

Higgs Beach Planning Committee or BOD meetings 2009 & 2010 (thru Feb 28, 2010)

		Minutes
February 6, 2009:	10:00 am – 11:30 am	x
February 13, 2009	12 noon – 1:30 pm	x
February 26, 2009	12:30 pm – 2:00 pm	x
March 21, 2009:	10:00 am – 12 noon	x
April 3, 2009:	9:30 am – 11:00 am	x
April 22, 2009	1:30 – 3:00 pm	x
April 30, 2009	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	x
June 4, 2009:	10:00 am – 11:30 pm	x
July 9, 2009	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	x
August 3, 2009	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	
August 21, 2009		x
August 25, 2009	Heritage Trail	
September 17, 2009	water quality	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm x
September 18, 2009		10:00 am – 12 noon x
September 29, 2009		9:00 am – 10:00 am
October 15, 2009		10:00 am – 12 noon x
November 6, 2009	security mtg	9:30 am – 10:30 am x
November 19, 2009		3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
January 25, 2010		1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
February 12, 2010		10:30 am – 12 noon
February 19, 2009		1:00 pm – 2:00 pm x

**Higgs Beach
Compilation of Public Input
February 2009 – March 2009**

Attached is the unabridged report of all public input regarding the use and future of Higgs Beach from February 2009-March 2009. The report includes student input (March 4, 2009), Group Constituent Input from a March 21, 2009 Public Input meeting held at Higgs Beach as well as input expressed by individual residents and visitors.

Submitted by:

Carol Schreck
Aide to County Commissioner Heather Carruthers
March 30, 2009

#1 WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES OF THIS PARK FEATURE?

STUDENTS (3/4/09)

Climbing things

Swings

Sand

Benches

Old Banyan tree to climb (no longer there)

CONCESSIONS & LEGAL / EVENTS (3/21/09)

Pavilions / bandstands

Beautiful Park

DOG PARK (3/21/09)

The fact it exists

Safe for dogs

Good social for humans

Opportunity to be off leash / humane

AFRICAN CEMETERY MEMORIAL / WEST MARTELLO (3/21/09)

African Memorial: Recognition of KW community's intervention / rescue of captured Africans during the transatlantic passage

Great place for peaceful, reflective meditation

SECURITY (3/21/09)

No comments

NEIGHBORS (3/21/09)

The park is free and accessible

The green area by the tennis courts should be kept open and green

All inclusive

It has history

PLAYGROUND / KIDS (3/21/09)

One user of the park for 2 generations felt that it was adequate as it is, and wasn't sure if a new plan would be right for the nature of the neighborhood

As one of only a few playground areas in Key West, the park is already used often by children, parents, and visiting families

It has an ongoing history of being a site for birthday parties, play dates, and a community-meeting place for local families

ATHLETICS (3/21/09)

Beach volleyball

Tennis Courts

#2 WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVES? WHAT DOESN'T WORK ABOUT THE PARK?

STUDENTS (3/4/09)

Cleaner benches
Get students involved
More activities
Water fountains
Food vendors (hot dogs, ice cream, soda)
Gazebo
Bathrooms improved (or added to AP side of road)
Some permanent overhead coverage for shade
Make it bigger
More connected play areas (looks like playground equipment was just dropped there)
Water quality

CONCESSIONS & LEGAL (3/21/09)

Safety
Underutilized

DOG PARK (3/21/09)

Dusty
Grass doesn't grow
Safe parking
Bugs (fleas & ticks)

AFRICAN CEMETERY / WEST MARTELLO (3/21/09)

None

SECURITY (3/21/09)

Lighting
Enjoy the beach at sunset
Consistency of enforcement by officers
Speeding on the street

NEIGHBORS (3/21/09)

Don't want it to become a homeless haven
Don't want to see changes

PLAYGROUND / KIDS (3/21/09)

-One participant felt that the entire play area is outdated and depressing, when compared to what many other communities offer
-Another suggested that the play area could be so much more inventive, interesting, and inspiring for kids
-The lack of shade is of serious concern to parents, and it was voiced that the immediate play area would benefit from more trees and well- designed sun shades

- Playground has no on-site family restroom facilities -families using the playground often do not want to take their children to use the restrooms located across the street because they are not always clean, lighting is poor, and there are no baby changing/ family areas inside
- One participant remembered a mini-train and tracks that ran in a circuit around the park; would something like that work in a new plan?
- There are no on-site snacks or beverages, resulting in shorter play time for families

FACILITIES (3/21/09)

- Paint – color scheme / rust inhibitor
- Crosswalk – new improved crosswalk, clearly delineated
- Need new bathroom across street with baby changing stations
- New parking lot design – parking flow is unsafe and “against current code” as well as no delineation of parking lot with roadway (curbing or plantings?)
- Inventory and condition / ADA of water fountains
- Redo sea wall to the pier to prevent erosion
- Bike racks
- First aid stations

ENVIRONMENT (3/21/09)

- Water quality (Reroute storm water outflows)
- Seaweed is a problem

ATHLETICS (3/21/09)

- Not enough volleyball courts
- Poor lighting – need for evening play (volley ball)
- Not enough trees for wind blockage for play (volleyball)
- Pool lighting – need for evening play (tennis)
- Difficult to replace nets
- Need to incorporate kids into athletic activities

#3 WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THIS AREA KEEPING IN MIND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS?

STUDENTS (3/4/09)

Rent chairs all day (10am – 5pm)
Mobile venders like at Smathers?
Kayak rentals
Make green area between Astro Park and tennis courts improved & more welcoming
Better system of reserving space, including at Astro Park, for parties, etc
Boardwalk: Better bike/rollerblading area
Trimmed hedges
Better trash & recycling
Add benches
Need more little picnic tables
Basketball court
Skate park open when kids are not in school (don't close it at 5pm)
More native tall trees
Better entrance to Indigenous Park
Concerts for kids once a month featuring teen garage bands
Better water quality – better circulation of water
Net around swimming area
Clean jelly fish off beach
Improve aesthetics at corner of Reynolds & Atlantic (park entrance)
No sleeping on benches in the dog park
Rent dog park
Additional volleyball courts
Roller skating rink in the back behind Astro Park with roller skating every Friday night (not necessarily free)

CONCESSIONS & LEGAL (3/21/09)

Need more bike racks
Trolley / train stop
City bus stop

DOG PARK (3/21/09)

Make users aware of website (www.keywestdogpark.org)
Create more awareness of donating opportunities
Create database for dog park updates & volunteer opportunities
Move bulletin board inside
Replace broken chairs
Paint pavilions, clean tables, repair benches
Better lighting
Safer parking (behind dog park in addition to across the street)

AFRICAN CEMETERY MEMORIAL / WEST MARTELLO (3/21/09)

Future, continuous flow of visitors from this site into the KW Garden Club
Mural for wooden fence done by African schoolchildren and KW kids (Just for Kids)

SECURITY (3/21/09)

Call boxes

Public needs to know laws

Signage that states expectations / rules / information

Improve lighting (turtle nesting concern?)

