

Dec. 5, 2007

Vision for Turtle Beach Park to be unveiled

After months of gathering input from emails and letters, combined with two public meetings as well as a stakeholders workshop this past November, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation will unveil three different concept plans for the future of Turtle Beach Park this Monday night. The plans, developed by residents and stakeholders, will be on display at a public workshop, 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10, at St. Boniface Church, 5615 Midnight Pass Road, Siesta Key.

The design firm of Gladding Jackson Inc. facilitated the latest workshop where stakeholders developed alternative concept plans; with camping at Turtle Beach Campground, without camping and one where stakeholders designed the park anyway they wanted.

Opportunities for public input on the three concept plans will be available at this workshop as well as the Parks Advisory Recreation Council (PARC) meeting on December 17.

"We have put a lot of time and effort into this project," said John McCarthy, general manager, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. "We received a lot of good input from residents and stakeholders and that will be reflected in the quality of the concept plans the Board of County Commissioners has to choose from."

Presentation to the Sarasota County Commission of the three alternative concept plans for review and consideration will happen on Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2008.

Since purchasing the campground, located next to Turtle Beach Park, in the summer of 2006, the County has made minor improvements to the campground while continuing operations pending future direction from the BCC.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Turtle Beach Park.