

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
8th Floor Conference Room**

**Wednesday, March 26, 2003**

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<b><u>BOARD MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT/PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>Cumulative from 11/02</u></b>		
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>	<b><u>E</u></b>
Julie Cameron	A	3	1	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	4	0	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	3	0	1
Antonia Martinez	P	4	0	0
Joann Medalie	P	4	0	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	4	0	0
Robert Missal	P	3	1	0
Timothy Nast	A	2	1	1
Michael Natale	P	4	0	0
Rosalind Osgood	P	2	1	1
Randy Powers	P	3	1	0
Victoria Pristo-Revier	P	3	0	1
John Rude, Chair	P	4	0	0
Joe Shover	P	3	1	0
Shirley Small	P	3	1	0

**Staff Present**

Steve Person, Superintendent of Recreation  
Vince Gizzi, Superintendent of Special Facilities  
Sue McAllister, Community Programs Supervisor  
Debbie Dunbar, City Festivals Coordinator  
Barbara Barber, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Shay Roundtree, Recreation Programmer II  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor

## **Call to Order**

Vice Chairman John Melnicoff called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairman John Rude arrived at 7:02 p.m. and continued the meeting with Roll Call. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Motion made by Robert Hoysgaard, seconded by Rosalind Osgood, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2003, meeting. Robert Hoysgaard made a correction to page four of the minutes, last paragraph to read, "Bob Hoysgaard stated that ad hoc committees must be established by the City Commission." In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

## **Recreation Program of the Month (17th Annual Black History Invitational Swim Meet in Washington D.C.)**

Sue McAllister introduced staff members Barbara Barber and Shay Roundtree who would be making the presentation. Ms. Barber narrated the slide presentation and advised the \$70,000 Community Development Block Grant went towards funding the trip, clothing, gear, and staff for the trip. This is the largest swim meet for minority children from all over the Country. The group left Fort Lauderdale on February 12, 2003. The youth toured Washington, D.C., which including a tour of the White House, which is a rare occurrence due the high level of security. The children were guests of Congressman Alcee Hastings, who arranged for the White House and Capitol tour, and the children represented the City very well.

The City won five overall first places in the Swim Meet. Also, Gia Wright won the overall high point score in the 15-18 year olds division.

The second day of the meet was snowed in, which allowed many of the children to experience snow for the first time. The children entertained themselves for the rest of the event.

## **Status of City Festivals**

Debbie Dunbar presented the handout entitled "City Festivals, Events and Community Gatherings." The report was coordinated with a City map showing the various City event locations. Future sites were noted on the last page of the report. Ms. Dunbar explained the various ways the City events are advertised.

Vince Gizzi advised the Board that the City Commission requested a report broken down by location and type of event along with information on how they are doing financially. The report was presented to this Board, as well. The Board and staff discussed how they are doing financially, stating they typically recover 75 percent, with the Cajun Festival and the Blues Festival recovering the most. They work with various businesses for sponsorship of free events. Ms. Dunbar advised the festival site, located in the north section and adjacent to Fort Lauderdale Stadium, is the major site they use for gated events and there is no parking fee charged at this location. Several other sites throughout the City charge a fee for use.

### **Beachfest Update (Palau)**

Staff advised this event was not a City event. According to the Beachfest website, approximately 300,000 people attended the event on the beach. The evangelical event was handled in conjunction with approximately 900-1,000 churches. This event is a worldwide event that takes place once every 10 years in the same location. Even though the City only charged \$500 per day for the use of the beach, parking brought in approximately \$22,000. Some of the equipment used for the event was donated to the City, local churches, and groups after the event.

Chairman Rude suggested for future reference that an event of this size should be scheduled during the off-season, as the hotel and motel owners were upset about traffic issues.

### **Endorse Purchase of Riverland Isles Parcel by County**

Mr. Natale handed out a map entitled "Riverland Community Park - 1997 Vision" and explained it was a vision of the Southwest Coalition which is the area bounded by Broward Boulevard, I-595, Turnpike, and I-95. The 5.2 acre parcel was purchased by U-Store-It, however, there is still an opportunity to purchase the 1.99 acre and 3.2 acre parcels, with the owner of the U-Store-It willing to grant an access easement on the front of his property to provide the park site with a link to the west. The assessed value is unknown, however, the combined price is \$1.2 million for the undeveloped parcels. This area could be turned into a greenway, passive park, or something of that nature.

Mr. Natale advised they are requesting a vote to approve the purchase and turn these sites into a park. The funding would be through the Trust for Public Lands and Broward County, as well as other possible funding which may be available such as Open Space funds and the possible use of funds from Commissioner Rodstrom. Broward County will not purchase the property if it is over a certain assessed value.

Motion made by Joe Shover, seconded by Victoria Pristo-Revier, to have the Board present this to the Commission to purchase the property for green space and/or future development. The Board discussed the location, egress, and current condition of the property. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

### **Other Items of Interest**

Bob Hoysgaard wished to discuss the warning flags on the beach, stating there is no uniformity of these flags throughout the State of Florida, the United States, and internationally. Since the designation of the flags change from city to city, beachgoers are confused as to what the flags signify. Also, the City does not post the flags until 9:30 a.m., even though there are people on the beach well before this time. Mr. Hoysgaard advised this could be a future item of discussion.

Maybeth Irizarry-Binon announced the Board will be receiving invitations to the grand opening

of Palm Aire Village Park to be held Saturday, April 12, 2003. The park is located off Cypress Creek Road and 21st Avenue.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Handouts:**

1. 17th Annual Black History Invitational Swim Meet, Washington, D.C.
2. City Festivals, Events and Community Gatherings
3. Riverland Community Park - 1997 Vision sketch