



CITY OF HOLLY HILL, FLORIDA

CITY COMMISSION

MINUTES • JANUARY 23, 2018

Large Conference Room

Work Session

6:00 PM

CITY HALL
1065 RIDGEWOOD AVENUE
HOLLY HILL, FL 32117

City Clerk's office: (386) 248-9441 - Fax: (386) 248-9448

1. CALL TO ORDER

a. Roll Call

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Arthur J. Byrnes	District 1 - Commissioner	Present	
Penny Currie	District 2 - Commissioner	Present	
John C. Danio	District 3 - Commissioner	Present	
Chris Via	District 4 - Commissioner	Present	
John Penny	Mayor	Present	

2. HOLLYLAND PARK DISCUSSION

1.

Hollyland Park Discussion

(Requested by Valerie Manning, City Clerk)

Mr. Forte stated he is seeking the Mayor and City Commissioners direction on Hollyland Park. This park is in the center of the city and it's not really active, it's not occupied. Unless somebody can come up with a good argument, he would stand on the ground of the city doesn't have any youth sport activities or any youth in the community that are interested in sporting activities. The city has tried to go through the Holly Hill K-8 school to try and get some of the children involved in youth sports and it just seems like the city can't get enough people to want to do anything. It leaves him with, "What do they want to do with this park?" Mr. Forte stated he wants to get their direction to put it on some kind of a course. Grant it, they don't have any money to do much construction or rehabilitation but there are ways that they can either save money with some of the plans that they have or do some relocating. It is the city's main park. Mr. Forte stated what he wanted to start talking about is the park buildings. It is in the budget to re-roof the buildings.

Mayor Penny asked what are those two buildings used for.

Mr. Forte stated storage. One of the buildings has all of the large Christmas lawn ornaments that the city just started putting up.

Mark Juliano, Public Works Director stated those are over at Public Works.

Mr. Forte asked what is in the left building?

Mr. Juliano stated one is Marty's stuff and the other building has special event stuff like signs.

Mr. Forte stated he thought it was Christmas stuff.

Mr. Juliano stated no, all of the new ornaments are over at Public Works in the trailer.

Mr. Forte stated, okay. One has the left over construction materials like doors, sinks anything that Marty starts on or takes down and he uses that might have a life in the future. Inside the park, the Commission is pretty familiar with these buildings (showing the Mayor and Commissioners an aerial view of the park for discussion). The BBQ area has a metal roof on it and the trusses underneath it are rotted and it's in pretty bad condition so that's going to come down and not be replaced. The BBQ area will be in an open-air area. Underneath this tree is a flat roof and in between the two buildings is a flat roof. A lot of the damage being caused on these roofs are from kids getting up there and skateboarding and sliding with their bikes, ripping up the shingles and there's a lot of rotten wood in there. In this building to the south is where they have some special event items and the building to the north is where they have some of the construction supplies. It is in the budget to replace the roofs and on the building to the north they are going to remove some of the wooden structure that's back here and go back to the original block frame and put the roof on that and then they were going to put the roof here. Mr. Juliano and himself went over to the park and were talking about it and they were trying to figure out why would they want to put storage in a park? If they really need storage space they can accommodate that over in the Public Works yard. The question is, do they really want to have storage in the park? He's been to several different parks and one option is to tear these buildings down and maybe put up a pole barn. A pole barn is nothing more than, it's like many of the shelters they have at Sunrise Park, it's poles that go up and put a roof structure on it and put picnic tables underneath it.

Commissioner Via asked would it be less expensive to do that than to do the repairs on this building?

Mr. Forte stated the repairs on this building are close to \$50,000...

Mr. Juliano stated \$69,000.

Mr. Forte stated, \$70,000. That's one of the things he wanted to discuss to get their thoughts on.

Commissioner Via asked if he knew roughly what it would cost to build a pole barn?

Mr. Forte stated he doesn't have a clue.

Commissioner Via stated under \$70,000?

Mr. Juliano stated he would think, yes.

Mr. Forte stated it's the same thing they have in all of the other parks. It's an open-air pavilion.

Mayor Penny stated the only thing that gets used at Hollyland Park is the flat roof between the two buildings when people have birthday parties, where the picnic tables are. That's the only place that gets used.

Commissioner Currie asked Mr. Forte, what kind of suggestion would he have or Mr. Juliano have to put on the roof of a pole barn to keep these kids off of it. She didn't know they were doing that.

Mr. Forte stated the pole barn would have an angled roof. Where these have the flat roofs and the kids jump up there and skate around on there. Any comments or questions?