Continuity of law enforcement

NEIGHBORS (3/21/09)

To improve is to maintain

Money from vendors should go back to the beach fund

PLAYGROUND / KIDS (3/21/09)

-Consider placing other play areas, such as a separate swing or physical activity course, in other areas of the park

-Include a water feature or water-play aspect in any new playground design

-Find affordable, innovative solution to provide shade from the afternoon sun

-If expected to be used at night, ensure adequate lighting for safety and security

-Signage, and way-finding, and telling the story of the park could be improved

-Communications and literature (booklet, website, signage) could be provided that outlines how families reserve and use the play areas and pavilions for parties, group gatherings, and activities

-Several participants spoke about the possibility of using a mural or playground design to help educate children about Key West's environment, history, and sense of place

-The recycling ethic in the playground, and all of the park, could be improved with the help of the site's waste management provider

-Consider a small food stall or snack shack in any new playground design

-Ensure that any new playground design includes a family restroom with baby changing table and room for parent(s) and children

New playground design

FACILITIES (3/21/09)

Paint – color scheme / rust inhibitor

Crosswalk – new improved crosswalk, clearly delineated

Need new bathroom across street with baby changing stations

New parking lot design – parking flow is unsafe and “against current code” as well as no delineation of parking lot with roadway (curbing or plantings?)

Inventory and condition / ADA of water fountains

Redo sea wall to the pier to prevent erosion

Bike racks

First aid stations

ENVIRONMENT (3/21/09)

Reroute storm water outflows

Seaweed is a problem

ATHLETICS (3/21/09)

Additional volleyball courts for tournaments (revenue opportunity)

Lighting for evening volleyball games (turtle nesting concern?)

Planting of trees for improved wind blocking
Tennis Pro and Pro shop (revenue opportunity)
Lighting and quality equipment
Bicycle repair / service / rental station (revenue opportunity)
New wind-screens
Bike, scooter, electric car rental satellite office (revenue opportunity)
Kite boarding
Ultimate Frisbee / Frisbee golf
5k running track with 1-2 mini exercise stations
Weights, resistance training, yoga, cardio, meditation
Snorkeling, swimming, kayaking
Shuffleboard / handball courts

INDIVIDUAL(S) INPUT (gathered by Commissioners and/or Aide)

Install speed bumps to reduce speeding
Remove derelict boats
Improve parking lot (flow and better designation of spaces)
Waste Mgmt – improved placement of dumpster at Salute's Restaurant
Lighting for racquet ball courts
Clothing Optional Beach
Marine Park – status?
Public Vegetable Garden (behind dog park / adjacent to FAA tower)

#4 PRIORITIZE LIST OF NEEDS FROM MOST TO LEAST IMPORTANT FOR YOUR GROUP

CONCESSIONS & LEGAL (3/21/09)

Form oversight group (Friends of Higgs Beach)
Will need board of directors

DOG PARK (3/21/09)

Better parking signs
Better lighting
Can posts on Atlantic side be removed for parking so don't have to cross street?
Create ADA access
Amend rules to not allow un-neutered male dogs

AFRICAN CEMETERY MEMORIAL (3/21/09)

Support for more TDC funding to complete Phase III shrine and sidewalk
Support to qualify site as a UNESCO World Heritage Site
Site on TDC website about the site
Shrubbery – part of design plan

SECURITY (3/21/09)

Keep it friendly

NEIGHBORS (3/21/09)

Maintain and upkeep
Need to have a master plan (what does it want to be)
Traffic flow is good – don't change it
Try not to expand (children's park as example)

PLAYGROUND / KIDS (3/21/09) (No priority list was drafted as part of our dialogue)

FACILITIES & ENVIRONMENT (3/21/09)

Improved water quality
Improved crosswalk
Bathroom on playground side of street (family bathroom)
Parking (unsafe traffic flow)
Bike racks
Reroute stormwater outflows

ATHLETICS (3/21/09) (specific priorities were not presented)

Additional volleyball courts
Lighting for evening play
Tennis / Athletic Pro shop

INDIVIDUAL(S) INPUT (Gathered by Commissioners and/or Aide)

Flags for beach closure / water quality)

#5 WHO WILL VOLUNTEER TO HELP

CONCESSIONS & LEGAL (3/21/09)

Richard Klitenick (legal)

Richard Hatch (legal)

DOG PARK (3/21/09)

Creating database to coordinate volunteers

AFRICAN CEMETERY MEMORIAL / WEST MARTELLO (3/21/09)

Dennie Beedee (305-296-8885)

Neighbors of Higgs Beach

Garden Club

SECURITY (3/21/09)

None

NEIGHBORS (3/21/09)

Janice Nicowski

Cindi Blum

Sue Harrison

PLAYGROUND / KIDS (3/21/09)

-Eric Holowacz has agreed to serve as group leader for the Friends of Higgs Beach Committee

-All of the participants in this discussion have agreed to attend and provide further input into these developments

Margie DiMonte	(305-304-0460)	(m8x10photo@comcast.net)
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Elaine Alea	(305-923-4744)	(ealea@bellsouth.net)
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Cheryl Cates	(305-587-6726)	(cheryl@keysrealestate.com)
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ACTIONS

-It was suggested that Friends of Higgs Beach approach Ben & Jerry's, and the support their company has provided to community playground developments in other places (and at Key West's Wesley House as well).

