

PARK, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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

Wednesday, JANUARY 29, 2003 - 7:00 p.m.

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	<u>ABSENT/PRESENT</u>	<u>Cumulative From 11/02</u>		
		<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>E</u>
Julie Cameron	P	2	0	
Elizabeth Hays	P	2	0	
Robert Hoysgaard	Excused	1	0	1
Antonia Martinez	P	2	0	
Joann Medalie	P	2	0	
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	2	0	
Robert Missal	P	1	1	
Timothy Nast	P	1	0	1
Michael Natale	P	2	0	
Rosalind Osgood	P	1	0	1
Randy Powers	P	1	1	
Victoria Pristo-Revier	P	2	0	
John Rude, Chair	P	2	0	
Joe Shover	P	1	1	
Shirley Small	P	2	0	

Staff Present

Ernest Burkeen, Jr., Parks & Recreation Director
 Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent
 Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent
 Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
 Kathy Connor, Parks Supervisor
 Lori Dimeolo, Administrative Assistant
 Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Chairman John Rude called the meeting to order at approximately 7:04 p.m. Roll call was taken, and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Elizabeth Hays and seconded by Julie Cameron to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2002 meeting. John Melnicoff stated that under "County Parks Land Acquisition Update under Commissioner - District IV, it listed Riverland Isles" and asked for clarification. Phil Thornburg responded that Riverland Isles was property at 441 and River Road and actually should be under District III. He said that is what they were calling the east property. Board unanimously approved the minutes as corrected.

Recreation Division Year-End Report

Recreation Superintendent Steve Person, reported that normally this is the time of year they talk about specific recreation programs going on in the communities. He provided the Board with the Recreation Division's annual report and explained it had been divided into areas which are known as sections. He explained the sections were community events, cultural programs, swimming, day camps, and athletics. He said that overall they had 20,231 people registered in programs during the past year and 43,000 people attended programs on a daily basis. He felt it was extremely significant that they had provided 31,365 hours of supervised programs during the past year. Mr. Person stated that daily attendance programs which are fee based and included the gym, tennis, and swim programs had serviced 220,241 individuals. He explained that of this total, 43,615 people had played tennis.

Mr. Person said that he was going to meet with staff next week to review the report. He added that they had recognized community partnerships and were listed in the report.

Elizabeth Hays asked what the benefit was to become a community partnership and how were they fostered and developed. Mr. Person replied that they were formed in many different ways, such as a Girl Scout organization asking for sponsorship. He said that there wasn't a formal process, but this concept is beneficial to the community.

Julie Cameron said that Holiday Park did not appear to have many tennis teams as in the past. Mr. Person said that a couple of months ago they had discussed two women's teams that were playing there. Ms. Cameron reiterated that she believed there had been more teams previously and was aware of only one team now. Mr. Person said he could not address that matter specifically, but said if there were enough women who wanted to form a team, they could do it. Mr. Person said that he would look into the matter further and

someone would contact Ms. Cameron.

Mr. Person reported that George English Park had a women's team. He said that years ago they looked at George English and Jimmy Everett as two different facilities with two different managers. Now, there was one person responsible for both facilities.

Motion made by Victoria Pristo-Revier and seconded by John Melnicoff to approve the item as presented. Board unanimously approved.

Beach Nourishment Program Update

Steve Higgins from the Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection reported that they had just returned from Tallahassee after appearing before the Governor's Cabinet. This is in support of their approval for the permit of this portion of the project which included Fort Lauderdale and a small area of Pompano Beach. The Governor's Cabinet had some legal glitches which required them to defer this item, and unfortunately, an opportunity wasn't given to present the program to them.

Mr. Higgins provided background on program explaining that the Fort Lauderdale Beach project was part of an 11.8 mile, \$52 Million beach nourishment project which the County had been working on for about 4 years. He further explained that sand sources were located off shore, and the Fort Lauderdale portion began north of the City line near the Commercial Pier, and stretched south of the Bonnet House. He stated the project had undergone several revisions over the years involving consultation with state and federal regulatory agencies in an effort to reduce the impact on the very near shore hard bottoms which exist off shore. Mr. Higgins explained that when you widened the beach, you widened not only the upland portion but also the underwater portion. He explained that this was one of the issues of concern for the agencies and the Governor's Cabinet.