Commissioner Byrnes stated Mr. Forte mentioned that the BBQ would be out in the open. When the people are using that and when the city would have those BBQ's, it's nice to be under there in the shade when you're making the burgers and getting everything ready.

Mr. Forte stated many years ago, there used to be a very long fire pit, that's gone. There are three or four standard 24 inch BBQ pits there now but this again is where very few BBQ pits are under some kind of shade. Most of the parks you go to are not under shade. It's an expense he doesn't know if the Commission want to put the money into.

Commissioner Danio stated the part that's over the BBQ is...

Mr. Forte stated is coming down.

Mayor Penny stated it's bad.

Commissioner Danio stated that's the one that's all rusted.

Mr. Forte stated, yes.

Commissioner Byrnes stated it's only a short, triangular roof, how much could that be?

Mr. Forte stated the entire roof structure has to be replaced. The trusses are bad.

Commissioner Byrnes stated if they do like a thin pole barn type of thing over that, that would be...

Mayor Penny stated he thinks it's two issues. Replacing the building with a pole barn and the BBQ area is a separate issue.

Commissioner Byrnes stated, right. That's why he wanted to talk about doing both at the same time because evidently if that's rotted and needs to come down, that's probably going to be an issue that happens soon. It would be nice to get a price on what it would

be.

Mr. Forte stated yes, they can get prices on it.

Mayor Penny stated it would be good to get prices both ways.

Commissioner Danio stated so they could possibly cover the BBQ area and the pole barns.

Commissioner Currie stated the BBQ pit would have to be something more than just a regular pole barn because of it being over the BBQ pits.

Mr. Forte stated it would be just like it is. It's vented.

Commissioner Currie stated if there's something more protective for it being over the BBQ pits, it might last longer. Maybe the material would be a little different. So when they have it looked at, see if that suggestion would be necessary or what their suggestion would be in what the city wants to put in, would suffice.

Commissioner Danio stated he guesses they're looking for all the options.

Commissioner Via stated that's a smart way to go instead of rebuilding that.

Mayor Penny stated instead of rebuilding two obsolete buildings with brand new roofs that the city really doesn't have a use for.

Commissioner Via stated, right. Make it a useful place.

Commissioner Byrnes stated they don't need the buildings but they do need the covered picnic area.

Mr. Forte stated let's talk a little bit about the dog park. He has spoken to each of the Commissioners and the Mayor about the possibility of bringing the dog park to Hollyland Park. They have the dog park over on Alabama Avenue and it is very active but there are a lot of problems out there. They have law enforcement calls out there, problems in the bathrooms, every time a tree falls the city has to go out there, they have fencing problems, they have pest control problems, maintenance problems, grass cutting there's a number of things. Staff got to looking at Hollyland Park to see if it's possible to relocate the dog park here (showing an aerial view of the possible location of the dog park if relocated). Mr. Forte stated he has shown most of the Commissioners a place called Holland Park up in Palm Coast that has a dog park and it's not much bigger than what he is about to show them at Hollyland Park and it's in an area that's very similar to this. It has other sporting fields, it has playground equipment and it has BBQ's. The thought is, there's probably about a good 20 to 30 people a day that go to the dog park on Alabama and maybe if we bring them to the center of the city, maybe they will eat lunch here, maybe they will start to eat dinner here. City Hall is right across the street. Law Enforcement can be more available. It would be easier to maintain. There's a lot of benefit to moving in to Hollyland Park. The negative side for Alabama Avenue is the city

would then close that area. By closing it the city would then give the property back to the County, the County would own that land again, and then the County would be responsible for any maintenance and any issues, including the homeless, that would end up possibly congregating there. In terms of a dog park area, this section right here (showing the aerial view at Hollyland Park), would be plenty big for both the large and small dog park area.

Commissioner Danio asked not the t-ball field?

Commissioner Byrnes stated that's where he thought Mr. Forte was talking about.

Mr. Forte stated originally, they were talking about that area but he and staff went out there and looked at it, and this is actually....Mr. Juliano would know more on how this compares to South Daytona's dog park in terms of size.

Mr. Juliano stated, yes.

Mr. Forte stated it's about the same size.

Mr. Juliano stated it's about the same size. South Daytona's is in Reed Canal Park and just like ours, they have a big and small dog park fenced in area.

Commissioner Danio asked so there's enough room for that without the t-ball field?

Commissioner Byrnes asked you can't do the big dog park there and then the little park in the back or something?