-It was suggested that our group look into the exceptional playground in Marathon, which was a project of the Rotary Club and has resulted in a wonderful park for kids and families (just off US Highway 1 at 75th Street)

FACILITIES / ENVIRONMENT (3/21/09)

John Wilkins (City)

Dan McMahon

John Jurkowski

ATHLETICS (3/21/09)

None specifically presented

Higgs Beach Exploratory Meeting / Minutes
Friday, February 06, 2009

- I. Introduction (attendee introduction)
- II. Current impediments

- a. SECURITY / SAFETY / CRIME (homeless and/or vagrancy situation)
(Rick Ramsey / Undersheriff)

History: Full time officer eliminated several years ago by BOCC

Current: 23 passes / month by officers with differing degrees of active involvement

4 Options for maximizing security / minimizing crime

1. full time officer (\$80k)
2. part time for key hours / rotating officers
3. allocate overtime budget for Higgs Beach coverage – existing officer
4. CSA – non-certified officer with no car / weapon, etc. – radio only

(Chief Donie Lee / KW City)

Difficult to enforce laws

- Officer must witness ordinance violation
- Pottinger Case (must provide area to sleep)
- Difficult to keep off streets (court system, etc)

(Capt Scott Smith / KW City)

- Bigger picture – displacing homeless/vagrants is not full solution
- Suggestion: 2 officers under Quality of Life title (beaches and parks) for entire city
- Existing ordinances for possible arrest
 - Disorderly conduct
 - Pan handling
 - Blocking sidewalk
 - Indecent exposure
 - Open container
 - Beach closed (Pottinger Case)

(Sloan Bashinsky / citizen)

- Need security guard / police presence 9 am – 11 pm

(Patrice Sanders / SHAL)

1. Homeless need alternative site (roof, portolets)
2. Outreach

(Hank Dean / citizen)

- Incentive (take convenience and incentive to stay, away from vagrants)
- Attractive (make less attractive to vagrants)
- Stop public from “Dropping Off” of food, clothing, etc.

Higgs Beach Exploratory Meeting (2/6/09)

Current impediments (continued)

b. WATER QUALITY

(David Fernandez / KW)

- Bird Sanctuary / McCoy Park (state of art facility just occupied)
- Dog Park (adjustments made for improvements)
- Fresh water (rain) natural breeding ground for bacteria

c. SHADE: Need additional shade at Astro City Playground

d. UNOFFICIAL DROP OFF POINT for food, clothing for homeless / vagrants

e. QUALITY OF BATHROOMS (homeless sleeping in bathrooms / security / belligerence)

f. ROAD CONFIGURATION (dangerous for crossing street from Astro park to restrooms)

g. SERVICES and full beach concessions

h. LIVE A BOARDS (people living in cars, vans, campers, etc.)

i. COST (funding for improvements is difficult)

III. Vision (brainstorm)

- More Trees / Landscaping
- Bandstand painted (scheduled to be completed by public works)
- Recycling (in works)
- World class playground
- Showcase of what KW is all about (art, garden, beach, culture, athletics, children, history)
- More shade
- Better fence (no chain link fencing)
- Mini golf / volleyball / tennis courts / basketball court – lit at night
- Community venue (picnics, birthday parties, holiday events, grills)
- Fitness Trail
- Info center (phone, security, reservations, hospitality, etc.)
- “Beach Patrol”
- World Volleyball tournaments
- Swings on both sides of street
- Lighting for events, dog park and night time activities
- Water feature
- Skate Park

IV Working Group (Designated group of constituents / shareholders to work on Higgs Beach issues)

A. Mission

1. To clarify vision with community input
2. To establish short-term and long-term goals of the Working Group
3. To identify costs and funding sources

Higgs Beach Exploratory Meeting (2/6/09)
Working Group Constituencies (continued)

B. Constituencies:

Individuals and/or organizations representing constituent groups (Associated groups to be contacted for representation where no individual has been identified.)

Children:	School Superintendent / Student Councils
Concessions:	Richard Hatch (Salute) / Fran Gonzon (beach concession)
Dog Park:	Connie Christian / Jane Dawkins (co-founders)
Law enforce:	Sheriff and City police
Neighbors:	Janice Nicowski / Michael Behmke
Garden Club:	Rosi Ware / Roger McVeigh
ADA:	City / County ADA
Artists:	Eric Holowacz (Studios of Key West)
Public Works:	Dent Pierce (county) / Greg Veliz (city)
Athletes:	Hank Dean / Joan Langly (TBD)
Tourism:	Attractions Association
KW Chamber:	Sam Holland
Legal:	Richard Klitenick / judge

HC/cas

The following were additions from the Meet & Greet between Commissioners (Carruthers & Johnston, Sloan Bashinsky, Joe McMurray, Fr. Steve Braddock and homeless at Higgs Beach)
3/2/09

SHANDARBA KOND 305-766-2006

ISSUES RELATING TO HIGGS BEACH (AFTER #1, IN NO PARTICULAR ORDER)

1. SPEEDERS (ON ATLANTIC BLVD.)

SOLUTION: INTENSIFY EFFORTS OF ENFORCEMENT - TICKETS

2. DERELICT VESSELS ON BEACH - BEEN THERE A LONG TIME.

SOLUTION: REMOVE THEM

3. ILLEGAL PARKING IN PARKING LOTS (ON BOTH SIDES OF SALUTE)

CARS PARK IN AREAS NOT MARKED AS PARKING SPACES WHICH

IN TURN MAKES DRIVING IN LOTS MUCH MORE DIFFICULT.

SOLUTION: PAINT "NO PARKING" IN THOSE PARTICULAR AREAS &

TICKET ALL FUTURE VIOLATORS

4. ILLEGAL PASSING OF BICYCLISTS BY CARS & TRUCKS. A BICYCLE,

ACCORDING TO STATE TRAFFIC LAW DEFINITION, IS A VEHICLE &

IT IS ILLEGAL TO PASS ANOTHER VEHICLE IN A DOUBLE YELLOW

LINE AREA. THIS COMMON PRACTICE BY DRIVERS IS VERY UNSAFE

TO BICYCLISTS.

SOLUTION: TICKET ALL VIOLATORS, AS THIS OFFENSE IS ALMOST

ALWAYS COMMITTED BY DRIVERS WHO ARE ALSO SPEEDING.

5. ILLEGAL PARKING IN GRASSY AREA OPPOSITE SALUTE RESTAURANT.

SOLUTION: LOCK UP THE EXISTING CHAIN TO PREVENT ACCESS.

CITE ANYONE WHO DESTROYS THE LOCK TO GAIN ACCESS.

6. OVERSIZED VEHICLE PARKING IN LOTS, MANY TIMES TAKING UP 2

SPACES

SOLUTION: TICKET ALL OFFENDERS.

7. GARBAGE DUMPSTER (IN LOT BETW. SALUTE & CASA MARINA)

NEEDS TO STAY OUT OF DRIVING LANE - BACK UP NEXT TO WALL.

SOLUTION: INSTRUCT WASTE MGT DRIVERS WHERE DUMPSTER

MUST BE LOCATED

8. EYESORE SIGNS ALONG ATLANTIC BLVD. CLOSE TO DOG PARK.

THESE POSTS/SIGNS WERE PLACED THERE BECAUSE DOG PARK USERS PARKED ON THE GRASSY STRIP INSTEAD OF IN THE PARKING LOT.

SOLUTION: REMOVE THE POSTS/SIGNS AND TICKET ALL FUTURE VIOLATORS AS SIGNS ARE ALREADY IN PLACE WHICH READ "NO PARKING ANY TIME".

