



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes City Council

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Monday, December 12, 2016

1:00 PM

Venice Community Center, Room F,  
326 S. Nokomis Avenue

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### Parks Master Plan Workshop

#### CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Holic called the Parks Master Plan Workshop to order at 1:01 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Mayor John Holic, Council Member Kit McKeon, Council Member Jeanette Gates, Council Member Bob Daniels, Council Member Deborah Anderson, Council Member Richard Cautero and Council Member Fred Fraize

#### ALSO PRESENT

City Attorney Dave Persson, City Clerk Lori Stelzer, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Chair Linda Andrews, Planning Commission Chair Barry Snyder, Environmental Advisory Board Chair Tom Jones, and for certain items on the agenda: Public Works Director John Veneziano and Utilities Director Tim Hochuli.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Holic.

#### I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Five Minutes Each Speaker)

John Singer, 1182 Cielo Court, President of Willow Chase Homeowners Association, spoke regarding the Parks Master Plan identifying one of their private roads as a trail into the Ajax Property, and noted the road is used for emergency access and for construction vehicles at the Venetian Golf and River Club.

Mayor Holic noted this is a proposed Parks Master Plan.

Marta Ugas-Carpenter spoke regarding petitions requesting more pickleball courts on the island, and the increase in number of players.

Discussion followed on the petition being provided to council.

Bill Dwyer, 405 Montelluna Drive, Venetian Golf and River Club, spoke

regarding the need for additional recreational facilities in northeast Venice.

John Moeckel, 185 Treviso Court, spoke on the Ajax property and the need for recreational facilities in northeast Venice.

Mr. Mckeon left the meeting at 1:17 p.m.

Sandra Nick, 118 Palazzo Court, spoke regarding the need for pickleball courts and dog parks in northeast Venice.

Pam Perry, 317 Montelluna Drive, thanked the city for listening to the community's needs.

Mr. McKeon returned to the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Randy Dickerson, 1331 Berkshire Court, spoke regarding the importance of developing a park in northeast Venice.

Mark Arth, 517 Menendez Street, spoke on the historic downtown district and off street parking.

## **II. PARKS MASTER PLAN DISCUSSION**

### [16-2386](#)

City Manager Ed Lavallee and Public Works Director John Veneziano:  
Goal of the Process

Mr. Lavallee provided a brief background on the initiative and purpose of the parks master plan project.

Mr. Veneziano noted the city is following the same process as Sarasota County and other municipalities to assess the needs of the community.

Mr. Lavallee spoke regarding questions and recommendations submitted by council and board members, scope of services, and interlocal agreement with Sarasota County.

Discussion followed on the comprehensive plan's requirement to develop a parks master plan.

### [16-2387](#)

Council and Board Chair Discussion: Improvements Desired and Priorities

David Barth, Toole Design Group, noted six major agenda items he would like to address.

Discussion followed on removal of beaches, compliance with the comprehensive plan, planned unit development (PUD) and open space requirements, including schools with field space, and level of service

(LOS) for beaches and park land. Mr. Barth recommended the comprehensive plan address LOS for beaches.

Discussion continued on recreational activities and LOS at the beach.

Mr. Snyder spoke regarding the comprehensive plan's requirements for recreational facilities and open space, LOS standards, John Nolen plan, relationship between the comprehensive plan and the parks master plan, parks maintenance, residents perspective of park conditions, park amenities, and distance LOS.

Ms. Andrews spoke regarding the study and number of respondents, residents differentiating between the city and county's parks and planning, park maintenance, working relationship with the county, capital expenditures, assessing use of spaces, natural areas and wildlife corridors, bike and pedestrian trails, and age growth population.

Mr. Barth spoke regarding the county survey to include participants, LOS analysis, findings, relationship between the city and other counties, and needs assessment.

Discussion followed on population statistics, consistency with the comprehensive plan and parks master plan, capital expenditures, city's relationship with the county, joint planning agreements (JPA), LOS satisfaction, request for recreational facilities in northeast Venice, city's ownership of property, sports parks maintained by the county, Wellfield Park, maintenance funding, and transferring ownership of sports parks to the county.

Mr. Barth commented on county ownership and city maintenance of parks.

Discussion continued on beach parking, demographics, missing data for park operational costs, equipment acquisition, draft survey responses, pocket parks, use of sheriff's workgroup, parks maintenance, and lighting at the Venice Train Depot.

Discussion ensued on beach parking, space for restrooms and concession stands, beach shuttle, traffic, and needs assessment.

Discussion followed on community input, prioritizing recreational needs, survey results, maintenance of parks, proposal for planner to review the northeast, Seaboard, and post office areas, purchase and use of Ajax property, Pinebrook Park, pickleball courts, developing a maintenance program for the city's inventory, Wellfield Park, partnership with the school board, funding, impact fees, operating costs, and land exchanges with the county.

Mr. Snyder spoke regarding beach access parks, usage and satisfaction data, and developed amenities within gated communities.

Mr. Jones commented on the community's request for a park and recreational facility in northeast Venice.

Discussion followed on gated communities, multi-purpose parks, park site location for northeast Venice, history of acquired park lands, use of Ajax property, noise concerns, discussing sports parks maintenance with the county, Wellfield Park, and requiring developers to donate a percentage of land.

Mr. Persson clarified the policies for requiring developers to donate land.

Suggestions were made for the city manager to discuss court sharing and pickleball scheduling with the county, and for the county to take ownership of sports parks.

Mr. Jones spoke regarding the Environmental Advisory Board's (EAB) discussion on viewing the Ajax property as gateway to using the reservoir in the county area.

Discussion continued regarding transferring ownership of sports parks and placing item on a future agenda for council action.

Mr. Barth spoke regarding architectural themes, differential LOS, parking at Centennial Park, response rate and needs assessment techniques, Ajax property, and site master plan process.

Discussion followed on maintenance plan, green space, park designs, land development regulations, comprehensive plan, open space, and wildlife corridors.

Mr. Veneziano commented on areas that overlap between parks.

Ms. Gates left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Discussion continued on interpretations of the parks master plan, city and county growth projection, and Caspersen Beach.

Ms. Gates returned to the meeting at 3:48 p.m.

Discussion continued on south Brohard Park and adding beach access signage, beach parking and amenities, hiking and walking paths, native wildlife, and wildlife corridors.

Discussion followed on placing items regarding Ajax property, sports parks transfer of ownership, and hiring planner to determine effective land use in northeast Venice, on a future council agenda for further discussion.

Discussion followed on identifying different options for community demands and needs, developers contributing land, areas for development, pickleball courts and costs, and reassessing use of space at Chuck Reiter and Hecksher Parks.

Mr. Barth noted revised draft version can be presented at a future council meeting.

### **III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Five Minutes Each Speaker)**

No one signed up to speak.

### **IV. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the workshop was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Mayor - City of Venice

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City Clerk