Mr. Forte stated they thought about that. It all comes down to costs and fencing.

Scott Gutauckis, resident of Ormond Beach, stated the problem too, is there are a lot of handicap people that go to the park on Alabama so the city would have to provide some mechanism, some way for them to park closer to that back field. A majority of those handicap people are little dog owners.

Mr. Forte asked does the city need to have them park there or just a sidewalk to get there?

Mr. Gutauckis stated that distance to walk all the way from that road all the way to the back, that's quite a distance. He's seen people there with walkers and wheel chairs.

Mayor Penny stated not take them to the t-ball fields, keep them close.

Mr. Gutauckis stated, yes. Don't take them all the way back there. The city is better off where Mr. Forte is suggesting where the city can provide parking. The other area is too far.

Mr. Forte stated there's parking here and there's parking here (showing the aerial view). This area is large enough. The city would have to provide for the fencing and run a waterline out there so the dogs have something to fill their water bowls. There is a bit of

shade over here. This is where the old parks and recreation building used to be many years ago. The city would have to grade the area down, level it out a little bit, probably hydroseed it and get some grass started.

Commissioner Danio asked what financial, from the other side, does the city lose anything by giving back the County...it's not generating anything is it?

Mr. Forte stated no, it's not. It's a non-taxing generating property.

Commissioner Danio stated he thinks it's a good idea.

Commissioner Currie stated and the city is paying a separate lawn maintenance for that.

Mr. Forte stated the Friends of the Dog Park were doing everything and as expected, participation goes down and interests goes down, and they've come to the city and the city is now sending the inmates out there to cut the grass, they need the city to do the pest control. So it's become....

Mr. Julianio stated and the restrooms.

Mr. Forte stated and the restrooms. It's become...

Commissioner Danio stated it's an efficiency move, right?

Mr. Forte stated it is an efficiency move.

Commissioner Via stated he has a lot to say on this. He thinks this idea has a lot of merit here but he for one, he will tell them, almost certainly, he won't vote to remove the dog park from where it's at. The reason and he's spoken to Mr. Forte about it, is there's already a few homeless people living out back behind it and if the city vacates that, the County isn't going to do anything with the land and it's going to become a homeless tinted place. What he sees is, the city has a working facility down there, he lives right down the street from it, and he sees how many people frequent that dog park. He understands moving it to Hollyland Park and he's not against having a dog park here but he thinks if they're going to look at spending the money on fences and redoing all of this to do that, we have a dog park currently that needs fences, that all of the Commissioners voted on, back after the hurricanes, that the city wasn't really going to fix them until FEMA stepped up. They have buildings there. He can't stomach just abandoning that property. As he understands it, correct him if he's wrong, it's only, really an expenditure of maybe \$10,000. The County dumped it on the city and if they can somehow lobby the County Council members for the next budget to help the city out, to step back up, if that's a possibility then it really takes the burden off of the city and the city can keep that going. He knows that there are a lot of citizens that use the park and they're going to be really upset if the city just closes it down and move it to Hollyland Park because it won't be feasible for a lot of people to do that. He knows a lot of his neighbors just walk there. There's a lady that runs a dog service who is walking eight dogs every single day, he sees her. He can't stomach closing the other park. He thinks Hollyland has merits. He wouldn't be against putting a dog park there but like he said, he can't, he won't be able to

vote to close down the current dog park. He wants to see where everyone else was on that.

Mayor Penny stated he thinks, he wouldn't be in favor of having two dog parks in the city and doubling the city's expenses.

Commissioner Via stated, right. And that's not what he is proposing either.

Mayor Penny stated right, but they can't have their cake and eat it too. He thinks moving the dog park to the middle of the city accomplishes two things. It brings life back to this park and if they talk to Rose, there's homeless people hanging out in this park all day. Homeless people tend to leave areas when there's activity. He hears Commissioner Via's concerns that the city may be trading one concern for another but by moving the dog park there they increase activity to the middle of the city, City Hall is across the street, it becomes almost a city center if they can figure out this is one thing that can attract people to Hollyland Park, if they can come up with some other solutions to bring people here for other reasons then they truly have a city center and a city-hub and then the businesses on US1, which is the city's main corridor, have the opportunity to glean business. Maybe they buy something in the antiques, maybe they buy something in one of the local restaurants or they buy a motorcycle or something. He hears Commissioner Via's concerns but he would be in favor for it.