9. RACQUET BALL COURTS ARE NOT LIGHTED FOR NIGHT TIME USE.

SOLUTION: INSTALL NECESSARY LIGHTING.

10. BOCCIE BALL COURT USERS VIOLATED OPEN CONTAINER LAW.

SOLUTION: WHILE NOT TECHNICALLY A PART OF HIGGS BEACH, BOCCIE PLAYERS DO VIOLATE THE LAW & SHOULD BE SUBJECT TO SAME ENFORCEMENT OF OPEN CONTAINER LAW AS USERS OF HIGGS BEACH ARE.

② Parking

- ① re-open bridal path to relieve stress on Lower Higgs beach
- ② need a second exit for the parking lot on bridal path - accident, fire, suicide

③ Bike racks

need racks to lock down bikes and keep them neat

④ Lighting

need lights on the pavilions and tables to cover dark areas for safety

- ⑤ mens bathroom - need soap and blow dryer
the basic design is dirty and dangerous

⑥ Clothing optional beach

① Higgs beach top free

② front beach - set aside N.W. corner for nude beach

⑦ other requests

① recycling bin for beer cans

② hot showers - Kots isn't nice enough

③ sweep parking lot at night

④ concession stand for hot dogs, cokes etc.

⑤ get old used boats off the beach

Higgs Beach Working Group Meeting / Minutes
Friday, February 13, 2009

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Christie Martin, Scott Smith, Greg Veliz, Patrice Sanders, Mike Behmke, Fran Gonzon, Hank Dean, Dent Pierce, Eric Holowacz, Jane Dawkins, Sue Sullivan, Debra Petersen, Rosi Ware, Richard Hatch, Sloan Bashinsky, Connie Christian, Fr. Steve Braddock, Maggie Gutierrez, Sean Kinney (Press), **Lt Gene Thompson, Janice Nicowski**

- I. Agenda approved with following corrections
- a. Addition of "judge" under III.b. (Identify missing representatives)
- II. Minutes approved with following corrections
- a. Homeless as constituency group (Fr. Steve Braddock / Sloan Bashinsky and Patrice Sanders as representatives for constituency)

II. Confirmation of key constituencies for Working Group

Children:	School Superintendent / Student Councils
Homeless:	Fr Braddock (FKOC) / Patrice Sanders (SHAL) / Sloan Bashinsky
Concessions:	Richard Hatch (Salute) / Fran Gonzon (beach concession)
Dog Park:	Connie Christian / Jane Dawkins (co-founders)
Law enforcement:	Gene Thompson (MCSO) / Scott Smith (KWPD)
Neighbors:	Janice Nicowski / Michael Behmke
Garden Club:	Rosi Ware / Roger McVeigh / Sue Sullivan
ADA:	County ADA Committee
Artists:	Eric Holowacz (The Studios of Key West)
Public Works:	Dent Pierce (county) / Greg Veliz (city)
Athletics:	Hank Dean
Tourism:	Attractions Association
KW Chamber:	Sam Holland
Legal:	Richard Klitenick / Maggie Gutierrez, P.D.

- a. Identify missing constituencies
 - Environmental Reef Relief / Audubon Society
 - Casa Marina Mgmt General Manager / Facilities
- b. Identify missing representatives
 - School / Students – represented by Christie Martin / students to be identified
 - ADA – Commissioner Carruthers to speak with John Wilkins (KW City)
 - Tourism – Commissioner Carruthers to speak with Attractions Association
 - Judge – It was determined that the legal constituency would be best served by Committee members Richard Klitenick (attny), Maggie Gutierrez (public defender) and law enforcement as presents conflict of interest if hearing a particular case.
 - Environmental: Commissioner Carruthers to contact Reef Relief / Audubon Society
 - Interfaith Ministerial Alliance (suggested by Fr. Steve Braddock) represented by Pastor Joe McMurray of MCC church in order to assist with human well being initiatives
 - Casa Marina Mgmt: Commissioner Carruthers to contact Casa Marina Mgmt

III. Potential short-term solutions to immediate impediments to use

- a. Security & Safety
 - Commissioner Carruthers to request funds for full time sheriff's deputy at Higgs Beach as short term solution until effectiveness can be evaluated and budgetary concerns are addressed for long-term solution

- Effectiveness to be determined after 2 months by the following:
 - Direct observation by beach users and concessionaires
 - Law enforcement incident report evaluations
 - Scott Smith reiterated the need for a global approach and solution for law-breakers, particularly homeless law-breakers. Without a broader solution, the problem will merely shift from one park / area to another.
 - Commissioners Carruthers and Johnston and Sloan Bashinsky to speak with the homeless at Higgs Beach to hear their needs and communicate Higgs Beach concerns and initiatives
 - Richard Hatch / Fran Gonzon suggested concessions could lease the pavilions and bandstands, allowing for public's free use and ability, as leasees, to request law-breakers to be removed from the premises. (check viability)
 - RFPs would be necessary if further action was taken
 - Liability issues would need to be resolved
 - Maggie Gutierrez commented that the court system does not have resources to assist or detain homeless people who were arrested and have mental illness or substance abuse problems
- b. Community use
- Eric Holowacz: Create community awareness and involvement in "taking back the park" by offering non-profit groups week-ends to have fundraising picnic events
 - Michael Behmke: Speed bumps to slow traffic (see Action Items below)
Kid or family friendly restrooms
Call boxes to law enforcement for added security
Neighbors and community as "Good Neighbor Ambassadors"
 - Hank Dean: Improved bathrooms (cut out windows with opaque glass for light, air circulation and safety)
Web site for community communication "Friends of Higgs Beach"
 - Christie Martin: The park, benches, etc. need to be safe AND clean
 - Dent Pierce: Bathrooms cleaned daily (am). The problem is that they are old and need updating RE: fixtures, lighting, air circulation, etc. Dent will research increased cleaning schedule
 - Sloan Bashinsky: Vouchers for reserving use of pavilions. Pavilions can be reserved by calling the county (Action Item)

IV. Moving Forward

- a. Team Leaders
- Hank Dean (web site)
 - Janice Nicowski / Michael Behmke (neighborhood group)

V. Next Meeting

- a. Long Term Goals
- b. Revise / Update Past reports / committee work
- c. Funding Sources and initiatives
- d. Date and time TBD

ACTIONS:

Funds for sheriff's deputy – short term
 Constituencies (school, environ't, tourism, Casa, ADA)
 Dialogue with homeless

(Heather Carruthers/Gene Thompson)
 (Heather Carruthers)
 (Heather Carruthers / Teri Johnston /
 Fr. Braddock / Sloan Bashinsky)

Ask Harold about use of funds for call boxes
Ask Harold about use of funds for "Reserve Pavilion" signs
Updating bathrooms (what, how, etc.)