Mr. Higgins explained that the Cabinet could not vote on the item until the legislative "glitch" was repaired. He said they were required to have 5 votes for the state land items, and due to a Constitutional Amendment, there were only 4 members now. He said this would be done in March when the Legislature met.

Mr. Higgins stated that the Fort Lauderdale portion of the project had been the subject of some controversy. He said that the opponents of beach nourishment program in general had focused on Fort Lauderdale. He explained there were legitimate environmental issues that the City felt had been addressed adequately, and the agencies, including the State Department of Environmental Protection, ETA, Official Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, National Fishery Service, and the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council had all signed off on the current proposal. The advocates of coral reefs felt the reefs would be damaged further off shore. He explained that was not the case

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and said they were building tight constraints in the contract. He stressed that this was not the Hillsboro Inlet project.

Mr. Higgins explained that in the process of presenting this to the Cabinet, the Secretary of DEP suggested they might want to build the southern portion of the project first and monitor it for 18 months before beginning Segment 2, which included Fort Lauderdale. He said that now that the two-phase was out, it would be difficult to put it back and this would be the starting point of the negotiations. He said there could be a delay in the implementation of the Segment 2 portion of the project. He said that they were confident that everything would be well protected in this project.

Elizabeth Hays said that at the last District IV Pre-agenda Meeting, someone was there who spoke about this project, and had said that it would destroy the reefs. She asked why people felt this would be a consequence of this project, and how those beliefs could be dispelled.

Mr. Higgins said there were few opponents to this project, but they were dedicated and vocal. He explained that some of the opposition was divers who did not feel the beach should be widened if there was a chance that anything off shore could be damaged. He said there was another group who just "hated the County," and opposed any and all projects.

Julie Cameron asked what was being done to protect the area during the project. Mr. Higgins explained that the impacts would be limited to a small strip off shore. He said there would be cloudy water, but the impacts would moderate over a reasonably short period of time and they would not extend out to the coral reef. He said that when he speaks of habitats, he is not talking about coral reefs, but exposed rocks colonized by a variety of organisms. He stated that they are habitat and important, but they are not productive and the spectacular coral reefs that are off shore, and areas of the coral reefs would not be touched. He reported that they have surveyed the areas and a construction plan was designed which specifies where the contractor could come and go with his vessels. He said there would be satellite navigation on all vessels, along with observers looking for endangered species and for operational integrity.

John Melnicoff said that Deerfield Beach voted 4-1 regarding this project. He asked if they had an option since it was State land. Mr. Higgins said they did not have a choice. Mr. Melnicoff asked if it did not occur there, did they have another site available. Mr. Higgins replied there were 4 other sites besides the one located off of Deerfield Beach, but he explained they needed that one for the whole project. Since the project was to begin in the South, by the time they would get to that area they would need it. He explained they had come close to working out an agreement with Deerfield Beach in order to alleviate their concerns. Various monitoring programs and economic analysis was suggested. He said

they had voted down the agreement prepared by their own staff, but they indicated that things could possibly be worked out.

Michael Natale asked if Hollywood had just gone through this about 10 months ago with their Beach Reclamation Project. Mr. Higgins said that the Diplomat Hotel had brought in some truckloads of sand in an attempt to shore up the seawall. Mr. Natale remarked that there had been a dredge off shore for quite a while. Mr. Higgins said that the last time Hollywood and Hallandale had been done was in 1991. He said that Sunny Isles had a project last year.

Elizabeth Hays asked if the moratorium and delay occurred, what type of cost consequence would take place. Mr. Higgins said that the idea of having a regional project was to save money. He explained it would involve some intricate timing, but a delay could cost \$1 Million to \$1 ½ Million in additional mobilization costs.

