

**CITY OF TREASURE ISLAND**  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORKSHOP MEETING**  
**April 1, 2003**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**A. ROLL CALL:**

Mayor Leon G. Atkinson	Present
Commissioner Stephanie Lavino	Absent
Commissioner Irving S. Ellsworth Vice-Mayor	Absent
Commissioner Mary Maloof	Present
Commissioner Barbara Blush	Present

**B. MINUTES:**

Motion was made by Commissioner Blush and seconded by Commissioner Maloof to approve the minutes from the meeting of March 18, 2003. Upon roll call, the vote to approve was unanimous.

**C. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Ms. Patricia Pryor commented that she was in favor of a temporary sidewalk for the west fixed bridge in front of the St. James. She stated that many pedestrians use the bridge on a regular basis to get to work, etc. Ms. Pryor asked the City to come up with \$750,000 to provide for a temporary sidewalk on the bridge.

Mr. Charles Weisgerber stated that the ethics complaints filed against the City's elected officials were frivolous and he commented that the Ethics Commission ruled that the complaints had no merit. Mr. Weisgerber further stated that Treasure Island's Voters Watch status as a not-for-profit corporation was dissolved in September, 2000. He also said that Mr. Jim Dobyms has been coaching one or more candidates while Mr. Dobyms has been marketing Voters Watch as being a non-profit, non-partisan group. Mr. Weisgerber stated that he was astounded at this news and hoped that the issue would be brought up by citizens at the candidate debate on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Bob Dowling asked the Commission to endorse and support the development of a seabird sanctuary and rehabilitation facility at Fort DeSoto Park. He said that Ms. Lee Fox of Save Our Seabirds is heading up this project and using volunteers as well as grant funds to get the project off its feet. Mr. Dowling stated that he is asking for the Commission's support of the concept of a seabird sanctuary at Fort DeSoto Park and not asking for any funds.

Mayor Atkinson stated that initially he thought this project would be in competition

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with the Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary but he has since learned that the two groups will be working together. He suggested that the City issue a resolution in support of the seabird sanctuary at Fort DeSoto Park.

Commissioners' Blush and Maloof also expressed their support for a seabird sanctuary at Fort DeSoto Park.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**D. ACTION ITEMS:**

**1. Proclamation – Ladies Golf Club –**

The Commission will present this proclamation on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**2. Mayor's Cleat for Tommy Blush –**

The Commission will make this presentation on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**E. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**1. Resolution – Re: Countywide “Challenge” Recreation Program –**

Mayor Atkinson stated that he asked that this item be placed on the agenda in support of the County creating a recreational park specifically designed for physically and mentally “challenged” people.

Commissioner Blush stated that she is very much in support of the program. She stated that the Beach Pavilion is routinely used by handicapped groups because of its design and that there needs to be more opportunities like this for the handicapped.

Commissioner Maloof asked if there is a particular model from another City that the County has chosen to use in designing the park.

Mayor Atkinson stated that he would find out at the next Chamber Mayors' Meeting if there is a master plan that the City might use as a model.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**2. Donation – Caddy's Waterfront Café' for SVTP –**

Commissioner Blush stated that Mr. Tony Amico of Caddy's Waterfront Café made

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a donation to be used towards the installation of a shower at the Sunset Vista Trailhead Park.

Mayor Atkinson stated that Mr. Amico's donation was in the amount of \$1,000.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

### **3. Employee Benefits Consultant –**

Mr. Chuck Coward, the City Manager, stated that City Staff would like to hire a new Employee Benefits consultant to upgrade the analysis of benefits provided to employees. He reported that the City received 5 responses to its request for proposals (RFP). The City Manager stated that 3 firms were selected for interviews and of the 3 firms, the Gehring Group was selected.

Mayor Atkinson asked if the Employee Benefits Consultant shops around to find the best rates for the City's benefits.

The City Manager responded affirmatively and stated that the Employee Benefits Consultant would act as the Agent of Record by assisting the City in preparing bid documents, defining and analyzing employees' needs and reviewing proposals relating to benefits.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

### **4. Treasure Bay Playground –**

The City Manager stated that the City is recommending the purchase of a play structure from Landscape Structures in the amount of \$20,021.71 for the Treasure Bay Park. He stated that the installation of the play structure would complete the makeover of the four playgrounds in our community (Roselli, Palms, Beach Pavilion and Treasure Bay).

Commissioner Maloof stated that although she has received some complaints from the community about spending funds to makeover the playgrounds she feels it is needed for the growing number of young families that are located here in the City.

The City Manager stated that the installation of a play structure at Treasure Bay will complete the \$100,000 makeover of all 4 parks.

Mayor Atkinson asked where the funds came from for the makeover of the parks. The City Manager stated that the funds were made available through the "Pennies for Pinellas" Program.

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The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**5. 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue Traffic Calming Plan –**

The City Manager stated that that traffic calming on 108<sup>th</sup> Avenue would be a first step in master planning. He said that it would include the painting of center and sidelines and the placement of raised pavement markers (RPM's) as well as crosswalks.

Mayor Atkinson stated that implementing the items the City Manager mentioned would go a long way in helping with traffic calming while developing the Master Plan.