Web site

Neighborhood Committee

Water faucet (raised by R. Hatch)

Scan former Higgs Beach Group report and distribute to group

Research Audubon Bird Sanctuary

Speed Bump alternatives

(Heather Carruthers/Gene Thompson)

(Heather Carruthers)

(Dent Pierce)

(Hank Dean)

(Janice Nicowski and Michael Behmke)

(Dent Pierce)

(CAS)

(CAS)

(Dent Pierce)

Higgs Beach Working Group Meeting / Minutes
2/26/09 Gato Building (12:30 – 2:00 pm)

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Christie Martin, Father Steve Braddock, Fran Gonzon, Hank Dean, Janice Nicowski, Maggie Gutierrez, Michael Behmke, Dent Pierce, Rev. Joe McMurray, Richard Hatch, Sam Holland, Sean Kinney, Sloan Bashinsky, Suanne Kitchar, Sue Sullivan, Norma Jean Sawyer, Emil Imbro, Kevin Speidel, Cherre Marchak, John Wilkins, Rodd Shahdaroba (Hatman), Chad Vlassis, Connie Christian, Wendy Coles, Jerry Halterman, Harold Packer, Kevin Tobin, Kathleen Ream, Carol Schreck (Aide to Commissioner Carruthers)

- I. Agenda approved
- II. 2/13/09 minutes corrected to include Lt. Gene Thompson and Janice Nicowski as being present
- III. Introduction and confirmation / update of represented constituencies
- IV. Short Term solutions – status
 - a. Sheriff's Deputy (suggested, flexible schedule)
 - Kathy Reams (KW Police):
 - 1501 calls to Higgs Beach 2008 = 488 primary officer hours for Higgs Beach 2008
 - 225 calls so far for 2009 = 105 primary officer hours for Higgs Beach 2009
 - 6 month trial period with 8 hrs/day 7 days/week March/April
 - Reduced to 5 days / week May and June
 - 8 hours on weekends summer
 - \$40k towards sheriff's deputy and bathroom improvements
 - Early morning coverage
 - Mid afternoon to evening coverage
 - Flexibility for sunset, daylight savings, weekends, and what is learned from trial period.
 - b. Community Patrolling
 1. Regulations (Dent Pierce to forward to committee)
 2. Call Box - Estimated at \$500 each
 - When, where and where does call go to? - TBD
 3. Signage
 4. Reserving pavilions
 - c. Meet and Greet with Homeless at Higgs Beach – Monday, March 02, 2009
(Commissioners Carruthers and Johnston, Fr. Braddock and Sloan Bashinsky)
 - d. Restroom / Grounds Update (Dent Pierce)
 - Security windows, new finishes and labor - approximately \$3500 / restroom
 - Pavilions – in process of cleaning and painting (students to help artists)
 - Recycling – working with Waste Mgmt and should have in place within the week
 - Cleaning – currently cleaned 1/day. Increase to 2/day is estimated at additional \$30k
 - Bathrooms hours – 6 am – 11 pm (Dent Pierce to reconfirm 11 pm locking of restrooms)

V. Discussion

a. Website update (Hank Dean)

- www.FriendsofHiggsBeach.com for information, maps, photos, committee meetings, etc.
- www.FriendsofHiggsBeach.com/form for community input
- Correspondence (emails and forum posting) should be on 24 hour edit watch
- Correspondence to be monitored by Hank Dean and Carol Schreck (Aide) prior to becoming "live"
- Dean and Schreck to work on website content
- Webcam (sponsors?)
- Once up, to be linked to county and city websites

b. Brief review of 1999-2001 plan

- This report to be used as a launching point for a yet-to-be established Higgs Beach Planning committee. Please review prior to next meeting

c. Planning – Working Groups

- Public Workshop / Input meeting
 - Michael Behmke – Workshop leader (set date, time, format, etc.)
 - Public announcement – Schreck / Carruthers Office
 - Reservation of pavilions for selected date and time (Schreck)
- Updating of 1999 / 2001 Plan – small Planning Committee to be established after public input meeting
- Fundraising
 - Not-for-Profit status for Friends of Higgs Beach (Klitenick)

VI. New Discussion / Items

- a. Concern that Beach will become too homogenized – jeopardizing Keys' character
- b. Increased lighting at pavilions and tennis courts (Dent Pierce)
- c. "open container" law enforcement
- d. County policies toward Homeless (contact Coral Gables - CAS)
- e. EVENT: Welcome Back – Higgs Beach Celebration (Wilkins and Martin)
More to be determined after Public Input meeting
- f. Hank Dean may have booth for Deputy to use
- g. County policies toward selling art at beach
- h. "Children's" bathroom (north side of street)
- i. Hank Dean volunteered to help fund 2nd volleyball court
- j. Kevin Speidel (GM Casa Marina) – Casa Marina will help with fundraising

ACTION ITEMS (See below)

Action Items

Constituencies (Environmental – request out)	(Carruthers)
(School – meeting set for 3/4/09)	(Carruthers)
Higgs Beach – county’s rules and regulations forwarded to committee	(Dent Pierce)
Ask County Attorney RE: open container law for Higgs Beach	(Schreck)
Meet and Greet: Dialogue with Homeless – set for 2/3/09	(Carruthers / Johnston)
Recycling at Beach – by next meeting	(Dent Pierce)
Increased lighting at pavilions and tennis courts	(Dent Pierce)
Confirmation that restrooms are locked at 11 pm and no sooner	(Dent Pierce)
Website: Coordinate Administrative efforts and site content	(Dean / Schreck)
1999-2001 report – Read for review and updating	(ALL Comm. Members)
Public Input Workshop	(Behmke / Schreck)
Not-for-profit status	(Klitenick)
Contact Coral Gables RE: County Homeless policy	(Schreck)
EVENT: Welcome Back – A Higgs Beach Celebration	(Wilkins / Martin)
Sheriff’s Booth	(Dean / Thompson / Pierce)
County policies toward selling art at beach	(Schreck)

Higgs Beach Public Input Meeting / Minutes
Higgs Beach Pavilion
Saturday, March 21, 2009

- I. Introduction (Michael Behmke)
- II. Opening Remarks & Update
 - County Commissioner Heather Carruthers
 - City Commissioner Teri Johnston
- III. General Comments / Public
- IV. Break Out Groups: Groups (listed) broke out to discuss specific group topics
 - Concessions & Legal
 - Dog Park
 - African Cemetery Memorial / West Martello
 - Security
 - Neighbors
 - Playground / Kids
 - Facilities / Environment
 - Athletics
- V. Group report back to General Audience
(See attached synopsis)

