



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes Citizen Advisory Board

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

2:00 PM

Community Hall Room 165 (Limited Seating)

I. Call to Order

Chair Weed called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Present 9 - Dr. Mary Davis, Mr. Phillip Ellis, Ms. Kaitlyn Panfil, Mr. Roger Effron, Chair Lloyd Weed, Mr. Steve Carr, Ms. Mary Moscatelli, Mr. Alex Dafoulas and Mr. Hayden Heaney

Also Present

Council Liaison Mayor Nick Pachota, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Assistant City Manager James Clinch, and Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown.

III. Audience Participation

There was no one signed up to speak.

IV. Approval of Minutes

[25-0027](#)

Minutes of The December 18, 2024 Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Ms. Panfil to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2024 meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

V. Unfinished Business

[24-0413](#)

Application to Rename Maxine Barritt Park to Robert and Susan Vedder Park.

City Manager Lavallee spoke on suggested park recommendations, comments from public, and a conversation with the Vedders.

Jim Perry, 577 Misty Pine Drive, spoke against petition, Maxine Barritt contributions, public comments in the Gondolier newspaper, and concerns for applicant's motives.

Dale Povenmire, 940 Tamiami Trail South, spoke against in renaming Maxine Barritt Park.

Jackie Mineo, exempt, read letter from Maxine Barritt's family on her history and contributions to Venice.

Ed Martin, 409 Everglades Drive, spoke on importance of having an advisory board, Maxine Barritt's involvement for park development, impact of signature petitions, and importance of 1st amendment rights.

Judy Heipel, 635 Lehigh Road, spoke against the petition.

Richard Cannarelli, 11584 Dancing River Drive, spoke against the petition and Maxine Barritt's community contributions, the Vedders not having connection to the Maxine Barritt Park.

John Holic and Mike Pachota, Applicants, spoke on amendments provided after the last meeting, agenda attachments, signatures for Maxine Barritt Park, Council's discussions in 2005, comments received, petition having been done according to City policy, alternative suggestions for Michael Biehl or Fountain Park, and reason for initial selection of Maxine Barritt Park. Robert Vedder spoke on being honored for recognition.

A motion was made by Mr. Dafoulas, seconded by Mr. Ellis, to recommend to City Council approval of renaming Fountain Park to the Robert and Susan Vedder Park.

Discussion took place on the City's policy for renaming parks, cost associated, board's authority, Fountain Park signage honoring Merle Graser, and communication with the Graser family.

An amendment to the motion was made by Chair Weed, seconded by Mr. Heaney to change Fountain Park to the Centennial Park Gazebo for renaming to the Robert and Susan Vedder Gazebo.

Discussion took place regarding renaming the entire Centennial Park compared to only the gazebo.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Carr, seconded by Mr. Ellis, to change the Gazebo to the entire Centennial Park to be renamed to the Robert and Susan Vedder Park.

Discussion took place regarding researched done by staff, how Centennial Park came to be named, and including Centennial name in the renaming.

The motion and the two amendments were withdrawn.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellis, seconded By Mr. Carr, to rename Centennial Park to the Robert and Susan Vedder Centennial Park.

Discussion took place regarding the renaming policy, suggestion for a new application to consider a different park, Centennial Park naming history, and concerns with numerous suggestions being provided.

Recess was taken from 2:50 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

City Clerk Michaels clarified policy and process, gave recommendation to decision current application as is, council ability to request the policy to be reviewed, naming rights, and answered Board questions on public notice, and board's authority.

Motion was withdrawn.

Discussion took place regarding flexibility in policy for board recommendation, reviewing and amending policy in future, there being no language for board initiated requests, recent updates to policy, and how to handle current application.

A motion was made by Mr. Dafoulas, seconded by Ms. Panfil, to recommend to City Council denial of the renaming of Maxine Barritt Park to the Robert and Susan Vedder Park. The motion carried by the following electronic vote:

Yes: 9 - Dr. Davis, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Panfil, Mr. Effron, Chair Weed, Mr. Carr, Ms. Moscatelli, Mr. Dafoulas and Mr. Heaney

24-0414

Hurricane After Action Review

Discussion took place regarding the Council's directive, draft of outline, defining steps for collecting citizen's input, time needed to complete task, meetings with staff, report to City Council, structuring survey, being mindful of what is in the City's authority, gaining knowledge on what was done, providing report by next hurricane season, city resources available, concern for timeline, surveys, having a public workshop, and staff provided information.

City Manager Lavallee spoke on Public Information Officer providing guidance on a survey, board responsibility for content, directive intention to provide another perspective, focusing on what the City has control of, and boards ability to decide methodology.

Discussion continued regarding getting more input beyond emails and comment at meetings, benefits of online survey platforms, creating the survey, logistics for a public workshop, adding board meetings to schedule, having multiple avenues for collecting information, categorizing population groups, identifying survey takers, potential questions and topics to focus on, getting city staff's input of questions, consideration for question structure and appropriateness, whether there needs to be approval by council or staff of survey before publishing, collecting questions, and considerations for additional meetings.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Mr. Heaney, to add an additional meeting on January 29, 2025 at 2:00 pm. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: 9 - Dr. Davis, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Panfil, Mr. Effron, Chair Weed, Mr. Carr, Ms. Moscatelli, Mr. Dafoulas and Mr. Heaney

Discussion took place on whether to share draft outline with staff, suggested tasks for this meeting, reviewing staff reports and public guides, creating an online source of information, target population groups, creating content for survey first, determining distribution groups, preparation needed for meeting with groups, working within Sunshine Law, building department's contact with homeowners associations, how survey will be disbursed, how information received will be reviewed, asking questions regarding reason for behaviors, and organizing responses by population groups.

A motion was made by Mr. Ellis, seconded by Ms. Moscatelli, to continue the discussion to the next meeting on January 29, 2025. The motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Yes: 9 - Dr. Davis, Mr. Ellis, Ms. Panfil, Mr. Effron, Chair Weed, Mr. Carr, Ms. Moscatelli, Mr. Dafoulas and Mr. Heaney

VI. Board Discussion

There was no discussion.

VII. Staff Comments

City Manager Lavallee and Assistant City Manager Clinch noted an upcoming application for a statue.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.



Chair

Recording Secretary