Mr. Forte stated the County just started the construction on the pond back here in Rio Way. They do have some homeless that congregate back in here and periodically the officers go in and run them out. He doesn't know if that will or won't be a problem but it will be the County's problem if it is.

Commissioner Via stated but it's not though because right across the street is Holly Hill. Mr. Forte stated if it is, it will be the County's responsibility.

Commissioner Via stated yes it will be their responsibility but it will be the city's problem; they will have homeless in that neighborhood.

Commissioner Currie stated she knows the city already has a lot of issues at the current dog park. It was a great idea at the time with the organization that wanted to take it over. The current time that was done the city's administration was not very supportive of that dog park and so the Friends of The Dog Park stepped up and took care of what needed to be taken care of to help keep that dog park there. Unfortunately, she thinks their membership just kind of dwindled a lot more than what they expected it to over the last few years. The main heart of that organization, it's just gotten to be too much for them so that's why the city has had to take on the majority of the responsibilities for that park again. Seeing the cooperation or lack of cooperation that the city has received from the County, and the push back from the County here over the last year on numerous issues and particularly one that she's been working on with the Transportation Planning Organization (TPO), she really doesn't think that the city is going to get any cooperation out of the County no matter how much the city begs to help with that dog park because the city can't get any help on other issues that the city currently have that are safety issues. As far as the dog park being here in Hollyland Park, that park used to be the life of

this city back when she was a young parent, had young children, and now has old children but back then that park was the life of this city. Every family gathered at that park on the weekends and the city needs to have something like that again. It's not going to be in sports because kids are interested in so many other things now in this city and it's not the traditional sports like it once was. They are interested in other things. Maybe at some point the city can capture some of that but they have to work on one thing at a time. She thinks the idea that was brought to her by the City Manager was fantastic. She loved it. With the dog park being in the center of the city basically. Like what was said, they have the police department, they have the fire department for anything that may occur, any medical emergencies, the police department is right there, which usually tends to keep people from causing too many problems when the police are right there and the police know they don't have to drive all the way out to Alabama. She thinks it will create more life in that area so when people are driving by they may notice more activity going on in the park and then people leave in the afternoon, they may pick up a little food and they may want to come back to the city. It may help jump start some other things. She is definitely in support of it.

Commissioner Via stated Commissioner Currie, let me address a couple of points because I totally hear what you're saying. On the surface, that all makes clear sense but when they are talking about the County, let's just be honest, it was dumped on the city because of a previous City Manager who made a horrible, horrible deal and dumped it on the city.

Commissioner Currie stated, right.

Commissioner Via stated and now that the city has a great City Manager, he believes that the city is going to be working with the County more and the city should be and it means that the city should try. He knows that Heather Post was in support of taking this and asking for the funding for this as the city's County Council member, and he thinks that all of the Commissioners have a relationships with the other Council members where they can sit there and beg them and prod them. The city isn't asking for \$100,000. The other thing is, the city isn't really spending much money on it right now currently because the city is cutting the grass with the inmates, correct? Is it costing the city anything else?

Mr. Forte stated, correct. The inmates are there, they send the custodians out there every day, twice a day, and he doesn't know if the city is doing pest control yet or not.

Mr. Julianio stated, no. The Friends of the Dog Park weren't doing the pest control either.

Commissioner Via stated so right now, it's not really costing the city much. The hurricanes really ruined a lot of it. If you go out there it's not in the best shape but it can be fixed up. It's a beautiful park. A lot of people use it. Chief Aldrich, how many calls do you get to go down there? Do you know?

Police Chief Aldrich stated he would have to check their CAD system.

Commissioner Via stated he sees, a lot of his cops, actually, stop down there in the park and they sometimes sit.

Police Chief Aldrich stated they send their officers because of the complaints that they have received down there in the past.

Commissioner Via stated but to him, that's the most police activity he really sees and like he said, he lives right down the street. He doesn't see actively...there's a lot of trouble, meaning he doesn't think that's a problem that the city is trying to solve there. He thinks that they are trying to solve a problem that doesn't really exist and they are creating a problem by leaving it there. That's why he is so passionate about this.

Commissioner Danio stated he's not sure that they are trying to solve a problem, they're just trying to make things a little more efficient. He doesn't think that Mr. Forte thinks there's a problem there.

Commissioner Via stated there isn't a problem there...

Mr. Forte stated he wouldn't say there's a problem at that park. The calls for service there are usually small dog owners arguing with big dog owners.