Remarks include:
 - Student input (3/4/09)
 - Public Input (3/21/09)
 - Individual constituent input (2/09 – 3/09)
- VI. Next Higgs Beach Meeting:
Friday, April 3, 2009
Harvey Government Center
2nd floor
9:30 am – 11:00 am

Higgs Beach Park Planning Committee Meeting / Minutes
4/30/09 Harvey Government Center 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Hank Dean, Michael Behmke, Dent Pierce, SuAnne Kitchar, Roger McVeigh, Rosi Ware, Eric Holowacz, Sam Holland, Jane Dawkins, Don Craig, Candace Whitaker, Sofia Artola, Rick Worth, Carol Schreck (Aide to Commissioner Carruthers)

I. Introductions

II. Agenda approved

III. 4/22/09 minutes approved (Eric Holowacz moved / Hank Dean seconded)

IV. Communications

In order to ensure the accuracy of information regarding Higgs Beach and the renovation process, the following communication policies were adopted:

1. All information will be disseminated through Commissioner Carruthers' office or Chair of the Planning Committee, Michael Behmke
2. Press Releases, with summary of meeting decisions / actions, forwarded to local papers. The press release is to be distributed through County Commissioner Heather Carruthers' office.
3. All agendas, minutes and press releases will be available, once approved by the board, on the county Higgs Beach web page:
http://monroecofl.virtuالتownhall.net/Pages/MonroeCoFL_Facilities/higgsbeach
4. Clothing Optional Beach: No comment will be made until a direction is obtained from the county attorney and BOCC.

V. Goal of Meeting

- To determine project list and associated funds to submit to DAC 1's Special Beach Fund.
- To determine plan and strategy for moving forward
- Review of brainstorm list of "wishes" from various public input sessions

VI. Special Beach Funds projects

Committee determined they want to keep the architectural style of the bathrooms. No funds will be designated for umbrella tables at this time.

The committee agreed to compose a letter of petition to the City of Key West, requesting funds from the recently allocated \$1.2m ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) fund for wastewater / drainage / outfall compliance at Higgs Beach.

Eric Holowacz made the motion, seconded by Don Craig to direct Monroe County Public Works to submit the following projects for funding through the TDC's (DAC 1) Special Beach Funds (\$485k)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| • Bathroom renovation | \$120k |
| • Seawall patching | \$10k |

• Crosswalk & Striping (provide safe path to restrooms)	\$10k
• Master Plan / preliminary working drawings / (ID of initial / long-term funding sources, environmental & shore preservation studies)	\$150k
• Call boxes	\$1k
• Signage (replace, update and move)	\$2k
• Solar Lighting (tiki huts and pavilions)	\$16k
• Recycle Center	\$3k
• Beach replenishment (sand)	\$10k
• Drainage / water quality	\$50k
• Landscaping	\$50k
• 15-20% contingency	\$63k

VII. Higgs Beach Project List

List of constituent input regarding Higgs Beach Park projects

The committee agreed to send the beach project brainstorm list to the Higgs Beach General Committee to ensure no items were missing. The group was reminded that this is a working “all inclusive” list from public input and not a final list.

VII. Friends of Higgs Beach / non-profit status

Tabled until next meeting

IX. Actions:

- Send list to Higgs Beach General Group asking if anything is missing (CAS)
- Upcoming Meeting Dates
 - May 6, 2009 DAC 1 Agenda deadline
 - May 20, 2009 DAC 1 meeting (3 pm Beachside)
 - June 9, 2009 TDC meeting (10 am Beachside)
- Letter to city RE: ARRA for Higgs Beach
- Establish “Friends of Higgs Beach” Board of Directors
- Strategy, scope and timeline for Master Plan RFQ (Request for Quote)

Higgs Beach Working Group Meeting / Minutes
4/3/09 Harvey Gov't Center 9:30 am – 11:00 am)

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Christie Martin, Father Steve Braddock, Fran Gonzon, Hank Dean, Janice Nicowski, Maggie Gutierrez, Michael Behmke, Dent Pierce, Rev. Joe McMurray, Richard Hatch, Sean Kinney, Sloan Bashinsky, Suanne Kitchar, Sue Sullivan, Norma Jean Sawyer, Emil Imbro, John Wilkins, Rose Chan, Annette Liggett, John Jurowski, Roger McVeigh, George Fernandez, Kip Colligan, Tiffany Hendry, John Andola, Patrice Sanders, Dan McMahon, Greg Veliz, Rosi Ware, Eric Holowacz, Carol Schreck (Aide to Commissioner Carruthers)

I. Agenda approved

II. 2/26/09 minutes approved

3/21/09 minutes approved with the following addition:

"It was agreed by all present that the beach is open to everyone except lawbreakers. It was further resolved by all present that there should be no inconsistent or selective enforcement of the rules, and that no single group or individuals should be targeted."

III. Update on Short Term action items

- a. Introductions
- b. Sheriff's Deputy (no formal report however, deputy presence has been beneficial.)
Hours to be reduced in May with weekend and holiday coverage in the summer.
IMPROVEMENT: Consider adding timed lockers for beach goers and homeless
- c. Bike racks scheduled to be placed next week, provided by City of Key West
- d. Recycling: Single stream recycling / working with Boy Scouts to make bins
- e. Lighting: 90% done for pavilions & huts
Consideration to be given to solar generated lighting and effects of all lighting on turtle nesting
- f. Bathroom renovation: plans complete for window installation – going for permit
- g. Pavilion / Hut refurbishing: work in progress
- h. Website: The county website will be the official website until further development.
www.friendsofhiggsbeach.com will auto forward to the county page:
http://monroecofl.virtualltownhall.net/Pages/MonroeCoFL_Facilities/higgsbeach
- i. Sheriff's deputy will not be needing a booth
- j. County Open Container, Event, Dogs and selling art at beach policies:
Open Container: No person may possess any container containing any alcoholic beverage while at Higgs Beach County Park except for on-premise sale and consumption within the enclosed restaurant and restaurant patio area. The board of county commissioners may also waive the prohibition of this subsection on a per event basis upon a resolution of the board. However, any such waiver may only be granted to a nonprofit organization, must require the presence of security guards . . . , and must require liability insurance . . .
Event: Any organization requesting the use of a County facility, building, park, beach, road, bridge, airport or meeting room must complete the Request for Use of County Property form, provide insurance, determine alcohol

use, submit fees, and provide traffic control. Compliance with additional terms may be deemed necessary depending on the use.

Selling art at beach: Art may only be sold if associated with an event sponsored by a non-profit organization.

