

**PARK, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

**CITY COMMISSION CONFERENCE ROOM - 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
100 N. Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida**

**Wednesday, December 4, 2002 - 7:00 p.m.**

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<b><u>BOARD MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT/PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>Cumulative From 11/01</u></b>	
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
Julie Cameron	P	5	6
Elizabeth Hays	P	10	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	1	0
Antonia Martinez	P	1	0
Joann Medalie	P	2	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	9	2
Robert Missal	A	9	1
Timothy Nast	Excused	5	5
Michael Natale	P	2	0
Rosalind Osgood	Excused	8	2
Randolf Powers	A	7	4
Victoria Pristo-Revier	P	4	1
John Rude, Chair	P	10	1
Joe Shover	A	8	3
Shirley Small	P	2	0

**Staff Present**

Ernest Burkeen, Jr., Parks & Recreation Director  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent  
Debbie Dunbar, Special Events Coordinator  
Margaret A. D'Alessio, Recording Secretary

**Call to Order**

Chairman John Rude called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m. Roll call was

taken.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Natale entered the meeting at approximately 7:05 p.m.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Victoria Pristo-Revier and seconded by Julie Cameron to approve the minutes of the October 23, 2002 meeting. Elizabeth Hayes stated that the correct title of the group to improve Education Opportunities for Children of the City listed on page 3 of the minutes should be "Municipal Leadership in Education Project." Board unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

Chairman John Rude stated that he was going to move Item 3 on tonight's agenda and have it become Item 1.

### **County Parks Land Acquisition Update**

Phil Thornburg stated that Phase II consisted of the 16 parcels they took to the County in order to purchase using the \$200 Million available due to the Parks Bond which was passed in 2000. He explained that the six highlighted parcels on the list distributed to the Board were the ones which had been approved by the County to move forward on. He said that those six parcels were in some form of due diligence, and most had already been through the appraisal process.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the object of his presentation this evening was Phase III of the process which would begin after the first of the year. He stated the City Commission had requested that the nine remaining sites on the list were shifted to Phase III. He asked the Board to notify his office if there were any other properties they wanted purchased so they could be added to the list.

Elizabeth Hays asked if the nine sites were in any type of order. Mr. Thornburg explained that at the last Commission meeting, each Commissioner had picked one site they wanted moved to top priority which were as follows:

Commissioner - District I	Coral Ridge Park (South side of the Golf Course)
Commissioner - District II	Flagler Heights Site
Commissioner - District III	Old Wingate Site
Commissioner - District IV	Riverland Isles

Michael Natale asked if the Herman property was going to be added to the list. Mr. Thornburg confirmed this and said that this list had been approved by the Commission, but there were 2 or 3 other properties which were going to be added to the list.

### **Blues Festival Update**

Debbie Dunbar, City Festivals and Events Coordinator, stated that the festival had done very well and proceeded to list some of the entertainers who had participated. She explained that their events were all run by volunteers and that Bob Hoysgaard was in charge of the surveys which were a valuable marketing tool.

Robert Hoysgaard urged everyone to participate in the surveys and event evaluations.

Chairman John Rude explained there were a series of surveys which were done at the actual event where the public was asked for their point of view. In the Board's handbook there was an event evaluation form to fill out for all Board members. Chairman John Rude stated that he wanted to encourage all Board members to attend the events and fill out the surveys and evaluations.

Julie Cameron suggested that Board members be asked if they were going to attend events and this way at least one Board members would be in attendance and could provide feedback.

Michael Natale stated that friends of his had gone to the event and stated it was the best concert they had ever attended.

Shirley Small entered the meeting at approximately 7:20 p.m.

### **Dragon Boats and Buskers Festival**

Debbie Dunbar stated that this was a brand new event which would premier on February 7<sup>th</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> on the river. She stated they were combining three major events into one. She explained that "Buskers" are street performers who work for tips, perform for 30 to 60 minutes, are internationally famous and very popular in Canada.

Ms. Dunbar explained that Dragon Boat Racing is a very ancient sport and is the #1 sport in Canada. She stated that it is very competitive and the boats are 44' long which are made of teak. The crew consists of 23 people, 20 who actually paddle, plus one drummer to keep the beat, and 3 alternatives. She stated that Dragon Boating was all about team work. She encouraged people to put their teams together and participate in the event. She stated that teams were coming from Philadelphia, California, New Jersey and New York.

Joann Medalie asked who was going to provide the boats. Ms. Dunbar replied that the equipment would be provided by a company from Canada.

Ms. Dunbar explained the tradition of Dragon Boats came from Hong Kong and this time of the year was chosen to correlate with the Chinese New Year. She said they are teaming up

with the South Florida Chinese Cultural Association who would conduct an authentic 3-hour Chinese New Year on Friday, February 7, 2003 in Esplanade Park. She stated that Saturday night would be Mardi Gras in DDA Plaza.