Chairman Rude asked on an average how much wider would the beach be with this project. Mr. Higgins said that initially it would add 80' to 90', but the width of the beach they were going to try to maintain would be about 25' wider than it was at this time. Chairman Rude asked if there was anything to get the sand which collected at the Point of Americas to John U. Lloyd Park, and asked if that was part of this project. Mr. Higgins replied that this was one of the objections of the opponents, sand by-passing which would be a sustainability measure for the beaches to the south. He said it was not part of this project, but they were doing it as a separate concurrent project. He said an important element of the beach management plan was to find a way to capture future sand that arrived at Port Everglades and move it south. He explained they were presently in the middle of a feasibility study which generated some interesting alternatives. He stated that this was a federal navigation channel.

Julie Cameron asked if this project was done and a hurricane occurred afterwards, what would happen. Mr. Higgins said the beach would be severely eroded instead of A1A. He said that the storm protection benefits would accrue rapidly instead of over time. Ms. Cameron asked in the last 50 years how much had the beaches eroded. Mr. Higgins replied that it was about 1' a year. He said that over the last few years sand had been placed up drift of it which had helped. He also said that since the '50's there had been some help from the Hillsboro Inlet by-passing. Generally, he said that it was stable.

Bicyclists, Walkers, and Runners Advisory Board

Mark Horowitz, Broward County Bike Pedestrian Coordinator, said that he had been called by the City regarding this matter so that duplicate efforts would not take place. Also he said it was nice that a City wanted to explore the need for this type of Board. Mr. Horowitz said that when he began with the County 16 years ago, he had taken a tour of the western

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states to see what areas had the best bicycle programs. He suggested dividing the County into sub regions and creating a network of 3-4 cities that have regional programs that are worked on. He said it was important that the emphasis be at the municipal level. Previously this idea was not well received and the focus has shifted to programs created in major cities. They attempted to put programs under the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, but that did not work because they did not have the expertise to make the proper decisions to effect bicycling. Then it went into the Planning Department who hired a bicycle coordinator through grants, and finally the program folded.

Mr. Horowitz said they were attempting to devise a program in Pompano, but they did not want another advisory committee, and things were not progressing. He said that the question was what could this City do that was different from what the County Advisory Committee did. He said there were a lot of projects which could have an impact on bicycling in Fort Lauderdale. He said one project was The Ponds where a right-of-way had been vacated. This was a good by-pass to Oakland Park, but now the City was working with the State and the County on how a bike lane could fit in the section where A1A splits at Oakland Park and beyond. If there had been an advisory committee to bring such an issue forward, there might have been better accommodations made. He said another project going on at this time is NE 18th Avenue, where medians and landscaping are being done. If there had been an advisory committee, possibly the median could have been narrower and a bike lane provided. When he approached staff about the project, the reply was that it had not been presented to the neighborhood and they are too far into the process to change things.

Mr. Horowitz said that the City of Boca Raton has a Bicycle Advisory Committee and a Bicycle Coordinator, while Delray Beach is just forming such a committee. He said that in Boca, the Coordinator had gotten State funding and grants. They bought a trailer filled it with bicycles and hired a trainer who goes to all the elementary schools teaching bicycle safety programs. He explained this program was available at the County level. He reiterated there were things that could be done at the municipal level. He said that the City had a \$50,000 grant for bicycle parking which was federally funded and through T-21 which went through the MPO. He explained it sat for 5 years, once DOT and the MPO saw nothing was being done and suggested rolling the money over into another pot. Mr. Horowitz said that in conversations he had with City Staff, he had been told that the DDA was going to do something, but nothing moved.

Mr. Horowitz said that some residents of this City were waiting for the formation of such a committee. He said that their bicycle committee was very involved with the Greenways Program.

Ernest Burkeen, Director of Parks & Recreation, said that this appeared to be successful only if a bicycle coordinator was available who would interact with the advisory committee

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and the Planning Department. Mr. Horowitz said that ultimately the best solution would be a full-time staff to work on all the issues. He advised that Palm Beach did not have a full-time staff person, but had a Senior Planner work with the committee.