Dogs: Pets are allowed at Higgs Beach County Park in Key West on paved surfaces and on the open space lying southerly and easterly of West Martello Towers, and southerly and easterly of the fence surrounding the FAA tower parcel.

- k. County Homeless Policy – Continuum of Care Policy (Fr. Steve Braddock)
 - l. Call Boxes – Update needed from Lt. Thompson
 - m. Non-Profit status – Update needed from Richard Klitenick
 - n. First Fundraiser – consideration to Oktoberfest (first week of October)
- IV. Public Input Meeting (3/21/09) Update
- Remarks by Michael Behmke
 - Don Craig of Craig & Co. has offered to assist, at no charge, with the Master Plan
- V. Research Tools & Reports
- VI. Formation of Planning Committee
- Mission:
The Mission of the Friends of Higgs Beach is to revitalize and maintain Clarence Higgs Beach Park to ensure that it is a safe, welcoming recreational environment for all.
- Achieved through 4 actions:
- 1. Creating a master plan and directing its implementation in conjunction with Monroe County and the City of Key West.
 - 2. Spearheading all funding efforts for the revitalization of the beach and park
 - 3. Creating a revenue stream in partnership with local governments to financially support long-term upkeep, improvement and accessibility of the park, including adjacent neighborhoods and near-shore waters
 - 4. Ensuring that all park related projects and uses are consonant with the character of Key West and the surrounding neighborhood.
- Planning Committee Make-up (see attached)
The Planning Committee is a defined group of individuals representing Beach and Park constituencies.
- VII. Funding
- Efforts are being made to use TDC's DAC 1 Special Beach Fund for Higgs Beach projects (\$485,000)
- VIII. Next Meeting:
- Tuesday, April 14, 2009
3:00 pm (time not certain)
Studios of Key West (corner of White and Southard)
Leathers & Associates / Playground Designer

Higgs Beach Park Planning Committee Meeting / Minutes
4/22/09 Gato Building 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Present: Commissioners Heather Carruthers and Teri Johnston, Hank Dean, Maggie Gutierrez, Michael Behmke, Dent Pierce, Richard Hatch, SuAnne Kitchar, Norma Jean Sawyer, Roger McVeigh, Sam Trophia, Richard Klitenick, Rosi Ware, Eric Holowacz, Sam Holland, Jane Dawkins, Jodell Roberts (for Craig Company), John King, Candace Whitaker, Sofia Artola, Carol Schreck (Aide to Commissioner Carruthers)

I. Introductions

II. Agenda approved

III. Roger McVeigh nominated, Richard Klitenick seconded the nomination for Michael Behmke as Committee Leader. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Mission of Committee

The Friends of Higgs Beach mission statement adopted as the mission statement for the Planning Committee.

The Mission of the Friends of Higgs Beach is to revitalize and maintain Clarence Higgs Beach Park to ensure that it is a safe, welcoming recreational environment for all.

Achieved through 4 actions:

1. Creating a master plan and directing its implementation in conjunction with Monroe County and the City of Key West
2. Spearheading all funding efforts for the revitalization of the beach and park
3. Creating a revenue stream in partnership with local governments to financially support long-term upkeep, improvement and accessibility of the park, including adjacent neighborhoods and near-shore waters
4. Ensuring that all park-related projects and uses are consonant with the character of Key West and the surrounding neighborhood.

V. Time Line

April 30, 2009	Planning Committee Follow-up Meeting
May 1 week	General / Working Group meeting to review proposed projects for Special Beach Fund
May 6, 2009	DAC 1 agenda deadline
May 20, 2009	DAC 1 meeting (Special Beach Fund)
June 2, 2009	DAC 1 Capital / Bricks and Mortar application deadline *

* Commissioner Carruthers brought forward the possibility of capital improvement funding through the Tourist Development Council's Bricks and Mortar application and funding process. Monies available may be as high as \$1.5m this year. This funding source, which funds projects that encourage tourism and enhances the visitor's experience, presents a multi-

year funding opportunity for Higgs Beach Park related brick and mortar projects (i.e. family bathroom on playground/dog park side of park, lighting, etc.)

VI. Master Plan

Special Beach Fund (DAC 1 funds \$485,000 – available now):

The current state opinion is that the Special Beach Funds may only be used for beach-related uses. There is controversy as to whether that would include that portion of Higgs Beach Park that is across Atlantic Blvd. The committee unanimously agreed that rather than contest this definition it would be in the best interest of the community and park if the Special Beach Funds supported projects on the “beach side” of the park. By unanimous decision, the committee directed county public works to move forward with designs, plans and costs for the following projects:

- Renovation of existing bathrooms \$80k+
- ADA compliance issues (based on draft MBI-K2M report)
- Master plan for entire Higgs Beach Park renovation \$150k
- Crosswalk / Striping
- Seawall patching
- Call boxes
- Signage
- Lighting for tiki huts and pavilions (solar)
- Recycle center

Public Works will present projects proposal to the Higgs Beach Planning Committee at the next meeting and ultimately present to DAC 1 at the May 20, 2009 meeting.

Capital Improvement Projects (projects to be considered, in no order and not complete)

- Playground
- 2nd bathroom (family)
- Seawall
- Storm water drainage
- Athletic trail
- Tiki hut for yoga, meditation
- Fencing
- Landscaping
- Outfall filters
- Additional volleyball court
- Lockers
- Lighting

VII. Friends of Higgs Beach / non-profit (Richard Klitenick and Maggie Gutierrez)
Friends of Higgs Beach will be the clearing house for capital project fundraising

- Articles of Incorporation in process
- Need to determine Board of Directors – suggested number is 9.
- Officers to be determined at the next Planning Committee meeting

VIII. Next Meeting:

Thursday, April 30, 2009

2:00 pm – 3:20 pm

Place: Harvey Government Center / Truman Avenue / BOCC Room / 2nd floor

Higgs Beach Public Input Meeting
21 March 2009

Group: Playground & Kids
Leader: Eric Holowacz

Contributing Members of the Public:

Margie DiMonte (305-304-0460)(m8x10photo@comcast.net)

Elaine Alea (305-923-4744)(ealea@bellsouth.net)

Cheryl Cates (305-587-6726)(cheryl@keysrealestate.com)

What are positive aspects of the park:

-One user of the park for 2 generations felt that it was adequate as it is, and wasn't sure if a new plan would be right for the nature of the neighborhood -As one of only a few playground areas in Key West, the park is already used often by children, parents, and visiting families -It has an ongoing history of being a site for birthday parties, play dates, and a community meeting place for local families

What are the negative aspects of the park:

