

**MINUTES OF
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
WORKSHOP 6:30 P.M.
CITY OF STARKE - RECREATION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2016**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners and the City of Starke convened in a workshop on Monday, February 22, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., in the County Commission Chambers at 945 North Temple Avenue, Starke, Florida, to discuss recreation.

PRESENT: Chairman Lewis, Commissioner Riddick, Commissioner Sellars, and Commissioner Chandler. (Commissioner Thompson was unable to attend.)

ALSO PRESENT: Brad Carter, County Manager; Rachel Rhoden, Deputy County Manager, Will Sexton, County Attorney; Ray Norman, Clerk of Courts; Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk; City Commissioners: Chastain, Spooner, Waters, and Nugent (Mayor); Ricky Thompson, City Clerk; Thomas Ernharth, City Manager; Steve Jackson, Press; Sheriff Smith; School Superintendent Farnsworth; Coach Bobby Johns, High School Athletic Director; and several concerned citizens.

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Lewis called the workshop to order at 6:32 p.m.

DISCUSSION:

Discussion ensued which was not limited to, but included:

- Location of a football field for Pop-Warner, i.e. Thomas Street, high school practice field, behind the middle school, fairgrounds
- Facilities and amenities needed, i.e. restrooms, bleachers, lighting, P.A. system, scoreboard, concession stands
- Building a Sports Complex
- Re-establishing a Recreation Department

Commissioner Sellars advised that the School Board recently approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Bright Minds Youth Development (David Bright). The after-school program will consist of mentoring, tutoring, games, sports, and field trips. Mr. Bright indicated that he would be happy to meet with the City and the County to see what he could offer and what the City and the County could do together.

Discussion continued:

- Thomas Street Park - Reconfigure or Reconstruct to meet the needs (possible grant restrictions)
- Property across the street from Thomas Street Park (possible grant to purchase)
- Use of the fairgrounds

(02-22-16 Workshop)

Clerk Norman advised that the Fair Association is in the middle of negotiations with an organization that would like to conduct a sports event at the fairgrounds. The event would require a concrete pad, which would also help the fair with the midway. If the negotiations do not come to fruition, the fairgrounds could be an option. The Fair Association has always supported Pop Warner Football. However, the last organization utilizing the fairgrounds was not cooperating with the Fair Association and the liability became too great, forcing the Fair Association to cease the activities.

Discussion continued on the options for Pop-Warner football, both short-term and long-term plans.

Commissioner Spooner encouraged the Bradford County Cowboys Pop-Warner to work with the Bradford Parent's Athletic Association in scheduling games/practices to utilize Thomas Street in addition to the practice field at the high school until there is something definitive from the Fair Association.

DIRECTIVE:

- Clerk Norman to check on the availability of the fairgrounds.
- Pop-Warner continue to use high school practice field and Thomas Street Park until another option becomes available.
- Mr. Farnsworth to get an estimate on a scoreboard.
- Mr. Ernharth to inquire about grant restrictions on Thomas Street Park.
- Mr. Ernharth to contact the Bradford Parent's Athletic Association for their schedule of the utilization of the Thomas Street Park.
- The County purchase a scoreboard.
- The City help with a P.A. system.
- The City help with dirt for the high school practice field.
- Conduct another workshop in 30 days.
- The City to bring their grant writer to the workshop.
- Invite other municipalities to attend the next workshop.

ADJOURN: There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

EDDIE J. LEWIS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

Minutes prepared by Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk

Minutes approved by BOCC at the Regular Scheduled Meeting of _____