Commissioner Currie stated so Commissioner Via doesn't take anything she's said incorrectly, first of all the cost isn't enormous there, that's not her point, however, having the inmates cut that property and cut Hollyland, now they can have them only cut Hollyland to where now instead of having them at the dog park they can be somewhere else.

Commissioner Via stated unless the city was to get the funding from the County then the city could hire that job out.

Commissioner Currie stated to go back on Commissioner Via's County support, grant it, it's not a lot of money the city is asking for and yes, they all know somebody from the County Council and some of the Commissioners have friendly relationships with people on the County Council but unfortunately, that, to date, has not done any of the Commissioners any good and yes, they can jab and poke and prod and talk and everything they want but until there's actually some proof in the pudding that they are willing to work with the city, she's not convinced that there's a good relationship there and she would love for there to be but there hasn't been.

Commissioner Via stated yesterday, at the State of the County, he thinks the city is starting to make progress. Jim Dinneen, from speaking with him, he is going to help the city with the sidewalk issue, he wants to sit down and have a meeting about that. That's progress and the city has to continue on that.

Commissioner Currie stated that would be great and she would love to see him email her City Manager on that.

Commissioner Via stated, exactly. If the city can have the County come to the table and the Commissioners can say, "hey, look, you guys dumped this on us and we need this", and if they can get the County Council support, which he thinks that they can, he does, he doesn't think Commissioner Currie is giving the Commissioners enough credit that they

can lobby them because the city doesn't lobby them. The city doesn't ask them for much. He thinks it's definitely doable and he thinks that if the city just got rid of this dog park without trying, at least, without not even having the conversation and being told no, he thinks is a little bit premature.

Mayor Penny stated he doesn't think there's a...

Commissioner Currie stated but Commissioner Via is taking it on as if she's saying it's a problem. It's not a "problem" she is trying to solve, it's...she's trying to make something better within their city.

Mayor Penny stated let's just say they had \$40,000 and they took \$40,000 and fixed it up, the existing dog park and made it a lot better. That would be great or they can take the same \$40,000 and build a brand new dog park, that would be great. Dog park - dog park; plus - plus. The added plus of relocating to Hollyland Park is that they get people to Hollyland Park, which used to be the heart of the city and nobody goes there. That's the thing. It's not which one is better.

Commissioner Danio stated it's the long-term...

Mayor Penny stated it's the long term viability is that, he believes, is having it in the heart of the city accomplishes two goals. He does know, the last time he spoke to Mary (the lady that oversees the Friends of the Dog Park), she was very frustrated because a lot of the responsibilities have either been dumped on her or she's accepted the responsibility. It's turned into a one-woman show to the point where it's overwhelming for her and the vandalism...the sinks were smashed recently, things were broken and the city had to purchase them and install them, there's timers on the bathrooms to try and stop that but it's so far away. It's on the edge of the city and he thinks if it was in Hollyland Park more people would know it's there.

Mr. Forte stated unfortunately, this is not the updated version, this is the one in Palm Coast that he was mentioning earlier. The reason this came about is not because there's a problem at the dog park on Alabama, not because the County is not funding, it's because over the holidays he took his grandson to the park in Palm Coast and while in the park he noticed they had a dog park there and he thought this park is pretty active. There was a couple of people playing tennis, a couple of people with their dogs, some kids on the playground, and he thought this should be Holly Hill's park. This should be what the city has in the center of their park. An active park. The other active park the city has is Sunrise and it's a great passive park but all of the city's other parks are just neighborhood parks. The city should have an active central park, otherwise then let's get out of the park business. The Commission has to decide.

Commissioner Byrnes stated he remembers when the city went into this deal back in 2001...

Mayor Penny asked how many partners were in it Commissioner Byrnes?

Commissioner Byrnes stated it was Holly Hill, Ormond, Daytona and the County.

Everybody had a little piece. It was the first dog park, at least on this side of the County, and the...Commissioner Via hit on it that previous Commissions let a City Manager do things that were not very good and that was one of the big things, that it was a wonderful park. His thought was they would be going out of this meeting tonight giving the City Manager direction to go to the County and tell them the city would like to keep this park open unless the city can get some broader funding, the city is going to set a date and it's going to be closed October 1st or whatever, and then October 1st is when the other dog park would start being built or they would start building it and just close the other one. He sees it as...

Mayor Penny stated he doesn't think they could survive closing one without an option.

