July 26, 2013

5:00 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes for the July 25, 2013 Metro and Urban Parks Ad Hoc Committee**

**Topic:** Discussion of draft copies of rules, contracts and operating ordinance for Metropolitan Park.

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

**In Attendance:** CM Bill Gulliford, CM E. Denise Lee, CM Don Redman, Paige Johnston, OGC; Janice Billy, CAO; Kelley Boree, Parks & Recreation; Mike Yokan, Promoter; Tonisha Gaines, COJ Special Events; James Richardson, COJ-EPB; Richard Robinson, Environmental Quality; Jeff Clements, Council Research; Daryl Joseph, Parks & Recreation; Ed Suggs, ECA At Large District 1; Allison Adams, ECA District 5 and Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

CM Dr. Johnny Gaffney and CM Lori Boyer had excused absences.

The meeting was convened by CM Lee at 10:17 a.m.

The minutes of the June 6, 2013 and June 20, 2013 meetings were approved.

CM Bill Gulliford asked that he be placed on the agenda for the next meeting to give a report on the cost of purchasing a carousel for Metropolitan Park.

Paige Johnston reviewed the draft ordinance for the operation of the park that was prepared by herself and CM Lori Boyer (copy attached with minutes). The ordinance revises operation hours for concerts, when sound checks can be conducted, how sound will be monitored, proposed fines for violating the sound rules and stipulations that staff cannot waive rules.

This ordinance is intended to be a temporary fix to allow staff to book concerts in the coming year while protecting adjacent neighborhoods from excessive noise. It has a sunset clause of September 30, 2014.

There was discussion about a clause that would require a refundable $10,000 deposit for concerts that would be used to guarantee sound violation fines are paid. CM Gulliford wondered if the deposit would make the park cost prohibitive for smaller promoters or church groups for example. CM Don Redman suggested that the deposit be waived for non-profit organizations. CM Gulliford said that the deposit amount could be “stair-stepped” depending on the size of the event.

Chairperson E. Denise Lee reminded the group that this is a working document and serves as a starting place for a future ordinance. She asked that those in attendance review the document and email suggestions and concerns to her email and to Ms. Johnston. Ms. Johnston requested that the emails arrive no later than the Monday before the next scheduled meeting.

The subject of waivers was briefly discussed. If waivers could only be granted by City Council rather than staff, Kelley Boree said such waivers would have to be submitted several weeks in advance. However, Gulliford said the item could be taken up as an emergency. Janice Billy said such a waiver could be granted by the Recreation and Community Development committee.

Johnston then went over proposed Metropolitan Park rules. Again, Chairperson Lee asked that concerns and suggestions be emailed so that they can be addressed at the next meeting.

A discussion about the existence of a 12 ticketed event limit by the Federal Park Service, which helped create Metropolitan Park, led to Chairperson Lee to form a new subcommittee to look into this issue. It will be chaired by CM Boyer and will include CM Gulliford, CM Redman, Ms. Boree, Mike Yokan, Ms. Johnston, Tonisha Gaines, Steve Pace and Ms. Billy. The charge is to find the original document that states the city is limited to 12 ticketed events. CM Gulliford said he would contact Rep. Ander Crenshaw’s office for assistance on the federal level.

In new business, Mr. Yokan asked that in the spirit of fairness he’d like to see sound measurements taken at a Suns baseball game, a Jaguars football game and during the Greater Jacksonville Agricultural Fair. CM Redman said that there have been very few complaints about sound during these events.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 14 at 2 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Minutes compiled by Dan Macdonald, ECA District 8.

Included:

Minutes

Attendance Sheet

Meeting Notice

Agenda

Draft copies of ordinance, Metropolitan Park Rules, rental contract

Audio CD of meeting