

The Villages®
Community Development Districts

TO: Amenity Authority Committee - Workshop

FROM: John B. Rohan, Director of Recreation & Parks

DATE: July 24, 2019

Subject: **First Responders Recreation Center – Conceptual Site Plan**

ISSUE:

First Responders Recreation Center – Conceptual Site Plan

BACKGROUND:

The District purchased and closed on the First Baptist Church Property Fellowship Hall (building is approximately 9,154 square feet and acreage is +/- 19.28 acres) on September 6, 2018. The facility is accessible by golf cart from Clearview Avenue and by vehicle from C.R. 42.

As previously discussed with the Amenity Authority Committee (AAC), it is staff's intent to develop, organize, communicate and implement a coordinated and strategic plan, including a resident input survey, with timelines for receiving resident feedback and suggestions regarding the recently purchased property. This includes developing an outline with an overview for the Capital Improvement Project to allow resident input for recreational amenity considerations at this future recreation center.

Staff has provided an outline to committee members for their review and comment. The communication is consistent with best practices staff has provided for other large scale recreation capital improvement projects such as El Santiago and Tierra Del Sol recreation centers.

- August 9, 2017 – consideration and direction regarding purchase
- May 9, 2018 – contract for purchase and sale- \$2 million
- October 10, 2018 – development and implementation of a resident input survey for resident feedback
- November 7, 2018 – status update on survey and implementation

- December 12, 2018 – finalize survey, marketing and advertising – January 7, 2019 survey goes live through February 28, 2019
- Workshop January 23, 2019 – scope, design and budget
- March 6, 2019 – update progress and summarize survey data; approve naming of recreation center
- April 10, 2019 – submit survey analysis
- June 12, 2019 – schedule workshop meeting date
- July 24, 2019 – preliminary review and discussion on conceptual site plan

Staff is providing a conceptual site plan based on resident input, property configuration, programming and operational expectations for this capital improvement project. A significant amount of time was expended on reviewing the facility and grounds to develop this plan with a focus on adjacent uses of indoor and outdoor layouts. Currently, staff has begun to receive inquiries concerning memorabilia donations to the First Responders Recreation Center and will be developing a formal communication plan with an application process.

This conceptual plan will be posted online and accessible via a Quick Link titled “First Responders Recreation Center” at www.DistrictGov.org. In addition to the link providing information and updates, residents will have an opportunity to provide input on this project from Wednesday July 24, 2019 - Friday August 23, 2019.

Staff will work with our design and planning team to review suggestions from August 26 – September 6, 2019. A public meeting will be held with staff for residents to review the conceptual site plan and additional information from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on September 24, 2019 at the Savannah Regional Recreation Center, Ashley-Wilkes Room. All resident suggestions will be reviewed along with other factors (costs, space, programming, etc.) that will be taken into consideration to achieve the best use of location.

Staff will update considerations with an additional revised site plan to be provided at the November 6, 2019 AAC meeting. The objective and goal is to have a finalized plan no later than the January 8, 2020 AAC meeting. Once approved, this will allow staff to move forward with a more formalized schedule and timelines to construct the facility. This oversight will be coordinated and provided by our project management team.

RECOMMENDATION FOR DISCUSSION:

Staff requests the AAC review, discuss and provide direction regarding the proposed plan to solicit resident feedback.