Commissioner Byrnes stated the city would know by September or August if the County was going to help the city if they had any interest in keeping it open. He doesn't know what the demographics are, he doesn't know how many people that actually use that park come from the County, from across Nova, from across Golf or Calle Grande. He agrees with everybody. He agrees with the Mayor that it might help bring people in as Commissioner Currie said, bring some people in to the downtown. They've seen society change. Kids don't go play basketball or baseball at least not in numbers.

Commissioner Via stated it's not like it was when he was growing up.

Commissioner Byrnes stated he remembers when they fielded teams by the tens over in Hollyland and on the day that the kids all showed up, they had to open extra teams. They had to go and find someone to sponsor, "hey, can you sponsor this team, it's only \$100." Now it's probably a \$1,000 to sponsor a team, he doesn't know.

Mayor Penny stated Commissioner Danio and himself grew up playing at the Ormond Rec for baseball and if you got selected to the All-Star game, you got to come to Hollyland Park and play with grass and lights and you thought you were playing in Shea Stadium. That's how he remembers it. It's a shame that's how it is but society has changed and the city has to do something.

Commissioner Danio stated but don't lose faith. That's not the way it's going to be forever. Let's hope things come around.

Commissioner Byrnes stated he's on the fence. He knows there's a lot of people that use the dog park and maybe if they talk about that it's up for closure maybe those people will lobby the County Council and maybe the city will get some press to help keep it.

Commissioner Danio stated or maybe the County will step up and have their own park and then the city can have its own park.

Mr. Forte stated the only thing he will remind the Commissioners is that in the contract that the city signed with the County, it's very clear, it says that if the Friends of the Dog Park, at any time cannot fulfil their obligations to maintain the park, the responsibility and the costs fall 100% on the city. It's in the contract.

Mayor Penny stated but if they change the use from a dog park the ownership of the land reverts to the County.

Mr. Forte stated, correct.

Mayor Penny stated that's the big thing.

Commissioner Via stated Commissioner Byrnes, you hit on something...I didn't think of that. That's an idea. It would be nice if the County would take it over and then we could put a dog park in Hollyland.

Mayor Penny stated but there's no way they will take it over.

Commissioner Via asked what are they going to do if the city just dumps it?

Mayor Penny stated they didn't do anything the last time the city dumped it. They closed it and the city got all the complaints. Just like when the County closed the library, the city got all the complaints. It was a County library and the city got all the complaints and all the heat.

Commissioner Via stated but it wasn't closed long until the city starting putting together that horrible deal.

Mayor Penny stated it was closed a while.

Commissioner Danio stated if the County closes the park then it's the County's fault.

Mayor Penny stated no, because the County doesn't own it, the city owns it. It's the city's dog park. It's the city's baby.

Commissioner Byrnes stated but if the city stops using it as a dog park it reverts to the County.

Mayor Penny stated, correct.

Commissioner Byrnes stated then it's their problem. They can either reopen it or...

Commissioner Danio stated the city would have to officially close the park.

Mayor Penny stated he thinks the whole purpose of this workshop, let's not get hung up on the dog park, how do we get people back to Hollyland Park?

Mr. Forte stated that's the focus.

Mayor Penny stated how do we make it the heart of the city again, whether we make it a drone flying course or a pickleball course or putting green, he has no idea what it needs to be but we're going down a rabbit trail but we need to figure how do we fix that park? Mayor Penny stated he thinks they're all in favor of pole barns, fixing grills and possibly

covering grills and how much that costs but all they did then was put lipstick on a pig. How do they get people here? That's the bigger issue.

Commissioner Byrnes asked Mr. Forte if he could ask a staff member a question.

Mr. Forte stated, sure.

Commissioner Byrnes stated Scott, how tough do you think it would be to have a Wi-fi signal in that park?

Mr. Gutauckis stated it wouldn't be hard at all because he already has fiber over there.

Commissioner Byrnes stated, okay. The drone thing is something he had thought about.

Mr. Gutauckis stated they can't fly drones in the City of Holly Hill.

Commissioner Byrnes stated we can change that.

Mr. Gutauckis and Mayor Penny stated, no because of FAA.

Commissioner Byrnes stated toy drones are not covered under the FAA.

Mr. Gutauckis stated we're within four miles of the airport. The entire city.

Commissioner Byrnes stated as long as you're not above fifty feet or so, you're still a toy. He thinks they can check on that.

Mr. Gutauckis asked who is going to regulate whether it's a toy or not? That's the problem.

Commissioner Byrnes stated the FAA, that's their job.

Commissioner Danio asked who is going to keep it under fifty feet if they have free access to it. They're going to start going crazy.

Mayor Penny asked you have to have Wi-fi to fly a drone?

