

**OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

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4TH FLOOR, CITY HALL

JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32202

904-630-1377

**Special Committee on Hemming Park Meeting Minutes**

**November 10, 2016**

**2:30 p.m.**

**Topic:** Special Committee on Hemming Park Meeting

**Location:** City Council Conference Room A, Suite 425, City Hall – St. James Building, 117 West Duval Street

**In attendance:** Council Members Greg Anderson (Chair), John Crescimbeni, Anna Lopez Brosche, Danny Becton, Bill Gulliford

**Also**: Council President Lori Boyer; Kirk Sherman and Heather Reber – Council Auditor’s Office; Yvonne P. Mitchell – Council Research Division; Sam Mousa and Ali Korman Shelton –Mayor’s Office; Paige Johnston and Peggy Sidman – Office of General Counsel; Bill Prescott and Wayne Wood – Friends of Hemming Park; Greg Pease – Procurement Division

See attached sign-in sheet for additional attendees

**Meeting Convened**: 2:36 p.m.

Chairman Anderson convened the meeting and the attendees introduced themselves for the record. Mr. Anderson stated the purpose of the meeting was to receive status reports from the various subcommittees, and discuss refinement of performance measurements regarding Hemming Park with the Office of General Council and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. In addition, he wanted to discuss whether a new RFP or an amendment was necessary to make modifications to the original agreement with Friends of Hemming Park (FOHP).

Chairman Anderson commented that RFP Subcommittee met and identified three additional performance areas to be evaluated for success. The measurements are: Welcoming and Attractive (to evaluate landscape/hardscape and event specifics such as number held and definition of “event”); Safety (to review number of calls received by JSO about unlawful activity, and number of days sunrise to sunset security is provided); and Clean (to identify number of times park is pressure-washed by FOHP, and number of waste containers placed/emptied regularly). After discussion, Paige Johnston stated that the performance measurements mentioned were deemed in the scope of the existing contract and may need legislation through the Council. However, Mr. Sam Mousa stated the changes could be handled administratively.

Council Vice President Crescimbeni announced that the Park Regulations Ordinance Revision subcommittee was close to finalizing its review. The subcommittee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, November 16, 2016. It should be noted the proposed park changes are City-wide. The committee discussed extension of park boundaries to include the JTA Skyway area and prevent access to trespassers. Mr. Mousa stated that an easement could be issued to JTA which would extend the boundaries. CVP Crescimbeni further stated the subcommittee discussed the dynamics of a trespass appeals process, and homeless feeding polices. Currently, JSO does not have the ability to trespass someone for violation of a park rule; therefore, OGC and JSO are developing details of notice and appeals process. The appeals process will be heard by a hearing officer which will be a lawyer assigned by OGC. As it pertains to the homeless feeding policy, it is being considered to require permits for all organizations serving food in the park, and delete the requirement of 21 meals or less for better enforcement. Lt. Ricks stated JSO would exercise a warning period to educate the community to the new policy prior to issuing actual citations.

Bill Prescott, Interim Executive Director of Friends of Hemming Park, provided an update status report to include announcement of two staff positions being upgraded to full-time. He distributed a FOHP monthly budget report for August and September, and a report for October through March. The budget for December – March exceeds the agreed amount by $2,250. The majority of the increase was reflected in the Cleaning & Security Personnel line item. Mr. Prescott was advised to revise the budget since the contract stipulates $40,000 monthly for reimbursements.

There was discussion regarding the minimal change in the park with current efforts in place. Mr. Mousa informed the committee that Mayor Curry desires for the City to resume control over Hemming Park. This action is expected prior to the expiration of the FOHP contract. The actual plan is in development and will be presented upon completion. In addition, Mr. Mousa said there has been dialogue about the possible removal of some of the Laurel Oak trees in the park to minimize the excess shade. Many of the trees are past their life expectancy and need to be replaced.CM Gulliford suggested that Mayor consider the Friends of the Library concept as it relates to the FOHP. This would allow for the City to plan events and FOHP would maintain service.

Committee consensus

1. Continue with the revision of the Ordinance Code regarding park boundaries, trespass procedures, enforcement problems, etc.
2. Get a copy of Mayor Curry’s plan for Hemming Park
3. Get a copy of the tentative plans for Hemming Park from Daryl Joseph

Expectations for Hemming Park

FOHP will continue to provide services as scheduled within the financial restraints of the contract. Mr. Prescott will meet with Mr. Mousa and the Mayor about possible options. Clean and safe are the priorities for the park.

**Meeting Adjourned**: 3:37 p.m.

Minutes: Yvonne P. Mitchell, Council Research

11.17.16 Posted 9:00 a.m.

Materials: Special Committee on Hemming Park Handouts

11.10.16