

Johnston, Paige

From: Smith, Gwen <gwen_smith@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2013 7:34 PM
To: Johnston, Paige
Cc: Lee, Mary Ann; Barbara Goodman
Subject: Metropolitan Park
Attachments: Metropolitan Park Letters.pdf

Hi Paige:

I have had the opportunity to review the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) project file for Metropolitan Park in the City of Jacksonville, FL to see if there is any reference to how many paid events were designated by National Park Service (NPS) to be held at the amphitheater.

While there was quite a bit of information in the six inch wide file folder, there was only one letter signed by an NPS official, Wallace Jones. The letter was dated February 4, 1986 and was addressed to Richard McMekin, General Manager, Florida National Pavilion. The letter clarified the term "occasional" use as five or six events. There does not appear to be any other formal response from NPS to the inquiry of how many paid events could be held annually.

The aforementioned number of events is consistent with what Mayor Godbold stated in his October 28, 1982 letter to NPS where he mentions that *"the City and Channel 7 would jointly produce five or six festivals annually...All such events would be free and open to the general public...In addition, a similar number of festivals or events may be produced by Channel 7 under agreement with the City...with a general admission charge to the public."*

As a courtesy, I have attached a copy of these correspondence for your consideration. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks.

Gwenevere P. Smith
Chief, Recreation Programs Branch
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
100 Alabama Street, SW 1924 Bldg.
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 507-5800 phone
(404) 562-3246 fax
gwen_smith@nps.gov

L3219(SFB-20)

FEB 4 1986

Mr. Richard McMeekin
General Manager
Florida National Pavilion
J.P.W. Festival Park
Jacksonville, Florida 32202

Dear Mr. McMeekin:

Enclosed are copies of file documentation relating to the "occasional" use of the Metropolitan Park amphitheater by Channel 7 for paid entertainment.

Please note that the correspondence refers to 5 or 6 such events per year, therefore, I would define "occasional" as being 5 or 6.

Let the record also indicate that normally such facilities would not be permitted to have paid professional entertainment (see excerpts from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grants Manual, Chapter 640.3.6, paragraphs J and M, enclosed). We made a special provision in this case because of the financial contribution from Channel 7.

I am glad to hear how popular the park has been and how successful the various presentations have been. Let me know if I can assist you in any way.

Sincerely,

(Sgd): Wallace H. Jones

Chief, Grants Division
Southeast Region

Enclosures

WJones:dnc:2/4/86:2611:MetroPark



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

JAKE M. GODBOLD
MAYOR

October 28, 1982

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
32202

Mr. Roger Parker, Project Officer
National Park Service
Southeast Regional Office
75 Spring Street, SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Roger:

As Mayor of the City of Jacksonville, I would like to personally thank you for your continued support and assistance in our efforts to develop the Metropolitan Park Complex. I apologize that my briefings on the progress of the project had been incomplete. It was not until our telephone conversation this morning with you and Wally Jones and with all of the actors from Jacksonville present that a true light on the present situation was evident. I appreciate your tolerance in this matter and can assure you that any previous misconceptions among the participants of this joint venture have now been resolved and that we are proceeding as specified in the submitted grant application.

Major points of concern, which you were able to resolve and which were agreed upon by all parties were:

- 1) The City and Channel 7 would jointly produce five or six festivals annually which would utilize the entire park area. Such a production would be similar to Mayport and All That Jazz, which has been very successful. All such events would be free and open to the general public. In addition, a similar number of festivals or events may be produced by Channel 7 under agreement with the City that would utilize the entire park area with a general admission charge to the public.
- 2) Throughout the year, the stage would be made available for productions in conjunction with Channel 7 and their programming. It is necessary for some of their programs, such as a fishing

Mr. Roger Parker
Page Two
October 28, 1982

information program, gardening program, special music productions, etc., to be filmed and produced from the stage. This would in no way affect the operation of the park otherwise, in that it would remain open to the general public even during these times. The stage would, of necessity, have to be equipped with permanent facilities, such as professional sound and lighting for the production of these events. The expense associated with this, however, would not be a part of the federal grant.

- 4) The City will maintain control of the entire park operation and, by agreement, will work out the necessary details with Channel 7. Therefore, the federal government will be dealing only with the City of Jacksonville in terms of the grant or any other matters related to the park. In this regard, because of the confusion and personality situations that seem to have developed, it would seem to be in the best interest of all concerned that you communicate directly with Don McClure, my Chief Administrative Officer and/or his designee in order to carry out these responsibilities.

As you know from a previous on-site visit, the Gator Bowl facility is one of several Metropolitan Park attributes. Each year two major events, the Georgia-Florida and Gator Bowl football games, are held in this facility and receive national coverage. Approximately 100,000 fans from various parts of the country are in attendance to view each event. Several days prior to the scheduled event, thousands of families caravan to the Gator Bowl parking facilities and remain on location, with limited activities, until the event is over. With the completion of Metropolitan Park, the City of Jacksonville will be able to offer this group of individuals a variety of pre/post game recreation leisure time activities. These activities will remain open to the general public.

Since the Georgia-Florida event is scheduled November 6th, and in order to attain a clearer understanding of the scope and potential utilization of the Metropolitan Park Complex during these types of events, I strongly recommend that a representative from your office attend this upcoming event. Please advise Mr. Julian Barrs, Director of the Department of Recreation and Public Affairs, of your intentions.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,



Jake M. Godbold
Mayor

JMG/ahc

cc: R. Lee Smith, Channel 7 Board of Trustees
Julian Barrs, Director, Jay Recreation Department