Commissioner Byrnes stated no, but if you want to connect your computer to other stuff, if you want to upload your pictures.

Commissioner Currie asked why can't they do some of, what other cities do, she knows they try it at Sunrise, but she remembers a long time ago and it's been years ago that some of this was done in Hollyland Park where some small hometown bands...

Mayor Penny stated but someone has to organize it. That's the whole problem.

Commissioner Currie stated people that just want to play. People that want to play their music.

Mr. Forte stated the city has done the live music on the steps of City Hall, live music in Hollyland Park, they are poorly attended. The city has done Farmers Markets.

Commissioner Currie stated well, the Farmers Markets didn't work.

Mr. Forte stated the city tries all these things and try to compete with the bigger cities that have bigger populations and the city is just not going to get there.

Commissioner Currie stated part of the city's problem was the city never advertised really well in anything the city did. That was the city's problem.

Mr. Forte stated, maybe.

Commissioner Currie stated the events that the city has been advertising well have been well attended. The city started advertising events very well and they have been very well attended.

Mr. Forte stated there are three most popular events; Christmas, Halloween and Easter.

Commissioner Currie stated no, she's talking about the *Cruisin' On The Hill* and that was very well advertised.

Mayor Penny stated and that's because someone other than the city did it.

Commissioner Currie stated it's just a way to begin by having small events such as *Cruisin' On The Hill* and there are so many people that play music in this community that just want people to hear their music and so many artists. They can get a hold of the arts community and let people display their art.

Commissioner Danio stated they have the ball fields, that's a good start; trying to fill the fields.

Mayor Penny stated he thinks that's the bigger issue Commissioner Danio and that is what do they do with the ball fields? All that Commissioner Currie is talking about would go on within the park but what do they do with the fields? Do they want to be in the baseball business because they're not in the baseball business.

Commissioner Danio asked what about Pastor Josh? Didn't he talk about doing something?

Mayor Penny stated the only people that use those baseball fields are non-Holly Hill citizens. They use them for free because they maintain them. The city pays the lights.

Mr. Forte stated which is part of the next topic which is does the city continue doing that? This guy Vinny has another year left on his contract. He maintains the fields and he runs tournaments, maybe one or two tournaments a month. It brings people in, the park looks good, it's active, it's busy. The ball fields are not big enough to run regular tournaments on a regular basis. They don't have enough fields.

Commissioner Danio stated or leagues.

Mr. Forte stated the city doesn't have any leagues.

Commissioner Danio stated no, he's asking if they're not big enough to run leagues?

Mr. Forte stated they can run a small community league but they're not going to run tournaments like you do...he thinks of Seminole County tournaments and it's a totally different game. They have hundreds of kids playing.

Commissioner Danio stated when you drive down Nova or Nova Rec like when they were kids and all that, they can't do anything like that? There used to be leagues and there used to be activities playing.

Mr. Forte stated from what he understands and he doesn't know this directly but from what he understands the Ormond and South Daytona programs are also starting to dwindle.

Mr. Juliano stated he knows South Daytona's is.

Mayor Penny stated, yes.

Commissioner Currie stated it's just not...kids...

Mr. Juliano stated they're going to Port Orange.

Mayor Penny stated yes, they're going to Port Orange.

Mr. Forte stated they're just not into the sports like years ago.

Mayor Penny stated it seems like a lot of the (?) sports right now are for people our age. For people 45-75 years old.

Commissioner Danio asked how about softball leagues?

Mayor Penny stated there's only one field that would accommodate them. The big field.

Mr. Forte stated he thought about doing an adult softball league but even if they wanted to do that and they wanted to field four teams, you probably need sixty people to field four teams and do we have sixty people?

Commissioner Via stated he knows Strickland does. He played in an adult league out there and they had about ten teams; two fields, ten teams and then their Senior softball and they have a ton of teams. They have two teams of Senior softball. Now, he doesn't know if they will be Holly Hill citizens but if they pay for the field.

Mr. Forte stated here's the dilemma and he's not saying he's trying to get Holly Hill

people here because he doesn't think they will. He doesn't care where they come from if the park is active. There's two ways of going about it. If he tries to lease the fields to a program like that, that means the city has to maintain it and keep it to a certain standard. It will cost the city at least a part-time employee, roughly \$25,000 a year to maintain it. He will never get \$25,000 in lease money, which is why it's kind of attractive for him to have this guy do his own maintenance and they let him use the fields for free.

