

**Executive Director's Workshop with Orange County and City of Orlando  
Parks and Recreation Staffs**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. October 13, 2005  
Leu Gardens**

The Executive Director opened the workshop by stating that the Parks and Recreation Committee, at their last meeting, had asked him to meet with the Orange County and City of Orlando Parks and Recreation staffs to record their suggestions for consolidation in their areas. The Executive Director will give those suggestions to the Parks and Recreation Committee for their consideration and discussion at their October 20, 2005, meeting.

The following staff attended the workshop:

- Orange County Community and Environmental Services: Melvin Pittman, Matt Suedmeyer, Bill Potter, Robert Goff, and Stephen Koontz
- City of Orlando Family Parks and Recreation: Robert Bowden, Denise Aldridge, John Perrone, Dennis Scott, and Rodney Williams
- Orange County Director of Government Relations: Linda Akins
- City of Orlando Economic Development Manager: Linda Rhinesmith
- Executive Director of the Consolidation of Services Study Commission: Denny O'Neil

Suggestions for consolidation submitted:

- Combined Website for Parks and Recreation Services. Advantages and possible difficulties were discussed, and it was suggested that Information Technology staffs look at what would need to be done to make this happen. Both jurisdictions indicated that this might require dedicated staff resources to accomplish.
- Future Planning Coordination among the City of Orlando, Orange County and Orange County Public Schools. Such planning should include, among other things, alignment with comprehensive plan objectives, standardization of park definitions, and keeping abreast of planned development projects and the ability to address the costs associated with acceptance of new parks. The workshop participants realize that the Commission's charge does not address considering consolidation of services with any other governmental entity; however, the participants expressed the opinion that coordination with the School Board was essential to achieving the most effective utilization of the limited resources of the three governmental bodies for parks and recreation facilities and programs.

- Coordination and Communication among Orange County, the City of Orlando, and Orange county Public Schools about current problems and issues related to availability and use. This item is meant to address the need for continuous coordination and problem solving among the three governmental bodies concerning current issues.
- Parks Authority operating independently, with dedicated funding (possibly a special tax district). This would be the consolidation of the City of Orlando and the Orange County Parks and Recreation Services and the associated city and county personnel. The benefits of such consolidation, if any, would have to be examined. Possible advantages might be outsourcing to save money, savings resulting from the way purchasing is done, and fiscal efficiencies resulting from combining recreation programs. It was noted that a thorough analysis of the fiscal and service efficiencies projected to be gained through the creation of a Parks Authority would need to be considered as a viable option by the Commission. Such an analysis would take far more time than this commission has been given. Possible disadvantages include the necessity to duplicate the supportive roles already existing in both local governments including, but not limited to: payroll, accounting, personnel, budget, fleet, etc. Also, additional agreements or consideration would have to be given to finding other ways of handling the fringe tasks that are presently the responsibility of the City of Orlando Parks and Recreation Divisions that probably would not fall under a separate Parks Authority. For example, the Parks Division is responsible for mowing of many local rights-of-ways and for mowing and landscaping around other city offices, city hall, lots and water retention areas.

The workshop adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DENNIS L. O'NEIL  
Executive Director, CSSC