Joe Shover said that he was trying to fathom why this question should come before this Board. He asked if they were looking to settle whether this Board should take on such responsibility, or should the coordinator be a member of the Parks & Recreation Department. He said that he wanted further clarification why this Board was being involved.

Mr. Horowitz said that most people felt bicycling belonged with Parks & Recreation. Mr. Burkeen said that the matter had been brought up by Commissioner Katz at a Commission meeting. The Commission decided that this question should be addressed by this Board before things progressed any further.

Dr. Osgood asked if the County had any other research because in reading the article in the Sun-Sentinel various questions arose in her mind. She said that it said: "The Surface Transportation Policy Project - Main Street 2000 - released at Miami/Fort Lauderdale was ranked 6th." She asked if there was something that broke down Miami and Fort Lauderdale specifically. She felt these were two different types of situations regarding traffic and bicycling. She continued by stating that Federal Highway was listed as a dangerous street and wanted to know if other research had been done regarding Broward County which addressed these issues.

Mr. Horowitz said that other research had been done through the Department of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles. He said that, in his opinion, the Main Street report was somewhat flawed because they based the report on the number of people who walked to work. Areas like New York which had millions of people walking which had larger amounts of injuries and fatalities were ranked lower due to their exposure.

Ms. Revier remarked that based on police reports, Bayview Drive showed a high number of accidents along Sunrise Boulevard and the surrounding area. Mr. Horowitz said that the police reports were basically the "tip of the iceberg" because they reported pedestrian, bicycle or motor vehicle crashes which are based on a certain amount of property damage. They estimated these numbers were only about 10% of the actual injuries.

Dr. Osgood said that she wanted something specific to show that Fort Lauderdale had the problem and not another surrounding area. She wanted to make sure this was a problem for the City before this Board considered taking on such responsibility.

Michael Natale asked if there were any negative issues in having such a committee as was alluded to in Hollywood. Mr. Horowitz said there was a group of knowledgeable cyclists in Hollywood before bike lanes were readily accepted, however there was a committee whose

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main focus was to improve the roads. This committee did not consist of cyclists, did not understand the nuance of cycling traffic, and would shoot down any issues which were counter to their beliefs.

Mr. Horowitz stated that the Commission wanted this matter brought to this Board and in an effort to receive feedback from the discussion. He suggested that there be an advisory committee.

Mr. Burkeen said that the Commission wanted the Parks & Recreation Board to discuss the matter, decide what should take place, and then make a recommendation to the Commission.

David Marshall, member of the Bicycling Committee for Broward County, said that he recommended that a bicycle/pedestrian committee be formed, and that it be separate from the Parks & Recreation Department. He continued stating that a lot of the issues dealt with by such a committee was more on a transportation level.

Dr. Hays said she recognized the concerns the Commission had regarding another advisory board such as cost and expense. She suggested that possibly these matters be brought before this Board for a trial period of one year, and then see if a separate board was feasible.

Mr. Burkeen suggested that an Ad Hoc Committee be established and that a staff member be assigned to it. They could bring information which back to this Board so a full discussion could be held with more detailed information at hand.

Motion made by Dr. Osgood and seconded by Julie Cameron to approve staff's recommendations. Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Burkeen Stated that Kathy Connor would be the staff person involved with this committee.

Joe Hahn, President of Dolphin Isles Homeowner Association, said that a lot of these issues involved public right-of-way, which falls under the jurisdiction of the Engineering Department. He said he felt that the Engineering Department is greatly overtaxed and understaffed at this time. He said that Peter Partington and Tim Welch were excellent people to work with, and he felt that one of the advantages of an advisory board would be to provide a lot of the leg work and political jockeying involved in such a matter.