Mayor Penny stated when he has the tournaments it's really cool. He's driven pass there's five-hundred people over there.

Mr. Forte stated it's almost like he would like to see if someone would like to bid on it and take it over. Three quarters of that park is baseball fields and they're not used.

Commissioner Danio stated so if they put together a dog, softball adult league that would take care of everything.

Commissioner Currie asked how about they do a community outreach to where they asks the citizens, they ask them to a meeting, a workshop to give the Commissioners "their" ideas, "their" preferences of what they would like to see at Hollyland Park? They do a community outreach. Maybe they will have ideas that the Commissioners are not thinking of.

Commissioner Via stated he's 100% open to that.

Mr. Forte stated if they were going to do that, again, they don't money. They would have to be going down the road of trying to get an ECHO Grant and rehabilitate that park.

Commissioner Currie stated but let's hear what the ideas are first. They don't even know what the ideas are to see whether they need money.

Mr. Forte stated he's not saying don't do that. What he's saying is don't ask the community what they want and then not afford to give it to them because then they may as well not do it. If they ask the community and they get two dozen people to show up to a meeting and say, "we want to see this, this and this" and it's going to cost a million dollars and the Commission turns around and says, "great input, we can't do it."

Commissioner Currie stated obviously, they would do what they can to try to find grants.

Mr. Forte stated that's why he was saying they should first try approaching to see if they can get an ECHO Grant and based on the ECHO Grant, they can then solicit community input.

Commissioner Currie stated she would just like to hear some ideas of the community.

Commissioner Byrnes stated but the community is pretty smart. Maybe somebody will have an idea that the Commission hasn't thought of that costs a lot less than what the Commission is thinking of. Having a big meeting is going to be...they're not going to get everybody to attend but social media, if the city throws it on the Facebook page saying,

“Look, we’re looking for input. What do you want to see happen in Hollyland Park?”

Mr. Forte stated I still say, if you don’t have money to follow through with what you’re asking them to tell you, you will get a black-eye because you asked for community input and you can’t do what they’re telling you. You need to start with the grant process and then in the grant process, part of the development are these...

Commissioner Byrnes stated but you have to know what you’re looking for when you go for a grant.

Mr. Forte stated the grant is park development.

Mayor Penny stated the only inquiry is that he knows that they have had, to expand recreation, is in the senior field and the city has had numerous inquiries for pickleball courts.

Commissioner Currie stated Mayor, I’m not even talking about recreation.

Mayor Penny stated, no.

Mr. Forte stated he’s talking about the park.

Mayor Penny stated he’s talking about the park, getting people into the park. A pickleball court is the size...they can have two pickleball games on a tennis court. Imagine a tennis court with the fence in the middle, there’s a pickleball game that goes on either side. They play the opposite way. He thinks, this is the first time he heard Mr. Forte talk about the ECHO Grant but he thinks it would be in the city’s best interest to do something like that and hire someone like Beth Lemke and let them tell us because he doesn’t know what the latest trend in park-use is.

Commissioner Currie stated, right.

Mr. Forte stated he has a meeting with Beth on Friday.

Mayor Penny stated he is imaging that they don’t want to go down the road and turn all the fields sideways and turn them into soccer fields because Ormond’s soccer teams are not all that full any more either.

Commissioner Currie stated she would just like some fresh ideas of what is today.

Mayor Penny stated he doesn’t know if this is out of Beth’s scope but he knows that she has helped the city with other grants and the beauty of the grants that she has written for the city in the past, is that the city doesn’t pay her. Her fee is included in the grants that she receives.

Commissioner Currie asked if they could ask input from Beth?

Commissioner Via stated about what she thinks she can get the city.

Mr. Forte stated he has a meeting with her on Friday.

Mr. Juliano asked if there ever was a park masterplan done for this park? If there was, it probably is outdated.

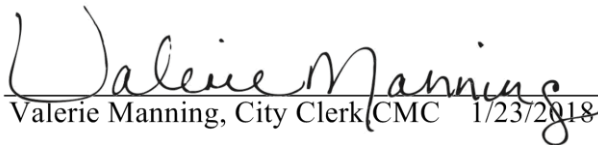
Mr. Forte stated not for a park. He will get with Beth on Friday and get her thoughts.

Mayor Penny stated it looks like the only thing they got **consensus** on right now **is pole barns and grills.**



3. ADJOURNMENT

The workshop adjourned at approximately 7:00 PM.


Valerie Manning, City Clerk CMC 1/23/2018


John Penny, Mayor 1/23/2018