

purchased); he noted his operation did not fuel the vessels while the vessels were in the water, and the vessels met the EPA standards.

Mr. Cole referred to the Longboat Key Comprehensive (Comp) Plan and noted the Comp Plan stated. "...all commercially provided recreational activities requiring shoreline or near shoreline water utilization shall be concentrated at the commercial hotels." He pointed out the purpose of the T6 zoning was implemented in the Comp Plan, and the Hilton Hotel has had a number of different watercraft rental businesses operating prior to his business being located at the Hilton Hotel.

Don Hemke, PO Box 3239, Tampa, Attorney representing Casa Del Mar Condominium, explained 400 signatures were collected and over 100 letters were sent to the Town Commission regarding the operation of a watercraft business next to the Casa Del Mar Condominium. He pointed out the Commission reached a consensus at the January 19, 2006 Town Commission Regular Meeting regarding this issue. He argued the watercraft rental operation at the Hilton Hotel was problematic and was not a proper accessory use.

Town Manager St. Denis stated boats gathered in an area close to Sands Point; a request was made to ban watercraft vessels in that area.

Discussion was held with respect to the request to ban motorized vessels in that area.

There was consensus to discuss the issues separately.

Attorney Persson reviewed the Town Commission direction regarding the banning of motorized vessels: 1) ordinance to prohibit launching motor boats from the beach; 2) expand the idle speed no-wake zone from 300' to 500'; 3) provide a provision to restrict motorized vessels 150' from a diver or swimmer in the water.

Further discussion was held regarding the direction to the Town Attorney, and accepting the P&Z Board recommendation of removing the rental of motorized vessels from a T6 zone.

10. Grant Applications

Town Manager announced that seven grant applications were received, and the total amount of funds requested was \$64,000; however, \$30,000 was budgeted. He noted if funds were awarded an agreement identifying the use of these public funds for public benefit would be appropriate.

Commissioner Whatmough suggested S.T.A.R.T. be removed from the list and be discussed separately.

There was consensus to remove S.T.A.R.T. from the list of applicants and discuss funding separately.

Discussion ensued with regard to budgeted funds for organizations (S.T.A.R.T., SCOPE, and Sarasota Estuary), as well as establishing a committee to review grant applications.

Vice Mayor Webster and Mayor Johnson discussed forming a committee to review the applications. Commissioner Rothenberg stated he favored a committee to review the grant applications. He noted the Town Commission had an open invitation and requested participants to apply for a grant, and perhaps a "monster" was created; however, the Town Commission needed to know the amount of public funds that were given to these organizations in previous years. He pointed out the committee could obtain information and make a recommendation to the Town Commission.

There was consensus to establish a Grants Committee to review the received applications, and make a recommendation to the Town Commission.

Commissioner Spoll expressed concern regarding the need to reach resolution on this matter.

John Wild, 854 Evergreen Way, stated with respect to Federal grants an organization could only receive a starter grant for a specific time period and then were not eligible for funds for an established time period. He suggested the Town Commission review its policy and limit the availability of funds.

Town Manager St. Denis questioned what would be the structure and scope for this committee. Further discussion ensued regarding the number of committee members needed.

Commissioner Whatmough suggested this issue be resolved at this meeting and made specific recommendations for funding for each application. Commissioner Spoll suggested the Commission discuss the grants, play with the numbers and agree upon this issue.

Commissioner Spoll provided specific recommendations for awarding a grant. Discussion ensued with respect to the received grant applications. Commissioner Whatmough suggested moving forward with funding for this year and develop a process for next year.

Mayor Johnson asked the Town Manger to schedule this issue for further discussion at the March 16, 2006, Regular Workshop. Town Manager St. Denis questioned if the Commission wished to have a seven-member committee. He explained that Committee appointment could be made at the March 6, 2006, Regular Meeting.

Additional discussion was held with respect to awarding grant funds, the creation of a three-member review committee, and canceling this program after the initial awarding of funds.

Barbara Kerwin, 5 Winslow Place, Garden Club representative, discussed the available funds equaled \$30,000 and the grants requested equaled \$64,000, minus the request from S.T.A.R.T. of \$25,000 for a balance of \$30,000. She suggested reducing each request by a percentage so that the distribution of funds equaled \$30,000.

Commissioner Spoll pointed out it was agreed to remove the S.T.A.R.T. request from consideration, and there was consensus to remove the Longboat Key Rotary Club from consideration. He noted that the requested amount equaled \$34,000; available funds equaled \$30,000. He agreed with lowering each request by an appropriate percentage, and establishing a committee for this process next year.

Commissioner Clair explained S.T.A.R.T. was removed due to the type of organization and the long-term interest regarding Red Tide issues. He stated funding for S.T.A.R.T. should be allocated from the contingency fund. Commissioner Spoll reviewed the funding amounts previously referenced.

Commissioner Rothenberg questioned the amount of public funds distributed to Longboat Key Garden Club, Longboat Key Historical Society, Longboat Key Library, and Longboat Key Turtle Watch during Fiscal Year 2004.

Town Manager St. Denis reported public funds were not distributed in Fiscal Year 2004 to the Longboat Key Garden Club or to the Longboat Key Historical Society; however the Longboat Library has a rental lease for \$1.00 per year for the library building, and the Town provided funds to Mote Marine which had ties to the Longboat Key Turtle Watch organization.

Mr. Rothenberg expressed concern with providing \$1,500 to the Longboat Key Garden Club. Ms. Kerwin stated the request for \$1,500 was to purchase and plant trees with respect to the Gulf of Mexico Drive Beautification Program. Commissioner Rothenberg stated he found it difficult to support a \$7,500 request and subsidize rent for the Longboat Key Historical Society. He noted the Longboat Library was financially self sufficient and providing funds just because an application was received would not be appropriate. He stated a committee would be valuable.

There was consensus to reduce the requested amount of each organization equally by a percentage to equal the budgeted funds of \$30,000 with the removal of S.T.A.R.T and the Longboat Key Rotary Club. (6-1 Commissioner Rothenberg voted nay.)

This issue was forwarded to the March 6, 2006 Regular Meeting for approval.

Commissioner Whatmough suggested the Town Contribute \$25,000 to S.T.A.R.T. to fund and assist in the mitigation and study of Red Tide.

Discussion was held with respect to the amount of public funds given to S.T.A.R.T. in Fiscal Year 2005 (\$5,000), the funds used to clean up the fish kill due to Red Tide blooms, funding Red Tide efforts through Mote Marine, and making a \$25,000 contribution in lieu of the \$5,000 budgeted contribution.

There was consensus to contribute \$25,000 to S.T.A.R.T. regarding Red Tide efforts; \$5,000 from the General Fund and \$20,000 from the Red Tide Clean Up Fund.

This issue was forwarded to the March 6, 2006 Regular Meeting for approval.