

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, February 26, 2003**

<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	3	0	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	3	0	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	2	0	1
Antonia Martinez	P	3	0	0
Joann Medalie	P	3	0	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	3	0	0
Robert Missal	P	2	1	0
Timothy Nast	P	2	0	1
Michael Natale	P	3	0	0
Rosalind Osgood	A	1	1	1
Randy Powers	P	2	1	0
Victoria Pristo-Revier	Excused	2	0	1
John Rude, Chair	P	3	0	0
Joe Shover	P	2	1	0
Shirley Small	A	2	1	0

Staff Present

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 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken, and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Julie Cameron, seconded by Joe Shover, to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2003, meeting. Michael Natale stated that with regard to his comments on page 5 referring to the reclamation area, where he differed in opinion with Mr. Higgins, he found out Mr. Higgins had been correct when he said it was Sunny Isles. Chairman John Rude corrected the approval

of the minutes of December 4, 2002, by clarifying they should read "...Riverland Isles was property at 441 and Riverland Road and actually should be under District III. He said that is what they were calling it the north property." Phil Thornburg verified this is the proper correction. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

Recreation Program of the Month

Chairman Rude advised this item was pulled and will be rescheduled to next month.

Department Accreditation by CAPRA (The Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies)

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that Mr. Burkeen, Parks and Recreation Director, was not present as he was in Washington, D.C., on City business.

Mr. Thornburg advised the Board of the basics regarding the presentation they were about to see with regard to Accreditation by CAPRA.

Lori Dimeolo passed around two handouts on the Agency Accreditation Training Workshop and the entire 155 standards the City will be required to meet. Ms. Dimeolo highlighted and explained the following:

Why Accreditation

- The public is assured they are offered well-administered programs and services in accordance with approved professional practices.
- The City can provide evidence of increased efficiency and accountability; more likely to gain budgetary support from the City Commission.
- The department recognizes its strengths and weaknesses; long-range program and facility planning are helped by the process.
- Increased sense of pride for the staff and public.

Steps to Accreditation

- Agency application was submitted July 2002.
- Self-Assessment report is being started at this time
- Evaluation and CAPRA visitation
- CAPRA affirms their accreditation if standards are met
-

Requirements

- Evaluated on standards. The 36 "fundamental" standards must be met 100% and 85% of the remaining standards must be met to become accredited.

Categories of Standards

1. Agency Authority, Role, and Responsibility
2. Planning
3. Organization and Administration
4. Human Resources
5. Finance
6. Program & Services Management
7. Facility & Land Use Management
8. Safety & Security
9. Risk Management
10. Evaluation & Research

Ms. Dimeolo further explained that after the self-assessment is completed, a Visitors Team comes out to guide the city through the final steps in order to file for accreditation. The City is responsible for the expenses of the Visitors Team.

Ms. Dimeolo advised that she and Maybeth Irizarry-Binon are coordinating this effort and both attended the accreditation seminar held last year. Teams have been formed and information is starting to be assembled. Their short-term goal by July is to have a handle on how the process is going and assess if they will have enough documentation in place to meet the accreditation goal of July 26, 2004.

Ms. Dimeolo asked for the Board's support when the Visitors Team arrives, and support of their goals and objectives, as items will be brought to the Board for their endorsement as the process moves forward.

Motion made by Bob Hoysgaard, seconded by Julie Cameron, to endorse the department accreditation by CAPRA. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

Elizabeth Hays questioned the \$10,000 needed for the Visitors Team, and expressed her concerns about cost versus benefit. Mr. Thornburg advised they expect the \$10,000 to be the highest cost with the remainder of expenses absorbed into the department as regular duties of staff. Lori Dimeolo stated that some of the benefits are that this process will give the department a good assessment as to how they are doing business. Maybeth Irizarry-Binon added this would also give the department a clear understanding of how effective they are, as well as give them goals and objectives. Antonia Martinez asked if the accreditation would assist in obtaining park grants, as well prevent some lawsuits. Staff advised it would. The Board further discussed the benefits of the accreditation, as well as the benefits of the process of becoming accredited. Staff advised they expect to give quarterly updates of their progress.

Cancer Survivor Park

Kathy Connor informed the Board they are refocusing what is being done in order to garner Mr. Bloch's support by developing a scope of services and sending out 400 invitations for artists to give them renderings of what the park will look like. Dalva Duarte was selected, is on board, and moving forward in order to be ready in March with the renderings which will be presented to the Board and to Mr. Bloch by April or May, 2003. The artist came up with the suggestion to create a 501(c) under their trust to create endowments for maintenance by selling pieces of art.

Bob Missal asked if Mr. Bloch has committed to funding. Ms. Connor said he will commit to funding if they can sell him on the concept. Mr. Bloch was presented with an idea which he did not approve because he felt it was too passive. The Board and staff discussed how the concept would be developed and presented. Mr. Missal asked if the funding would include maintenance of the park. Lori Dimeolo advised the interest can be drawn off the endowment to cover maintenance and the Foundation will be an arm out to the community to get them involved. Ms. Connor informed the Board their intention is to create a park that would be suitable for a postcard for Fort Lauderdale and be a new landmark. She added that the artist, Dalva Duarte, is being paid less than \$10,000 for her services, and that this is inexpensive considering her stature as an artist. Ms. Connor added that if they had utilized the services of a design firm the cost would have been closer to \$30,000 to \$40,000.