Mr. Burkeen said that the activity was still a leisure time activity that was in the domain of recreation. Everything that is done is specialized, such as the development of the parks, the links, and how people are serviced. He stated that professionals are needed, but he felt

the Parks & Recreation Department needed to be involved and this belonged in the planning group. He said having an Ad Hoc Committee to assist Kathy Connor in determining what information was available so this Board could have a more fruitful discussion.

Chairman Rude said that if any members of this Board wanted to serve on the Ad Hoc Committee, they were to contact either John Rude or Ernest Burkeen.

Ms. Osgood commended the City Commission on their leadership in regard to having this matter brought forth for discussion.

Parks Bond Quarterly Report

Chairman Rude said that an approval would be needed for this matter from the Board.

Lori Dimeolo said that Carter Park was well under construction, along with the roller hockey rinks at Holiday Park. She said that Lauderdale Manors construction was almost complete and they hoped to open it in February. She reported that Palm Aire Village Park was also under construction and the opening would be in March because of the wrong size light poles were delivered. She added that Riverland Park was moving forward, but some funding matters were to go before the Commission on February 4, 2003. After that occurs they would make a recommendation to the committee to hire a contractor. Also she said that Riverside Park is scheduled for two readings before the Commission because of a Planning and Zoning issue, and once that occurs the old building would be demolished in March.

Dr. Hays said that she encouraged everyone to support the hiring of Seawood Builders as the construction company for Riverside Park. She asked for some further information regarding the funding for Riverland Park. Mr. Burkeen said there was a grant from Swim Central. Dr. Hays said there was some other type of request being made for funding and she wanted to know if it had been received. Lori Dimeolo said that Dr. Hays might be referring to the FRDAP Grant they were planning on applying for in the last cycle. She said they did not apply for that grant because the Palm Aire Park project had not been completed by the time the application was due. The City is only permitted 3 open FRDAP grants. She reported they would apply for the grant in September. Mr. Burkeen remarked that the most that could be received from the grant was \$200,000. He explained that this project had begun as a \$600,000 project and it was now at \$5 Million.

Antonia Martinez asked what was going to happen when Lauderdale Manors Park opened in connection with children's outside programs in regard to the portables. Mr. Burkeen said it would be similar to George English Park until the portables would be moved. He said there would be limited space until construction is completed, then the portables would be

removed and they would regain the space.

Motion made by Joe Shover and seconded by Michael Natale to approve this item as presented. Board unanimously approved.

Park Rules Change

Ernest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor said periodically they had come to this Board with changes for the parks rules and regulations in an effort to create a safe environment in the parks. General rules were utilized and some areas address the beach. Tonight, the change suggested was to include fencing and canopies. Over the last few years, they discovered that individuals were fencing off areas for their families, and nothing was in the rules to address such issues.

Joe Shover asked if there corporate areas fenced off for some of the special events. Mr. Jones explained that was part of the event agreement itself. Mr. Burkeen explained that the City signed an agreement that leased the property to the event during the concerned period of time, and these rules and regulations did not apply.

Michael Natale said that the wording "digging holes" should possibly be replaced with the words "digging holes for the purpose of erecting fences." Mr. Jones explained that they had discovered holes dug 4' x 4' by individuals which caused a hazard for the pedestrians.

Dr. Hays asked when an umbrella would become a canopy or tent. She asked how big an item had to be before it was defined as a canopy. Mr. Jones said that from an enforcement standpoint, he felt this fell under the responsibility of the beach patrol to make such determinations.

Motion made by Joe Shover and seconded by Michael Natale to approve the item. Board agreed to the motion, except for Elizabeth Hays, Timothy Nast and Antonia Martinez who opposed.

Hardy Park

Parks Supervisor Kathy Connor, informed the Board that they were still proceeding with the acquisition of the South Side site and were expanding the park. She said that there was a site walk in connection with the old south side building which included the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor, and some of the school board. The school is still structurally sound and could be restored, but the electrical system would have to be redone. Negotiations with the School Board would have to proceed.

Dr. Hays asked if this matter would go before the Education Advisory Board to see if they

recommended that the City buy the South Side School. She stated she would like this matter taken to their next meeting.