Ms. Dunbar stated they were going to meet with all the river entities in order to have the events coordinated with river traffic.

Michael Natale asked about the status of the Renaissance Fair. Ms. Dunbar stated that they had an issue with the size and parking and moved to Pompano about 3-4 years ago.

### **Holiday Park Airplane Update**

Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant, gave an update on the status of the renovation of F-86 Saber Jet at Holiday Park, and provided photographs of the progress. She explained that the plane had been at the Homestead Reserve Base since May, 1999 and painstaking efforts were being taken to reconstruct the plane. Unfortunately, due to time, moisture and dirt most of the plane was corroded. She explained that another challenge for the renovation crew is that there are no longer any F-86 planes around to obtain parts from, therefore, most of the plane and its parts had to be fabricated. She stated that since it was a reserve base, they were only there for about 2 - 4 weeks out of the year and did not have a full time staff working on the reconstruction.

Ms. Binon said that due to current world events, this project had taken a back seat, but the 482<sup>nd</sup> Fighter Wing should get another crew in January in an attempt to expedite the project. She stated they hoped to have the plane back at Holiday Park around Memorial Day and that the paint job on the plane would last about five years.

Elizabeth Hays asked if some history could be provided regarding the plane, and also asked who was paying for the restoration.

Vince Gizzi stated there was a history on the plane, but he was not prepared this evening to elaborate. He stated that the plane had ended up at Fort Lauderdale's Executive Airport back in 1972, and they would provide more history at a future date. Ms. Binon stated that she believed the plane had been donated to the City, and there appeared to be two conflicting stories as to how it arrived at Fort Lauderdale. She said she would provide an update on the history to the Board at a future date.

Elizabeth Hays once again asked who was paying for the restoration work. Ms. Binon explained that the Air Force Association was funding the project.

Chairman John Rude asked about the color of the plane. Vince Gizzi explained the color being used was patterned after the original plane. Ms. Binon explained that the Air Force Association is adamant that the plane is restored to its original appearance.

### **Anne Murray Naturescape Update**

Ernest Burkeen, Director Parks and Recreation, stated they had been wrestling with the Real Estate, Engineering, and City Attorney offices in terms of how to accomplish this endeavor. He explained there is an ordinance in place which prohibits the naming of a facility after someone who is still living. Another issue is that this is a right-of-way and the adjacent owners would have to quit-claim the property which would take some time. He said that they had a simple solution to the matter so they would not have to go to City Commission. He explained that they could name the green space "Anne Murray Greenspace," place a sign and then proceed with the process. Mr. Burkeen stated that the bottom line was to honor this person and he felt this could be done through the solution being recommended.

Elizabeth Hays asked if this would set a precedence for these types of places. Mr. Burkeen confirmed that this was part of the issue and possibly in the scheme of things a master plan could be done that would include such matters. Ms. Hays asked if the City was then going to acquire the right-of-way. Mr. Burkeen reiterated that the area would still be a right-of-way, the neighborhood could continue to maintain it, and then they could proceed with a more permanent solution. Mr. Burkeen explained that the word "park" could not be used for such areas, and this was being done according to what would work for the City.

### **Old/New Business**

#### **Coral Ridge Children's Holiday Fest**

Vickie Pristo-Revier explained that on Saturday they were going to conduct a Children's Fest which they coordinated with the Coral Ridge Homeowners Association. She stated there were two recipients this year. One was Cleveland Clinic Children with HIV and AIDS, and the other was The Susan Barras Fund.

#### **USS Hoga**

John Melnicoff asked if an update was going to be provided regarding the USS Hoga. Ernest Burkeen stated that the last information he had received was that they had established the site.

#### **Cancer Survivor Park**

John Melnicoff also asked for an update regarding the Cancer Survivor Park. Ernest Burkeen stated there was nothing new to report on this matter and that they were still working on the design.

Use of School Board Property

Elizabeth Hays stated that at the last Commission meeting there had been an approval of an agreement with the School Board to use their property for public services. She stated that this matter had recently been raised at the Education Advisory Board meeting regarding the failure of the matter being brought before that Board and Parks and Recreation. She reiterated that such matters in the past had by-passed the Advisory Boards associated with the matters, and she stated that the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations was concerned about their use of the school property due to new rules being adopted by the County School Board. Ms. Hays stated that people had been working on the matter of Civic Associations meeting in the schools without cost, and of course, the stumbling block was liability insurance. She explained they had been working on attempting to get under the City's umbrella, and it was her understanding that according to one of the attorneys, the associations would be covered so they could hold their meetings and not have to provide liability insurance. She stated that there was nothing clearly stated in the agreement about insurance and which groups would qualify to be covered.

