

Bayshore Gardens Park & Recreation District
Long Term Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday; February 04, 2025 at 6:00 P.M.

Meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM by House & Grounds Committee Chair Skip Wilhoit

In Attending: : Skip Wilhoit, Sharon Denson, Mary Lou Smith, Penny Walding, and Jane King

Quorum established.

1. Committee opened by discussing the timeframe in which we wanted to provide our recommendation to the Board. It was decided that we were on-target to provide our proposal by the March 26th Board meeting as previously discussed
2. The Committee next reviewed a document Skip had provided showing the cost estimates for each of the three proposed projects that were informed by the community feedback survey.
3. The first project involved the heating and cooling of the pool and was the top project chosen by residents on the survey. Skip had received and provided a cost estimate for solar heating that was explored as an alternative to the heat pump system that the Board had already obtained an estimate for. The costs of the two systems were very comparable. However, because the solar system could not regulate the cooling of the pool to the same extent as the heat pump system, it was decided that our recommendation would be to go with the heat pump system. Due to the expense, this project will need to have a community referendum approval.
4. The next project was the renourishment of the beach and picnic area, which was the second-most popular survey item. Because this was not a singular endeavor and instead combined no less than 19 separate proposed projects, each was detailed and cost estimates were provided where obtained. The Committee went through each of the proposals for the beach renourishment to ensure they reflected community input and the agreement of all Committee members.
5. The most expensive component of the project was the addition of sand to the beach area and current small boat storage area (where the Committee is proposing to place the volleyball, bocce ball, and horseshoe pit). However, it was noted that the current small boat storage area was not in need of additional beach sand. Despite it being covered in weeds and largely not maintained, the area has a significant amount of quality beach sand already in place. This greatly reduced the amount of beach sand that will be necessary to add. A recommendation was made to reach out to Duncan Seawall for a sand estimate, in addition to the one we had.
6. A cost proposal for the surface of the nature/fitness trail was then discussed. Because a rubberized trail was estimated at \$122,000, it was immediately rejected in favor of a crushed shell trail. The committee then discussed not only placing shell on the nature/fitness trail, but also a path leading from the screened porch area around our large Ficus tree (encircling it) and through the picnic area to the beach parking lot. The committee also discussed the need for placing a paver border along this path and for the west side of the nature/fitness trail. A new item was also discussed and the Committee unanimously agreed to add LED lighting to the big Ficus tree.

7. The Committee then discussed the exercise stations to be placed along the trail. Although no final agreement was reached on which equipment we would recommend, there seemed to be consensus on the types and amount to spend (roughly \$10,000). We agreed that we could start with four or five pieces of equipment and install more later, if the community or Board so wished. Other aspects of the trail, such as trimming “windows” in our mangrove hedge along the canal and an additional fishing/observation dock are still awaiting estimates.
8. The kayak rental (which was a project supported separately on the survey) sparked some disagreement, when it came to purchasing the kayaks and the tubes to store them in (like the ones at Robinson Preserve). Following discussion, it was agreed that the kayak rental would be among the lowest priorities, as we explored how to make the rental process feasible for residents and office staff.
9. Once each of the 19 projects for the beach area were discussed, we then shifted to prioritization. It was decided that no or low-cost items (such as the pressure washing and painting of pavilions) should be prioritized first, but also we needed to make sure that the priorities also reflected tangible upgrades and projects that we could begin before the heating and cooling of the pool goes to referendum. The Committee felt that our residents need to see substantial improvements before we ask them to invest large sums in the heating and cooling of the pool.
10. The third project was the children’s splash park that was the third most popular survey response from residents. Skip had obtained a ballpark estimate from a builder that put the price around \$75,000 (at minimum) for a small splash park. The Committee briefly discussed the location for the splash park and agreed that this project should have the lowest priority – towards the end of the five-year period.
11. In terms of formatting our proposal to the Board, the Committee liked the idea of color-coding each project proposal – particularly with the multiple projects under the beach restoration – based on the Committee that oversees that area, such as Recreation, House and Grounds, and Landscaping. That way, we can both inform these committees of the proposals and place the oversight of carrying them out on the appropriate committee. The Committee agreed to include the new recreation opportunities and additional activities generated by the project proposals, as well as additional resident feedback that did not make it to one of the proposed projects.

Adjourned at 7:13