

## CREEKLINE ARTICLE BY SUSAN BEAUGRAND

On August 16, the CDD hosted a Workshop to bring the Community up to date on the status of the new recreation center. We are now at the point of taking the architectural planning to the next step. In order to do so, we wanted to get additional feedback from the residents about some of the features of the project. Most particularly, we wanted to get input on the Skate Park, Pools and Tennis Courts.

As for the Skate Park, it was felt that the kids who would use it were best able to tell us the types of equipment that they would like to see. There were between 10 and 15 teens at the meeting who provided meaningful feedback to the Board and Architect. They really wanted to have us build a concrete park since it would last longer, require less maintenance and would not be as hot as the typical steel/metal ramps. They even offered to help raise the additional funds necessary to upgrade to concrete. One of the teens even brought to the meeting a drawn out proposal of what he would like to see. There were several adults at the meeting who voiced concerns over the park. Those concerns included the times of operation and whether we really needed to have a park since the County was planning to have a skate park in the new park planned at Greenbriar Road and CR 210. One of the teens responded that they really wanted to have a park in the neighborhood so that they could safely get there without having to rely on their parents. As with all of the operational details, the time of operation will be determined at a later date but the park will not remain open late into the evenings.

We also had many people attend to give feedback on the tennis courts. The biggest issue revolved around how many courts were needed and the type of surface that would be used. Typically, courts are built of clay or concrete. The concrete courts are cheaper to build and require much less maintenance, however, they are very hard on the body to play on them. While the clay courts are the most desirable, they are very expensive to maintain on an ongoing basis. Many of the people in attendance who play tennis also said that they were very willing to pay the additional user fees necessary to fund the cost of maintaining clay courts. Many also felt that 8 courts are necessary to be able to play in the leagues around Jacksonville and to host competitions.

There were also many people from the community there to provide ideas on the pool facilities. Most were concerned that we did not make the same mistakes that were made by the original developer in building our current facility. Those issues included proper lighting so that we can remain open past sundown, heating/cooling the pools, proper storage for lane lines and other equipment, number of lanes, pool depth, lots of deck space particularly behind the starting blocks and the appropriate pools systems for longevity. We received a number of written recommendations from both swim teams and from the coach at Bartram Trail High School. All of this information will be taken into consideration throughout the design process.

The design of the clubhouse was also discussed. Preliminary plans include a 4,500 square foot fitness facility that includes a class room, locker rooms, meeting rooms, offices, concession areas, tennis office, storage, short term day care, kids area, and playgrounds to name a few.

The environmental surveys are in process on the land that is undercontract from Rayonier, located just south of Parcel 50 which is east of Sawmill Pointe. Once the wetlands have been delineated, we will know how much uplands are available to build upon. This is required before we can finalize the design of the main facility. Once that is determined, the final design process will occur. The engineering and design must be completed in order for the applications for permits to be submitted for construction. The CDD has already made application to the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Army Corp of Engineers.

As the Board progresses through the design process, it will have to take into consideration the cost of the facility and how to get the most for our money while trying to meet the desires of the residents without significant increases to our assessments. The recreation center will be an

ongoing item on our agenda on a monthly basis. The best way to keep informed is to attend the monthly Board Meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for September 13, 6 pm at the Bartram Trail Library.

During the regular August Board Meeting, the 2005-2006 Budget was approved with no change to our annual assessments. We also approved the meeting schedule for the coming year which will remain on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bartram Trail Library. Another exciting item that we have recently started, is the launching of the new new website for the CDD. The website address is [www.jcpcdd.org](http://www.jcpcdd.org). This website will have a calendar of events, swim club information, a link to the Florida Statute that governs CDD's along with links to many local websites that may be of interest. We will also post updates and status reports on the progress of the Recreation Center. Another convenience are email addresses for each of the CDD Supervisors. Please feel free to email us with any questions and we will try to get back to you in a timely manner.