

**SEMINOLE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
AGENDA MEMORANDUM**

SUBJECT: Big Tree Park Improvements

DEPARTMENT: Library & Leisure Services **DIVISION:** Parks & Recreation

AUTHORIZED BY: J. Suzy Goldman **CONTACT:** J. Suzy Goldman **EXT.** 1605

Agenda Date <u>3/22/05</u> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Work Session <input type="checkbox"/> Briefing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Public Hearing – 1:30 <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearing – 7:00 <input type="checkbox"/>

MOTION/RECOMMENDATION:

Briefing to provide an update on the Big Tree Park Improvements.

BACKGROUND:

Over the past year a series of improvements have been completed at Big Tree Park. Improvements include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Tree pruning
- Landscaping
- Boardwalk redesign and reconstruction
- Fencing replacement
- Restroom renovation
- New historical markers
- Painting of picnic tables and benches
- Trash receptacle replacement

The park also suffered hurricane damage which resulted in more hazardous pruning of trees and reconstruction of the picnic pavilion.

In addition to the physical improvements, staff has worked to enhance interpretive and educational elements. Since 1951, when Senator M.O. Overstreet donated the park to Seminole County, the "Big Tree" has been known as "The Senator". However, the smaller tree located nearby was never named. During the month of January 2005, the Seminole County Schools

Reviewed by: Co Atty: _____ DFS: _____ Other: _____ DCM: <u>SS</u> CM: <u>[Signature]</u> File No. <u>BLLP01</u>

held a contest to name the smaller, "sister" tree at the park. The competition was open to students of Seminole County Elementary Schools, with each school responsible for choosing their entry. The winning name, Lady Liberty, was chosen by the Leadership Seminole Executive Council. The Council members are:

- David Diggs, Seminole County Sheriff's Office
- Leslie Bonner, LLB Consulting
- Patrick Carroll, Sprint
- Ken Pedlow, Altamonte Florist
- Pete Bodnarik, Invacare Solutions
- Crocket Hunter, Seminole County Government

A rededication of the park and naming ceremony for the sister tree will be held during National County Government Week, April 10 – April 16, 2005.

Name the Big Tree's Sister Official Entry Form

Students Name: Megan Dudley & Crystal Urban

Teacher/Grade: Mrs. Amanda Schmitt/Grade 5

School: Geneva Elementary School

I think the Big Tree's Sister should be named:

Lady Liberty

Please explain why your name should be adopted:

We think that the Sister Tree should be named **LADY LIBERTY**. With the

Senator for her Brother Tree, **LADY LIBERTY** stands tall like the Statue of Liberty,

an additional symbol of our patriotism.

Because she is the sister of the Senator, we have given her a title, Lady. The name

LADY LIBERTY sounds brave, and the Sister Tree looks brave, too.

LADY LIBERTY has had to brave many storms, rainy seasons, dry spells, and other

Challenges. In spite of these difficulties, she still stands bravely reaching ever upward.

She will continue to grow, become stronger, and be a source of pride to us all.

Her roots are deep in Central Florida soil. America's greatness is deeply planted in

the liberties we all enjoy. In all of these ways, **LADY LIBERTY** is much like the

liberty we all cherish.

We recommend that you name the Big Tree's Sister **LADY LIBERTY**. We would

like to hear residents and tourists say "Let's go visit **LADY LIBERTY** and the

Senator".

.A signed Seminole County Media Consent, Wavier and Release form must accompany each entry.