Bicyclists, Joggers & Walkers - Ad Hoc Committee

Kathy Connor began her update by advising this is actually a bicycle/pedestrian committee and handed out a copy of the agenda and minutes from their meeting of February 19, 2003. She informed the Board the first item they looked at was the need for an advisory board or ad hoc committee. The committee decided there is an immediate need for a bicycle/pedestrian board and it should be an advisory board. The ad hoc committee cited safety as the major need for a board to be developed in order to add criteria to the design review process to include safe venues for pedestrians and bicyclists. Vice Chairman John Melnicoff asked if there is a current review by Planning for traffic and walkways. Ms. Connor advised there is a review process in place for sidewalks. Dave Marshall, a member of the ad hoc committee, advised the Board of the committee's proposal to have a committee or board created in order to look at all traffic aspects and to give the City an additional set of eyes to insure all manners of transportation are addressed.

Bob Hoysgaard inquired as to whether committees and boards must be established by the City Commission. Ms. Connor advised she would clarify this issue with the City Clerk.

The Board discussed, at great length, the need to address traffic, transportation, and the needs of pedestrians and bicyclists. They also discussed whether the committee or board to be established should be an independent board, or an ad hoc committee answering to either the Parks,

Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board, or another board of the City.

Mr. Shover made a motion to have the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board recommend to the Commission that an advisory board for bicycles and pedestrians be formed. Vice Chairman Melnicoff made a point of order there should be no motion as this is only an update item on the agenda.

Chairman Rude suggested having the ad hoc committee continue on as-is and have them get the various issues to the departments/boards that need to address them, such as forwarding questions that are parks related to Parks and Recreation staff, public works related to Public Works staff, and those that are transportation planning related to Peter Partington. This would alleviate an additional layer of government.

Following extensive discussion, the Board decided to canvass the members as to the following two recommendations.

1. Continue the ad hoc committee as-is.
2. Request the Commission to create a stand-alone bicycle/pedestrian advisory board.

The results of the canvass were as follows:

1. Continue the ad hoc committee as-is: 2 in favor; 10 against.
2. Request the Commission create a stand-alone bicycle/pedestrian advisory board:
9 in favor, 3 against.

Elizabeth Hays requested the minutes reflect there are some members of the Board who do not feel this should be an advisory board, but an ad hoc committee of the Commission. Chairman Rude requested Ms. Hays explain this point to the Commission.

Chairman Rude would like the Commission to know how much this Board struggled with the above issues and recommendations.

Bubier Park

Chairman Rude asked for a clarification of what areas encompass Bubier Park and the recently dedicated Huizenga Plaza. Mr. Thornburg passed out information packets to the Board and explained the front page shows the delineation of Bubier Park as being the southern portion of the open area, which is 103 feet deep with the southern end on the New River. The confusion lies with the fact the 1.8 acre area between Bubier Park and East Las Olas Boulevard was left undeveloped for a period of time before the D.D.A. improved the property in approximately 1995, at which time this portion became "D.D.A. Plaza" until it was recently changed to "Huizenga Plaza". The second page of the handout is a photograph showing where the Bubier

Park, Recreation & Beaches Advisory
Board Meeting
February 26, 2003
Page 6

Park boardwalk ends and Huizenga Plaza begins. The additional pages of the packet reflect various plaques and monuments located in the area.

Other Business

Michael Natale wished to speak about Riverland Isles. Through Commissioner Cindy Hutchinson, he found out the county has dropped the contingency list for purchases of various parcels throughout the county, and Riverland Isles is one of the items Commissioner Hutchinson hot-listed to try to get pushed up into the top ten areas to be purchased by the City of Fort Lauderdale. She spoke to Commissioner Carlton Moore, who is the district representative for the Riverland Isles area, and he advised Commissioner Hutchinson it was alright for her to pull this parcel into her realm to attempt to obtain monies from the Trust for Public Land Preservation. Additionally, it has come to their attention that County Commissioner John Rodstrom has \$1,000,000 he has not yet designated.

Mr. Natale informed the Board this parcel is located at the main southwestern entrance to the City of Fort Lauderdale and is one of the few remaining undeveloped parcels available. He added they have hit a stumbling block with Riverland Woods to the south due to a federal lawsuit filed regarding regulations on the waterway, and they have a verbal agreement from the owner of U-Stor-It to grant a right-of-way to link the two parcels together.

Michael Natale suggested making a motion recommending this Board go to the City Commission and the County Commission to try to get something resolved in order to purchase this property before it is developed. Mr. Thornburg confirmed the county has done away with the contingency list of parcels and added the next phase of the Open Space is gearing up at this time and applications are due May 2, 2003, and Riverland Isles is a number one priority of Commissioner Hutchinson for this application process. Mr. Thornburg suggested this Board could recommend to the City Commission and the Vice Mayor to approach Commissioner Rodstrom to spend his \$1,000,000 to help fund this project.

Mr. Natale made the recommendation that this Board recommend they pursue this parcel of land. On a voice vote, all voted in favor of the recommendation. Mr. Natale requested this be placed on the next agenda for an official vote.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.