-One participant felt that the entire play area is outdated and depressing, when compared to what many other communities offer -Another suggested that the play area could be so much more inventive, interesting, and inspiring for kids -The lack of shade is of serious concern to parents, and it was voiced that the immediate play area would benefit from more trees and well- designed sun shades -Playground has no on-site family restroom facilities -families using the playground often do not want to take their children to use the restrooms located across the street because they are not always clean, lighting is poor, and there are no baby changing/ family areas inside - One participant remembered a mini-train and tracks that ran in a circuit around the park; would something like that work in a new plan?
-There are no on-site snacks or beverages, resulting in shorter play time for families

What can be done to improve the park:

-Consider placing other play areas, such as a separate swing or physical activity course, in other areas of the park -Include a water feature or water-play aspect in any new playground design - Find affordable, innovative solution to provide shade from the afternoon sun -If expected to be used at night, ensure adequate lighting for safety and security -Signage, and way-finding, and telling the story of the park could be improved -Communications and literature (booklet, website, signage) could be provided that outlines how families reserve and use the play areas and pavilions for parties, group gatherings, and activities -Several participants spoke about the possibility of using a mural or playground design to help educate children about Key West's environment, history, and sense of place -The recycling ethic in the playground, and all of the park, could be improved with the help of the site's waste management provider -Consider a small food stall or snack shack in any new playground design -Ensure that any new playground design includes a family restroom with baby changing table and room for parent(s) and children

Prioritize a list of needs that the park could use -No priority list was drafted as part of our dialogue

Who will volunteer to help this or other areas of the park -Eric Holowacz has agreed to serve as group leader for the Friends of Higgs Beach Committee -All of the participants in this discussion have agreed to attend and provide further input into these developments

Holowacz noted that his organization will be hosting Marc Leathers and his wife, Kyle Cundy, from April 10-17, and volunteered to organize a community meeting at the Historic Armory (or other suitable location), so the public and civic leaders can learn about the kid-designed, community-built approach of Leathers & Associates, and offer additional ideas towards an improved play area for Higgs Beach/Park.

Other input:

-It was suggested that Friends of Higgs Beach approach Ben & Jerry's, and the support their company has provided to community playground developments in other places (and at Key West's Wesley House as well).

-It was suggested that our group look into the exceptional playground in Marathon, which was a project of the Rotary Club and has resulted in a wonderful park for kids and families (just off US Highway 1 at 75th Street)

#3 WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THIS AREA KEEPING IN MIND FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS?

STUDENTS (3/4/09)

Rent chairs all day (10am – 5pm)

Mobile vendors like at Smathers?

Kayak rentals

Make green area between Astro Park and tennis courts improved & more welcoming

Better system of reserving space, including at Astro Park, for parties, etc

Boardwalk: Better bike/rollerblading area

Trimmed hedges

Better trash & recycling

Add benches

Need more little picnic tables

Basketball court

Skate park open when kids are not in school (don't close it at 5pm)

More native tall trees

Better entrance to Indigenous Park

Concerts for kids once a month featuring teen garage bands

Better water quality – better circulation of water

Net around swimming area

Clean jelly fish off beach

Improve aesthetics at corner of Reynolds & Atlantic (park entrance)

No sleeping on benches in the dog park

Rent dog park

Additional volleyball courts

Roller skating rink in the back behind Astro Park with roller skating every Friday night (not necessarily free)

CONCESSIONS & LEGAL (3/21/09)

Need more bike racks

Trolley / train stop

City bus stop

DOG PARK (3/21/09)

Make users aware of website (www.keywestdogpark.org)

Create more awareness of donating opportunities

Create database for dog park updates & volunteer opportunities

Move bulletin board inside

Replace broken chairs

Paint pavilions, clean tables, repair benches

Better lighting

Safer parking (behind dog park in addition to across the street)

AFRICAN CEMETERY MEMORIAL / WEST MARTELLO (3/21/09)

Future, continuous flow of visitors from this site into the KW Garden Club

Mural for wooden fence done by African schoolchildren and KW kids (Just for Kids)

SECURITY (3/21/09)

Call boxes

Public needs to know laws

Signage that states expectations / rules / information

Improve lighting (turtle nesting concern?)

Continuity of law enforcement

NEIGHBORS (3/21/09)

To improve is to maintain

Money from vendors should go back to the beach fund

PLAYGROUND / KIDS (3/21/09)

-Consider placing other play areas, such as a separate swing or physical activity course, in other areas of the park

-Include a water feature or water-play aspect in any new playground design

-Find affordable, innovative solution to provide shade from the afternoon sun

-If expected to be used at night, ensure adequate lighting for safety and security

-Signage, and way-finding, and telling the story of the park could be improved

-Communications and literature (booklet, website, signage) could be provided that outlines how families reserve and use the play areas and pavilions for parties, group gatherings, and activities

-Several participants spoke about the possibility of using a mural or playground design to help educate children about Key West's environment, history, and sense of place

-The recycling ethic in the playground, and all of the park, could be improved with the help of the site's waste management provider

-Consider a small food stall or snack shack in any new playground design

-Ensure that any new playground design includes a family restroom with baby changing table and room for parent(s) and children

New playground design

FACILITIES (3/21/09)

Paint – color scheme / rust inhibitor

Crosswalk – new improved crosswalk, clearly delineated

Need new bathroom across street with baby changing stations

New parking lot design – parking flow is unsafe and “against current code” as well as no delineation of parking lot with roadway (curbing or plantings?)

Inventory and condition / ADA of water fountains

Redo sea wall to the pier to prevent erosion

Bike racks

First aid stations

ENVIRONMENT (3/21/09)

Reroute storm water outflows

Seaweed is a problem

ATHLETICS (3/21/09)

Additional volleyball courts for tournaments (revenue opportunity)

Lighting for evening volleyball games (turtle nesting concern?)

Planting of trees for improved wind blocking
Tennis Pro and Pro shop (revenue opportunity)
Lighting and quality equipment
Bicycle repair / service / rental station (revenue opportunity)
New wind-screens
Bike, scooter, electric car rental satellite office (revenue opportunity)
Kite boarding
Ultimate Frisbee / Frisbee golf
5k running track with 1-2 mini exercise stations
Weights, resistance training, yoga, cardio, meditation
Snorkeling, swimming, kayaking
Shuffleboard / handball courts

INDIVIDUAL(S) INPUT (gathered by Commissioners and/or Aide)
Install speed bumps to reduce speeding
Remove derelict boats
Improve parking lot (flow and better designation of spaces)
Waste Mgmt – improved placement of dumpster at Salute's Restaurant
Lighting for racquet ball courts
Clothing Optional Beach
Marine Park – status?