

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 23, 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	A	3	2	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	5	0	0
Robert Hoysgaard	A	3	1	1
Antonia Martinez	E	3	1	1
Joann Medalie	P	5	0	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	5	0	0
Robert Missal	P	4	1	0
Timothy Nast	A	2	2	1
Michael Natale	P	5	0	0
Rosalind Osgood	P	3	1	1
Randy Powers	P	4	1	0
Victoria Pristo-Revier	A	3	1	1
John Rude, Chair	P	5	0	0
Joe Shover	P	4	1	0
Shirley Small	P	4	1	0

Staff Present

Ernest Burkeen, Jr., Parks and Recreation Director
Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent
Suzanne Broucek, Recreation Program Supervisor
Marie Rock, Recreation Program Coordinator
Tom Fogan, Beach Patrol Captain
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Chairman John Rude called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll Call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by John Melnicoff, seconded by Michael Natale, to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2003, meeting. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

Recreation Program of the Month (Southwest Basketball Program)

Steve Persons advised that a year and a half ago they changed the organizational structure to a zone structure and are happy with the results of that change. He introduced Suzanne Broucek as the Supervisor of Zone 3, which is the Southwest area; and Marie Rock, who is the Coordinator of the same area as well as being the editor and design person for the seasonal brochure. Ms. Rock informed the Board they opened the Croissant Park Community Center ten months ago and it is a very busy place with 9,717 pool patrons with over 13,500 children using the water playground, 1,382 participating in water aerobics, 622 in arthritis aerobics and more than 250 children completing the Red Cross Learn to Swim program. Summer camp registration was filled within 26 hours. Last fall, youth athletics was launched under the coordination of John Rebar. The Basketball Program will be the next program offered to youth and adults. Ms. Rock informed the Board of the success of this program. The program was enjoyed so much it was extended an additional two weeks. The Spring Micro-Soccer Program has been launched and 171 have registered for this program, with the number growing.

Mr. Shover and Ms. Hays expressed how the success of this Center shows the tremendous need for it in the area. Ms. Hays added this shows why Riverland Park needs to be completed to provide for additional opportunity for children.

Air and Sea Show Presentation

Phil Thornburg handed out the Air and Sea Show Schedule and advised there are higher security measures being taken this year. All plans are going along fine and this is the year for the Air Force Thunderbirds and the Canadian Snowbirds. Parks and Recreation is involved heavily in this event.

Ms. Hays questioned if there have been any improvements since last year to address the issues of parking in local neighborhoods. Mr. Thornburg advised the police are continually monitoring the situation. The residents are given passes to gain entrance to their neighborhoods; however, there are some individuals who sell parking at their home. Mr. Thornburg advised A1A will be closed April 28th for setup. The Board will be advised regarding the cost of the Air and Sea Show to the City.

Land Preservation Update

Mr. Thornburg advised that at the April 22nd Commission meeting there was discussion regarding the property north of Mills Pond that the County is considering for conservation land. The parcel north of Mills Pond Park has been acquired and is the only piece of property in the City which has been purchased through the Land Preservation Bond. One site by the airport, south of the fire station, is close to being purchased. Progress on purchasing open space property is slow and there are six parcels on the list which are going nowhere at the moment. Landowners

are asking more than the County is willing to pay for the properties although negotiations are still open.

Mr. Thornburg advised the next phase is about to close on May 2, 2003. Twenty million dollars have been allocated to the program. The sites will be ranked and they will go through the list until the \$20 million figure has been reached. No site will receive more than \$2 million. The City Commission has approved a list of approximately 16 sites in the City, which will go forward as an application to the County. After May 2nd, the County reviews the applications, staff ranks the sites and takes them to the advisory board around July, the advisory board will rank the sites and give recommendations to the County Commission around August or September, and then negotiate price with the owners of the parcels.

