



**CITY OF BELLE ISLE, FLORIDA  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET**

**Meeting Date:** May 2, 2017

**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

**From:** B. Francis, City Manager

**Subject:** Discussion of use of Open Space Issues

**Background:** At the April 18 Council Meeting, Council discussed the Perkins Boat Ramp issue and the signage at the boat ramp. Perkins Ramp issue from the April 18 Council meeting was to address the signage at the ramp and the Council directed that this item be placed on the next agenda.

**Perkins Ramp:** Upon visiting the ramp, there are several confusing and conflicting signage. Attached for Council review is signage that is being proposed based on the Belle Isle Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Section 18-20. The signage is altered from the ordinance but does not change any of the meaning of the ordinance that would make it unenforceable. Also, there are two areas of the ramp; the ramp itself and the fenced drainage area that is a park-like area and can be confused as a park if the fence is not secured. If this is not a park, then the City will post that it is not a park. The staff believes that since there are swimming signs in the area, then it can be taken that it is a park. According to the Belle Isle Comprehensive Plan, the purpose of this area is for a launch only, and therefore, the staff recommends posting it for launch only.

**Workshop:** For this meeting, it was the intent of the staff to just focus on the Perkins Boat ramp, however as the Council knows, there are continuing and unresolved issues regarding the use, security and signage of boat ramps and parks. The City Manager also spoke with residents that border the parks, as well as, frequent users. It appears that most of the issues focus on the Perkins Boat Ramp area, the Venetian Boat Ramp Area, and Glen Polk Park.

The City Manager toured the parks and the ramps and found conflicting and confusing information at each of the ramps and parks. After seeing the parks and ramps, they are in decline and serious attention needs to be paid to these valuable assets. Like any major project, there needs to be a phased approach. While we could address the signage at and possibly the security of the Venetian Boat Ramp this meeting (if time

## BASIC PARK RULES

### All City of Belle Isle Parks

- Parks are open to the public every day of the year from 8:00 a.m. to Sunset
- No motorized vehicles (except city/county emergency vehicle) after 9 p.m.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- Bottles, containers or other items made of glass are prohibited from the park.
- Keep Pets on leash and clean up after pets.
- Littering is strictly enforced. Place trash in trash receptacles only. If trash receptacles are not provided, take your refuse with you. Never dump or deposit trash on any park lands or in park waters.
- Fires and grills are prohibited
- Smoking is prohibited
- Noise and Nuisance abatement ordinances apply to ramp
- Do not hunt, kill, molest, frighten or tease any animals, reptiles or birds in the park.
- Use of any ramp for base of watercraft operation (private or commercial) is prohibited
- No solicitation, vending, advertising or sign posting is allowed.
- If launching watercraft, obey the ramp rules
- Violations of any of the park and ramp rules are subject to a fine up to \$500 per occurrence.
- Parking, camping or loitering is prohibited after dark. Overnight camping is prohibited.

COBI code 1980

## RULES SPECIFIC TO RAMPS/PARKS

### Perkins Boat Ramp

- Ramp is open to the public every day of the year from 8:00 a.m. to Sunset
- Parking Area is reserved for Belle Isle Residents ONLY.
- Valid Resident Parking Decal MUST be displayed properly on vehicles (*NOTE for discussion: if a BI resident, why not allow street parking for any vehicle?*)
- Site Parking is restricted to vehicles attached to boat trailers only.
- Trailers without winches is prohibited
- Maximum trailer length is 23 feet.
- Winch vessels ONLY – DO NOT use engines to trailer vessels
- Maximum boat length on ramp is 20 feet.
- No fueling of watercraft is allowed
- No operating of engines when not in water
- No parking on roadway or boat ramp
- No stopping or parking on boat ramp except to launch or recover boats
- No anchoring or mooring within 100 ft. of ramps, shore, and wake zones
- No launching or recovery between the hours of 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Observe wake zones and maintain 100 ft. distance from shore and dock.
- No swimming or wading
- Fishing is permitted

COBI code 1980

allows), the Council should consider holding a workshop to develop a plan for the overall operation and on-going maintenance of the parks and ramps. This recommendation is being made after observing the amount of time and discussion that took place at the April 18 meeting with the Marine Patrol. The staff is convinced that a similar discussion would be lengthy and public input would be substantial.

The results of the Workshop would be used as part of the Goal Setting workshop that the City Manager will schedule prior to the start of budget preparation.

**Staff Recommendation:**

- A. For Perkins Boat Ramp:** Staff recommends Council conforms that the area is for a launch only and directs the staff to remove signage related to swimming. Further direct the staff to install signage as presented which is in accordance with BI Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Section 18-20.
  
- B. Workshop:** Staff recommends holding a workshop in the near future to address the issues with other parks and ramps.

**Suggested Motion:** I move that we adopt the signage presented for Perkins Boat Ramp to allow for launching of boats only and direct the City Manager to have signage made and installed according to the BI Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Section 18-20. I further move that the Council convene a workshop to address the issues relating to other ramps and parks.

**Alternatives:** Do not adopt the signage and provide further guidance to staff. Do not convene a workshop, but have the City Manager and staff address the issues as necessary.

**Fiscal Impact:** Cost of new signage.

**Attachments:** BI Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Section 18-20  
Proposed signage for Perkins Ramp