Ernest Burkeen remarked that he did not feel there was an effort made to by-pass the Boards, but the City had a long term relationship with the School Board for the reciprocal use of facilities. Even though there was a new agreement, he thought there had been an agreement in place.

Steve Person stated that the original agreement was about 40 years old, and basically the schools were built on City property and parks were used on school property. The agreement had not been updated, but they had worked with the principals. He explained that when the issue arose about the Homeowner Associations, they were asked to bring these groups under the City so the schools could be used. He explained that their office was working on a system whereby recognized Homeowner Associations could use the schools.

Ms. Hays asked for a definition of "recognized" associations, and if that meant the groups which follow the recognized policy that is new for the City. She reiterated that the City had established what they called "Official Recognition By the City," which had been headed by Tony Longo. She stated that certain Civic Associations had submitted applications, but the City had not followed through with the procedure. She said that the agreement did not say anything about officially recognized civic associations, and she felt this needed to be clarified.

Ernest Burkeen stated that the Homeowner Associations were having problems with meeting in the schools. Their response is for those associations, but they were not looking at Civic Associations. Ms. Hays stated that when she used the term Civic Association as defined by the Council, it was actually Homeowners Associations, but it was the Civic Associations that were recognized through the City, such as River Run and Rio Vista. She

felt this would force the Civic Associations to come into compliance as to who was officially recognized by the City. Steve Person stated that since the beginning of time, they had always opened the recreation centers to recognized Homeowner Associations.

Mr. Burkeen stated that it had been very difficult working with the public schools and trying to get material back in a timely matter. He stated the agreement had been signed and the attorneys still had to get on board.

#### CNA Committee for Riverland Park

Elizabeth Hays stated that the CNA Committee for Riverland Park was going to meet and three proposals were going to be presented.

#### Portable Update at Bayview School

Joann Medalie asked for a status report regarding the portables.

Vince Gizzi stated that a lot of underground work had to be removed and as of his last visit, 4 out of 18 portables had been removed. He explained they were in the process of working on this matter, and the School Board had paid the City \$150,000 for use of the property. He explained that the School Board is going to remove the chain link fences and restore the site to a condition better than it was originally. He stated that there was \$150,000 available for improvements.

#### New Plants on North Beach

Joann Medalie commented that there are new plantings on North Beach, which greatly enhanced the area.

#### Bahia Mar Restroom

Joann Medalie also stated that the new restroom at Bahia Mar was progressing very nicely.

#### Lifeguard Stand Update

Julie Cameron asked for an update regarding the lifeguard stands.

Ernest Burkeen stated they were in the process of trying to “value engineer” the stands in order to cut some of the costs. He explained that comparisons were being made with stands in other communities and wood versus metal. He stated that discussions were not held regarding the fact that wooden stands needed more maintenance.

Joann Medalie commented that she felt \$45,000 was a lot of money to spend on a lifeguard stand. Mr. Burkeen reiterated that was the current cost for such items due to meeting Code requirements.

John Melnicoff stated that this item should have been addressed with the Parks Bond. Mr. Burkeen confirmed this and stated that many items were not addressed as they should be and maintenance was often deferred.

#### George English T-Docks Update

Chairman John Rude asked for an update on the George English T-Docks.

Vince Gizzi stated that this item was going to City Commission for rehabilitation of the entire facility, along with repairing the existing dock and installing a new T-dock. He explained this would be paid for with CIP funds and grant money.

Chairman John Rude asked if they had resolved the problem with the launch facility. Vince Gizzi confirmed this and stated that it had been resolved in the first phase of work.

#### Florinada Park

Elizabeth Hays stated someone had pointed out to her that part of the agreement between the School Board and Parks and Recreation had been that if there was an after-school type program housed within the park and that the park would be closed to the general public. Mr. Burkeen asked if Ms. Hays was referring to Florinada Park. Ms. Hays confirmed.

Steve Person stated that what was different about Florinada Park is that this is School Board Property and not City property. He explained they had a School Park Agreement, but it is their property. He explained that he was confident all matters would be worked out. He said they had worked with the School Board on the original design, which was to provide a fenced-off area for after-school programs and the Kinder Program. They still did not have a permit to use the site and that hopefully that would be within the next few weeks.

Ms. Hays stated that Riverland Park was directly across from Riverland Elementary School. She asked if there was an after-school program within the park, would it be closed to the public. Mr. Burkeen remarked that it would not be closed.

Joann Medalie remarked that Florinada Park is School Board property and people in the neighborhood could not use the park when programs were being conducted. Mr. Burkeen stated that there had been miscommunication and assumptions were being made. He said that they intend to work with the School Board to resolve the problem.



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Virginia S Young Park

Joann Medalie asked if they had ever acquired access to the Virginia S. Young Park. Steve Person stated they had not acquired access, but the fact was that they had not really sought access because one of the shortfalls is lighting. A park without lighting is not of great value in regard to athletic programs.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.