



**AGENDA
FERNANDINA BEACH CITY COMMISSION
WORKSHOP
MARCH 21, 2023
5:00 PM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. DISCUSSION**
 - 4.1 YBOR ALVAREZ SPORTS COMPLEX - SOCCER FIELDS** - *This item is placed on the agenda by Mayor Bradley M. Bean.*
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

ANY PERSON WISHING TO APPEAL ANY DECISION MADE BY THE COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO ANY MATTER CONSIDERED AT SUCH MEETING OR HEARING WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND, FOR SUCH PURPOSES, MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, WHICH RECORD INCLUDES THE TESTIMONY AND EVIDENCE UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS MADE. AT THE DISCRETION OF THE MAYOR, A RECESS MAY BE SCHEDULED EVERY NINETY MINUTES.

Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate should contact the City Clerk at (904) 310-3115 or TTY/TDD 711 (for the hearing or speech impaired).

Memo



Date: 03/13/2023
To: Mark Foxworth, Interim City Manager
From: Catherine Vorrasi, Parks & Recreation Director
Scott Mikelson, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director
Subject: Soccer Fields

After speaking with Nate, he indicated that the applicant will be submitting 2 proposals; one for the hangars and one for the high-end storage. So now we may not lose all the soccer fields at Ybor. Whether all or some of the soccer fields are displaced, there still needs to be a solution as to where we move them.

There have been conversations about adding a restroom at Hickory St Park. While we agree this is necessary, moving forward with this improvement without knowing the future home for soccer may not be in the best interest of the City.

Below are three (3) options as we see them, with our recommendation following.

1) Soccer fields get moved to the Ybor softball fields location.

- Construction costs
- Requires a long term lease with the airport for softball area - Potential County partnership
- Completely eliminates the softball fields at Ybor.
- Soccer field grant repayment
- Softball field grant repayment

Dept comments, if this option is selected: The 2 existing softball fields at MLK should be improved.

2) Soccer fields get moved to Hickory St Park.

- Construction costs
- This displaces current use
- Massive increase in traffic to the site
- Lights are required to accommodate soccer needs
- Soccer field grant repayment
- Requires long term lease for softball fields with the airport

Dept comments, if this option is selected: Multiple elements are needed to improve this property to include, turf fields, restrooms, parking, and lights. We have serious concerns regarding traffic and congestion as well as lights impacting the surrounding neighborhood.

3) All soccer fields get moved to undeveloped land south of Simmons Park.

- Tree concerns
- Construction costs
- Accommodates future use for all sports
- Airport concerns impact layout
- City owned land
- Soccer grant repayment

Dept comments, if this option is selected: This option would require community support due to the trees.

Department Recommendation:

Having the entire community in mind and knowing the various needs in terms of multiple sports, the Department is recommending the exploration of utilizing the land near Simmons Park. It is understood, however, that the issue of trees is very important to the community. With that, the Department would recommend moving

the soccer fields to the softball location and significantly improving the MLK softball fields.