Metropolitan Park

Summary of subcommittee conclusions from Aug 7, 2013 meeting

1. **The federal laws and regulations governing the Land and Water Conservation Fund apply to Metropolitan Park because a portion of the funding for the Park came from that source.** It does not matter that additional funding came from other sources or what facility or portion of the park the funds were applied to—the entire original park is governed by LWCF regulations.

2. Those laws and regulations require that the Park be used for “**public outdoor recreation purposes**.” Furthermore, an applicant is specifically obligated to maintain and operate the park as described in their application and award unless a change is approved.

3. A recorded document restricts use of the originally defined park to public outdoor recreation use **in perpetuity.**

4. **The permission to hold 5-6 ticketed and 5-6 public events was an exception**, granted by letter upon request from WJCT and Mayor Godbold, to the requirement that the park remain open to the public at all times.

5. The **state has been delegated authority to monitor ongoing compliance** with LWCF requirements **and by letter appears to acknowledge 12 ticketed events**, although recent interpretation by the National Park Service is that the exception could be interpreted to only allow 6 ticketed events.

6. The process to remove the recorded covenant and the restrictions on use is called **conversion. Conversion requires substitution of alternate new outdoor public recreation land of equal value (to the whole park as improved).**

7**. Conversion in order to allow more than 12 ticketed events in the Metropolitan Park location is not economically feasible at this time.**

8. **We should simply continue in reliance on the prior state acknowledgement that 12 ticketed events are permissible** and not rock the boat.

9. There is no apparent federal or state definition of ticketed event but we should define for the City of Jacksonville what constitutes a ticketed event. **A ticketed event is an event that restricts public access to the original park in its entirety without regard to the type of licensee. A single ticketed event may consist of 2 consecutive days but no more.**

10. In order not to exceed the intent of the exception, **the number of multi-day ticketed events should be limited and balanced by events that close the park for only a portion of a day.** A total annual hour limitation for ticketed events might be established to provide guidance to Special Events.

11. Suggested nominal donations can be requested at the gate by groups requesting use of the entire park without constituting a ticketed event. However, access must be granted to someone who chooses not to make a donation. It was suggested that World of Nations could fall into this group.

12. Special Events can license exclusive use of the entire Pavilion (front and back) or front or back only, without constituting a ticketed event provided the remainder of the park is open to the public. This would be the only location available for license for a Private Event.

13. The Met Park Ad Hoc Committee will need to discuss the following: non-ticketed events using the soundboard, the annual number of hours the Park can be used for ticketed events.