

**Public Hearing of City Council**  
6:45 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2013

A Public Hearing of City Council was held immediately following the Ways and Means Committee meeting at 7:15 p.m., Tuesday, February 19, 2013 in Council Chambers of City Hall, 1207 Palm Boulevard, Isle of Palms, South Carolina. Attending the hearing were Councilmembers Bergwerf, Bettelli, Buckhannon, Carroll, Loftus, Stone, Thomas and Ward, Mayor Cronin, City Administrator Tucker, Assistant to the Administrator Dziuban and City Clerk Copeland.

1. Mayor Cronin called the hearing to order and acknowledged that the press and public had been notified of the hearing in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

**2. Consideration of Potential Improvements for Live Oak Park**

Mayor Cronin stated that this hearing was a public input session relative to the property recently acquired by the City with Greenbelt funds and referred to as Live Oak Park. The Mayor said that Council would be receptive to suggestions for another name as long as it is “decent and kind for an island environment.”

On a side note, Mayor Cronin announced that the Police Department will be holding its first “Meet and Greet” of the year at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 21 between the Pavilion Shops for Front Beach business owners, managers and employees.

At this time, Assistant Dziuban made a presentation about the property that began with a photograph of the lot and its many oak trees followed by an aerial photo defining its location on the island. (A copy of the presentation is attached to the historical record of the meeting.) The Assistant followed with some of the deed restrictions, which are

- Subject parcel may not be extinguished, sold, transferred, assigned, alienated or converted to a purpose or use other than set forth in this Agreement;
- Subject parcel must be maintained in order to perpetuate the conservation, natural, historical, open space and/or recreational uses for which it was originally acquired;
- City consider the development of the park includes a public process; improvement to accommodate public access; as well as signage acknowledging the source of the funding for the project; and
- Recipient must acknowledge source of funding [with] on-site signage and in any information and marketing materials.

Also included was a conceptual sign design for the property that follows the motif established for the City’s wayfinding sign initiative.

Another section of deed restrictions define the type of improvements that are allowed, and they are as follows:

- Passive Park uses consist of, and are limited to, walking, jogging, biking, picnicking and wildlife/nature observation and enjoyment; and
- Minor improvements will consist of and be limited to boardwalks, unpaved trails, unpaved small parking areas and unpaved roadways.

Assistant Dziuban explained that the City must also adhere to the language in the grant application, which states the following:

- [The Park} will be open and accessible to the public from Palm Boulevard and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue;
- A longer term vision might be to 'limb up' a portion of the property, add picnic tables, a bike path, pervious parking and trash receptacles;
- Protecting vegetation and wildlife and providing for a beautiful location of peace and solace.

Based on the deed restrictions and the language of the application, the City has three (3) options for the property; they are

1. Install sign and take no further action;
2. Install sign and limb up property; or
3. Install sign, limp up property and create a passive park.

The presentation concluded with Assistant Dziuban asking for input from the community relative to the name of the park and possible improvements.

Bea Love, 9 Sand Dollar Drive, expressed the opinion that the park should be left undisturbed, but with the removal of the underbrush and the addition of a natural, evergreen barrier on the 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue side. A full text of her comments is attached to the historical record of the hearing.

Jay Leigh, 2901 Hartnett Boulevard, congratulated Council on acquiring the property, and he stated that the residents of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue are likely very thankful. He indicated that he liked the idea of a passive park, but he did have concerns primarily about the park's becoming a hangout for juveniles doing the things that juveniles do. He noted that policing the park would be a necessity. In addition, he suggested that any improvements done should be done by a local contractor.

Pam Stogner-Barcomb, 2303 Cameron Boulevard, also thanked the City for acquiring the property; she stated that it was important for the park to be open to the public and to make it usable as a passive park where residents can find peace and solace.

Marge Swanson, 1700 Dunes Boulevard, asked that Council consider renaming the park; she stated that she would talk with fellow residents and contact Councilmembers with name recommendations. She added that she would like to see the property cleaned up a bit, but she did not think there was enough space for hiking trails.

Mayor Cronin stated that Council was open to suggestions about renaming the park.

3. There being no further comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Marie Copeland, City Clerk