Dr. Hays stated that there was a referendum which was going to be on the March ballot that dealt with Hardy Park. She said that more detail regarding the referendum needed to be provided so everyone would be clear on what they were voting on. Mr. Burkeen said they would bring the language before this Board, but it was to be a non-binding referendum asking whether the public wanted to protect Hardy Park. Dr. Hays remarked that she felt the actual language would be very critical. Mr. Burkeen explained that the referendum was the result of a petition signed by a group of citizens who wanted to protect the Park.

Chairman Rude asked how far along the City was in the process to acquire the South Side site. He reported that Lennar was going to purchase the West Side School site, and if one historical school was going to be restored, it made sense to have both schools done at the same time. Since the schools were only about a mile or so apart, the mobilization costs could be reduced.

Kathy Connor reported that Lennar Builders was going to rehabilitate the West Side School as an artist colony, and the City had nothing to do with the project. She explained they would collect impact fees for 2 acres because of the change in zoning there was no useable open space.

Floyd Hull Master Plan

Kathy Connor provided the revised version of the Floyd Hull Master Plan. The first priority for rehabilitation was Croissant Park and those fields would be done first, so when they began working on the stadium, they would have a place to move things. She stated that more planning had to be done, including drainage, the sewage master plan, and the existing structures would be assessed to determine if they could be rehabilitated and made ADA compliant.

Ms. Connor informed the Board that an environmental assessment need to be done of the Caldwell site and a master plan would also have to be prepared. In addition the City had to get NOVA back when the lease expired and the Community Area Planning Process wanted to create a Greenway from Snyder along 9th up to Davie Boulevard and the River.

John Melnicoff asked if they had gained a lot of extra parking. Ms. Connor said they had not gained parking spaces yet and had not reached that level of the project. The location was just mapped at the present time and those issues would be discussed at a later date.

Dr. Hays asked if Snyder Park had any bike trails and if they could be extended. Ms. Connor replied that the park did have trails and they could be connected, but they were

presently working on the Greenway. She also said that the County's Greenway, Bikeway and Blueway Plans are going to the Commission for adoption on February 18, 2003. It is important that a plan be in place when they begin applying for grant dollars.

Elizabeth Hays said there was going to be a CAP meeting next week, and she asked if it had anything to do with this plan. Ms. Connor said that a plan had been made of the 8 connectors on the Master Plan and the 9th Avenue Greenway to the river.

Other Items

Kathy Connor announced that the CAP forum was to be held next Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

Elizabeth Hays said that the City was in the process of developing an Inter-local Agreement required by the State Government between school boards and the cities. She asked what role the Parks and Recreation Department had in that matter.

Kathy Connor said they were working with the Planning Department. Dr. Hays said that she was under the impression that the School Board wanted to have one agreement with all the cities in the County, and she felt this was an opportunity for the City to get some issues, especially regarding education, into the agreement.

John Melnicoff announced that the City was going to have a volleyball event on April 4, 2003 on the beach. Ernest Burkeen explained that the event was going to take place at the south end of the Gill Hotels and he believed the Chamber of Commerce and the Visitors' Bureau were involved.

Dr. Elizabeth Hays asked when the Dragon Boat Races were going to be held.

Dragon Boat Races/Busker Festival

Chairman Rude said that the Parks & Recreation Board had been challenged by the Marine Advisory Board. He explained that this Board is about 13 people short of the required team members. He explained there would be two practice runs. He said that Antonia Martinez had recruited 4-5 people, and he had recruited about 4 people. He urged everyone to recruit team members for the event.

Chairman Rude said that he wanted to thank Ernest Burkeen and Phil Thornburg for their help regarding the Ann Murray Greenway Dedication at Tarpon River. He reported that about 100 people had attended, along with the Mayor and the District Commissioner. He said that Ms. Murray was very pleased about the whole endeavor.

Dr. Hays announced that Robert Hoysgaard had received by-pass surgery and asked if the

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Board could send him some get well wishes.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.