



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Thursday, January 30, 2020

1:30 PM

Council Chambers

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### Special Meeting - Parks

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Feinsod called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

#### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Kelly Fernandez, City Manager Ed Lavallee, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch, and Assistant Director of Public Works Rick Simpson.

#### ROLL CALL

Mr. Pachota joined the meeting at 1:32 p.m.

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Ron Feinsod, Council Member Richard Cautero, Vice Mayor Charles Newsom, Dr. Margaret Fiedler, Council Member Helen Moore, Council Member Nick Pachota and Dr. Joseph Neunder

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Feinsod led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION will be limited to one hour.

Val Palange, 501 Valencia Road, expressed concerns regarding Venezia Park to include fiduciary management and discipline, historical preservation and management, and serving the voice of the people.

Nancy Joy Bush, 409 Riviera Street, commented on hearing a conversation between the Venice Lion's Club and city staff on proposed Venezia Park project.

Randy Mineo, 233 Sovrano Road, spoke to proposed Venezia Park project expenses and park impact fees.

Marie Lorden, 425 Nassau Street South, requested council consider all playground proposals beyond the current \$75,000 budgeted to replace the playground equipment be included as part of the overall Venezia Park design, and commented on including resident input, the city's partnership

with Venice Lion's Club, area demographics, reviewing other suitable locations for a playground, project's financial impact, parking, estimated maintenance costs, and project budget.

Mary Erickson, 216 Palermo Place, distributed copies of a New York Times article on birds vanishing in North America to council, spoke to the declining rate of bird population, protecting existing habitats, and suggested to keep Australian Pines at Venezia Park until new trees mature.

## II. PRESENTATIONS

### [20-4373](#)

Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch and Assistant Director Rick Simpson: Update on the City of Venice Parks Interlocal Agreement with Sarasota County (15 min.)

Mr. Cautero requested consensus for council to refrain from commenting or asking questions until each respective presentation is completed.

**There was consensus for council to refrain from commenting or asking questions until each respective presentation is completed.**

Mr. Clinch provided a presentation and spoke on the city's park system, acreage of park land within city limits, park distribution, operation and maintenance, history and purpose of the interlocal agreement with Sarasota County, future of interlocal agreement to include approach and goals, draft proposal for city and county maintained parks, Wellfield Park, Pinebrook Road corridor, estimated city budget impact, Chuck Reiter Park, and the Venice Community Center (VCC).

Discussion followed regarding the county's annual \$5,000 repair limit per park, fire training facility and police firing range at Wellfield Park, county park land in northeast Venice, Pinebrook Road expansion, Knights Trail, relocation of the public works facility, and land swapping with the county.

Mr. Lavalley noted the county will be conducting a county wide property and asset inventory.

Mr. Clinch responded to council questions regarding county protections on croquet courts, the city's future liability and capital expenses for Wellfield Park, and transition of VCC staff if the city takes ownership from the county.

Discussion continued regarding Wellfield Park, the VCC to include city ownership and outsourcing operations, surtax IV funding, volunteer organizations, open space areas, the city's relationship with the county, dedication to public level of service (LOS), community outreach, VCC operating costs and liability, feasibility study for the VCC, and park

amenities in the northeast area.

Mr. Lavallee commented on stability of volunteer groups.

Discussion ensued regarding number of playgrounds in the city and the parks they are in, beach rake and tractor, VCC generating profit, and county trading property with the city.

Mr. Lavallee explained purpose of today's presentation.

Discussion followed on Pinebrook Preserve.

Recess was taken at 3:29 p.m. until 3:43 p.m.

[20-4374](#)

Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch and Assistant Director Rick Simpson: Request Approval of 5-Year Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Schedule for Park Impact Fee Projects (15 min.)

Mr. Clinch spoke on park impact fees, revenue projections, spending analysis, five year Capital improvement Plan (CIP), fiscal year (FY) 21 for Venezia Park, and Australian Pines.

Mr. Simpson spoke to maintenance challenges at the park due to Australian Pines.

Mr. Clinch continued to speak regarding Australian Pines, improving the park, and FY21 Legacy Park design.

Discussion followed regarding Australian Pines, the city's tree arborist recommendation, delaying the Legacy Trail project, Venezia Park, community outreach, conducting resident surveys, the need for park amenities in northeast Venice, allocating money to FY21 to vet a park in northeast Venice, providing residents with a proposal list including costs, playground, trees, and impact fees.

Dr. Fiedler suggested one million dollars be allocated in the budget for a park in northeast Venice, spreading Venezia Park's project budget within a five year span, staff looking at property in the Edmondson/Pinebrook area for a dog park, and commented on the universally inclusive playground, the city's vision, master parks plan, Venezia Park, and property values in northeast Venice.

Discussion continued regarding Australian Pine seeds, affordability of planting full grown trees, tree replacements, cost to remove roots, age demographics of residents living near the park, playground equipment, and available tree options.

Mr. Clinch noted council needs to decide on park impact fee projects for FY21.

Discussion ensued regarding the county's deadline and requesting an extension, funding allocation for a park in northeast Venice, discussing this item at a future council meeting.

**There was consensus for Mr. Lavallee to request a deadline extension from the county, and discuss this item at the next council meeting.**

Mr. Clinch offered to revise the CIP sheets based on council's input today.

**There was consensus to move funding from FY22 to FY21 for a park in northeast Venice.**

Mr. Lavallee notified council the mayor and he will be in Tallahassee next week.

Jackie Mineo, Sovrano Road, inquired on the community use request for Venezia Park and commented on information provided in staff's presentation, invasive plants, oak trees, and Australian Pines.

Mr. Lavallee advised county staff has been listening to council's discussion and has agreed to extend the deadline for the city to submit their five year CIP schedule for park impact fee projects. Mr. Lavallee noted staff will provide a modified plan at the February 25, 2020 council meeting.

Marie Lorden, 425 Nassau Street, suggested placing a universally inclusive playground at Wellfield Park.

Mr. Cautero commented on sunshine law restrictions.

**III. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk