound levels during a wider variety events in this area.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

Included:

 Minutes

 Attendance Sheet

 Meeting Notice

 Excused absence request

 Agenda

 Audio CD of meeting