

**CITY OF LABELLE
BARRON PARK MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mayor Lyons called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. All Commissioners were present except Commissioner Zimmerly.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

1. Barron Park Master Plan Update & Phasing Discussion

Mayor Lyons opened the floor to discussion on short-term improvements at the Barron Park (Park).

Kelly Boone spoke regarding the disrepair of the tennis courts and replacing the courts with a better use for the community, other than tennis. She also provided photos of various areas of the Park needed to be improved.

There was discussion on the offer by Clay Howard to remove the fence around the tennis court free of charge to the City.

There was discussion on pickleball, including the popularity, revenue from tournaments, and potential noise issues. There was discussion from Commissioner Wilkins and Mayor Lyons on the appropriate location for pickleball near the gallery. There was further discussion on noise issues with pickleball, and that there is plenty of pickleball in RV parks and other areas.

There was input that the intent for this park is to be a passive park and active recreational uses and sports should not be the focus.

There was discussion on the disrepair of the seating/benches and pavilion. There was discussion on landscaping improvements and recent mulching that was completed.

There was discussion on the budgetary limitations on improvements for the Park in this fiscal year. There was a suggestion to create a Go Fund Me Account. City Attorney Derek Rooney confirmed that the City could establish this type of account and contributions would be tax deductible.

Consensus on the short-term improvements included the following improvements, to be completed before the Swamp Cabbage Festival:

- Removal of the fence around the tennis court
- Addition of irrigation
- Removal and reconstruction of benches
- Repair of the pavilion
- Repair of the gazebo
- Removal of the tennis court pavement after the Swamp Cabbage festival

There was further discussion on longer-term improvements. There was discussion on removing the road along the River to make the area more pedestrian oriented. Some members of the public noted they want to keep the roadway as it provides convenient parking

A member of the public commented that the focus should be on long-term beautification, and to hold off on decisions relating to the roadway.

Formal votes were not made during the committee meeting and deferred to the City Commission meeting immediately following.

Final public comment was made regarding DeSoto Avenue and the high use of the roadway.

Mayor Lyons and Commissioner Wilkins thanked attendees for providing their input. It was noted that the Committee would reconvene at the January meeting, just prior to the regular Commission meeting. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.

APPROVED:

*****SEE CLERK FOR SIGNED VERSION*****

David A. Lyons, Mayor-
Commissioner

Attest:

*****SEE CLERK FOR SIGNED VERSION*****

Thomas A. Smith, Clerk-Commissioner