Ms. Hays requested clarification on whether the property north of Mills Pond will be considered Open Space. Mr. Thornburg advised it would be conservation land, which cannot be developed. They can install trails, but the land will be more an environmental-type parcel, keeping the exotic plants native to Florida. Mr. Thornburg advised the list of properties being forwarded to the County for consideration were previously brought before this Board for review. Chair Rude advised the County is moving slowly on all the parcels, not just the ones within Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Thornburg advised Riverland Isles is the number one priority for District Three.

Board members asked if the letter they approved at the last meeting had been forwarded to the City Commission requesting they move forward with the purchase of the Riverland Isles property. Staff advised it will be prepared and forwarded in the near future and that this parcel already has been determined to be a priority by the Commission. The Board requested the letter still be forwarded to the Commission. Mr. Thornburg advised he would make the Board aware of when this parcel will be addressed by the Commission.

Definitions of Beach Warning Flags

Beach Patrol Captain, Tom Fogan explained the flag system used by the City is quite simple. Currently the green flag is not being used, but will be used in the future to indicate good conditions. Yellow flags are used for caution, such as rough surf, strong rip currents, Man-O-War and/or Sea Lice. Red flags are used when they need to close the beach to swimming due to dangerous conditions such as rough surf or predatory fish. The entire beach will be closed due to lightning. In the past, the City was not informed by the Health Department when there were health issues at the beach, which created some confusion. Measures have been put in place to improve communication from the Health Department to the City in order to have the proper flags put in place. The Health Department did not test the procedure and the City ran their own tests on the weekends. The Board brought up the issue that flags are not placed out until 9:30 a.m. Staff advised the Board this is the time when the beach staff arrive on duty. Ms. Hays inquired about the problems with different cities utilizing different flags. Mr Fogan said that Bob Hoysgaard had been instrumental in initiating the issue of consistency. Mr. Fogan stated Fort Lauderdale is one of the first cities to begin using the flag system and that as a member of the Florida Beach Patrol Chief's Association, provided input to the legislature regarding the four flag

colors being used. The legislature has put this into law as a recommendation. The Chief's Association is promoting the use of these flags across the United States. It was clarified the green flags will be in place by the next meeting. Mr. Fogan advised they need to put information signs at the lifeguard stations as the lifeguard towers are being replaced but the signs have not been replaced as of this time. Interim measures were requested to be in place until the permanent signs are installed.

Other Items of Interest

John Melnicoff asked about the donations of equipment from Beach Fest. Ms. Medalie advised basketball facilities are in place. Staff advised the donated exercise equipment is being installed. Mr. Melnicoff asked if the wall in the parking area has been replaced. Staff advised they are currently negotiating repairs and Beach Fest did not do some of the damage.

Ms. Hays advised there is a groundbreaking ceremony for Riverland Woods on Saturday, May 17th, at 10:00 a.m. and she wanted to make sure everyone on the Board received an invitation. Joan Sheridan will be coordinating this activity. This park is at Old Riverland Road and U.S. 441.

Mr. Shover let the Board know he attended the opening of the Palm Aire Village and it is a fabulous facility. This facility demonstrates cooperation among the Calvary Church, the City, and the neighborhood.

Chair Rude inquired about the fiber optics that were placed along the beach. Staff advised Fort Lauderdale is one of the first to try the fiber optics in this type of environment and it lasted approximately one year due to the corrosive nature of the beach area. Funding is in place to replace the system with another fiber optics system, which has a ten year warranty. The system costs approximately \$350,000 to install. Chair Rude requested the warranty be scrutinized. Staff advised they would forward this recommendation to the Engineering Department.

Ms. Medalie advised the Board the Volley Ball event was fantastic and stated how much she enjoys seeing activities on the beach.

Mr. Shover advised the Board that the Lauderdale Manors Community Center is being dedicated this coming Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and it would be nice to have some members of the Board attend to help at the opening.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Handouts:

1. Air and Sea Show Schedule