Commissioner Blush agreed that the traffic claming measures introduced by the City Manager provided a conservative starting point until the Master Plan is completed.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**6. Acknowledging the U.S. Military –**

Commissioner Blush requested that the Commission read a draft resolution that she requested in support of the U.S. Military. She stated that this resolution would be in support of our troops and not for or against the war. She said that the resolution should also say, "We await their safe return and the opportunity to say welcome home".

Commissioner Maloof asked how many people from Treasure Island have been called to duty in the war.

Commissioner Blush stated that she personally knows of 3 people that have been called to duty here in Treasure Island.

The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**7. Designating Alternate Poll Workers –**

Mayor Atkinson read a memorandum appointing four individuals as alternate poll workers for the Runoff Election on April 8, 2003. He asked if a resolution was necessary for this item.

The City Manager responded by stating that the appointment of individuals for the Election Board should be accomplished by resolution.

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The Commission will consider this resolution on Monday, April 7, 2003.

**F. CITY MANAGER/CITY ATTORNEY REPORTS AND COMMENTS:**

**1. Tree City USA Designation for Year 5 –**

The City Manager reported that the City of Treasure Island was designated as Tree City USA for the fifth consecutive year.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the Beautification Committee should be recognized specifically for this achievement.

**2. Treasure Bay Newspaper Article –**

The City Manager reported that Nancy Morgan had written an article in the Neighborhood Times Sports Section regarding the fine job Phil Girardi is doing at Treasure Bay. He stated that the City continues to receive many compliments regarding the programs offered at the Treasure Bay Golf and Recreation Center.

**3. Scheduling Policy for City Facilities –**

The City Manager stated that there were some changes made to the scheduling policy for City facilities to facilitate the time needed for breakdown and setup of meetings.

**4. Bridge Construction Status Report –**

The City Manager reported that the following 3 items are currently being addressed for the construction of the fixed bridges:

- A. Relocating utilities at the two fixed bridges.
- B. Building permanent detour routes
- C. Establishing the staging area at Park Place

Commissioner Maloof asked about preventing rodents during construction.

The City Manager stated that if a problem occurs it can be treated right away.

The City Manager stated that there is a correction regarding the cost to install a temporary sidewalk on the St. James Bridge. He said that Ms. Pryor had indicated the cost was \$750,000 and it is actually \$75,000.

Mayor Atkinson stated that the City will need to be stringent on speeding in the

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areas under construction in order to help prevent accidents from occurring.

**G. REPORTS & COMMENTS BY COMMISSIONERS:**

Commissioner Blush thanked the Commission for the free use of the parking lots in Sunset Beach for the Sunset beach Civic Association's annual yard sale. She said that the event was very successful.

Commissioner Blush reported that she donated part of her \$1,000 in discretionary funds as Commissioner to pay for the plants behind the dias as well as for the plants at 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The City Manager stated that the cost for the 4 plants in the City hall Auditorium was approximately \$100. He commented that Joe Gayton is donating flowering plants for the Community Center.

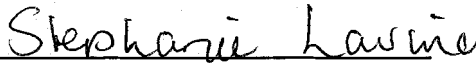
Mayor Atkinson stated that he would like to donate his \$1,000 in discretionary funds to refurbish the dias. He said that he asked the City Manager to arrange with Carol Green to handle the refurbishing.

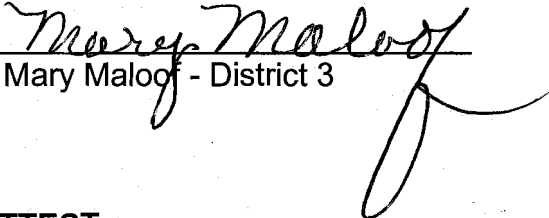
**H. PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Chris Hearn stated that Voters Watch had nothing to do with the ethics hearings. He said that all 6 candidates have run pretty good elections thus far. Mr. Hearn stated that someone put out a "hit piece" on one of the mayoral candidates right before the March 4<sup>th</sup> election. He said that the person responsible is the same person that spoke about ethics during the public comments at the beginning of the meeting.

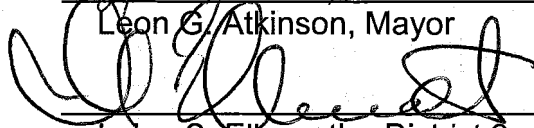
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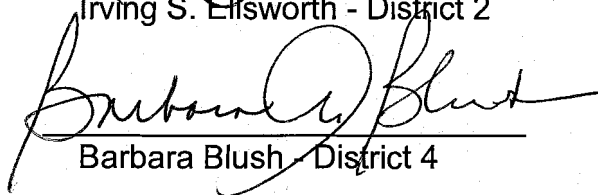
I. ADJOURNMENT:

  
Stephanie Lavino - District 1

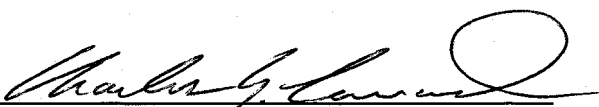
  
Mary Maloof - District 3

  
Leon G. Atkinson, Mayor

  
Irving S. Ellsworth - District 2

  
Barbara Blush - District 4

ATTEST:

  
Charles S. Coward, City Clerk