

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, June 25, 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	5	2	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	7	0	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	5	1	1
Antonia Martinez	A	5	2	0
Joann Medalie	P	7	0	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	7	0	0
Robert Missal	A	4	3	0
Timothy Nast	A	2	4	1
Michael Natale	E	4	1	2
Rosalind Osgood	E	4	1	2
Randy Powers	P	6	1	0
Victoria Pristo-Revier	A	4	2	1
John Rude, Chair	P	7	0	0
Joe Shover	P	6	1	0
Shirley Small	E	4	1	2

Staff Present

Stephen Person, Recreation Superintendent
 Alan Gavazzi, Chief Architect
 Kathy Connor, Parks Supervisor
 Ernest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
 Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant
 Lisa Edmondson, Recording Clerk

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 Mr. Shover, seconded by Ms. Cameron, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2003. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

FRPA Teen Conference - Presentation

Mr. Person introduced John Quinton, Recreation Programmer II, who is responsible for teen programming and took children to St. Petersburg to attend the FRPA Teen Conference. Mr. Quinton presented a video entitled "Teen Scene – On the Right Track" and advised the Board they provide year round activities and at the end of the year FRPA sponsors a trip within the State of Florida. Youth who were interested in applying for a summer job to assist with the recreational programs were invited to attend an employment seminar and then be considered for employment by the City. Approximately 50 youth attended the seminar and about 30 were hired to work with the summer food program and assisting with the summer camp. During the year they work with approximately 200 youth and are partners with the YMCA, Urban League and the Boys and Girls Club.

Dr. Hays inquired about the summer program and how it reaches out to the youth who are not in summer school and not receiving the meals offered during school. Mr. Shover advised there are five sites where the youth are fed during the summer. Mr. Person informed the Board there is a State subsidized food program and recipients need not be enrolled in the summer program to receive the food, however, the food must be consumed at the location where it is received and not taken out into the community. Mr. Person advised that all the recreation centers in the City, with the exception of Holiday Park, have the food service program that provides a lunch and afternoon snack. He added that this program has been in effect approximately 15-18 years with the City.

Mr. Persons advised the Board that Mr. Quinton does a great job for the City and recently obtained a \$90,000 Community Block Grant for the swimming, scuba and kayaking programs.

Parks Bond Semi-Annual Report - Update

Mr. Gavazzi informed the Board the Parks Bond Program is wrapping up and gave reports on the following parks:

- Bayview Park drawings are approximately 90 percent complete and they are currently waiting to attend a Board of Adjustment meeting on July 9, 2003.
- Carter Park Master Plan construction is in progress and they are looking at a December, 2003, opening date.
- Holiday Park Phase 2 roller hockey rinks, racquetball lighting courts and the fitness stations were completed in April, 2003, and are currently in use; the airplane at the northern end of the park has been refurbished and is waiting to be installed as soon as the base is completed.
- Lauderdale Manors Community Center construction is complete and the Grand Opening has been held.
- Palm Aire Village is complete and the Grand Opening was held April 12, 2003.
- Prospect Road ESL Site funding is being pursued for the nature trail and sign through Broward County's Bond Program.
- Riverland Park is in the design phase and there were issues for funding that are being worked out, and they are moving forward on this project.
- Riverside Park groundbreaking was held March 7, 2003; permitting issues have delayed

the project but have now been received; following a meeting June 26th with the contractor and engineer, they hope to have the construction started on Monday, June 30, 2003.

Mr. Gavazzi advised the Board that the total funds received to date for grant funding for bond projects is \$2,238,000 with the Riverland project receiving a major portion in the amount of \$1,500,000. The total expenditures and encumbrances are \$38,918,938.

Mr. Hoysgaard stated that some members of the Marine Advisory Board are upset with the landscaping on Riverwalk. Mr. Gavazzi advised he would look into this matter and indicated this may be regarding the area currently under construction.

Mr. Shover inquired as to whether the additional \$2.5 million above the \$36 million bond issue came from interest on the bond money or if it was leveraged. Mr. Person advised a major portion of the difference was from interest, and there were grants received.

Ms. Cameron inquired as to whether it is known what the County Bond funds will be used for in the parks. Mr. Person advised that with the exception of Riverland Park, he has not been involved with the County Parks Bond and cannot answer this question. Ms. Hays advised that on July 1, 2003, the County is going on the Open Space recommendations and following a letter writing campaign to the County Commission requesting support for projects in the City of Fort Lauderdale. The Land Preservation Board has endorsed approximately eight projects, and it is still possible to send further letters to the County Commission, which would be very useful.

Lone Sailor Statue - Discussion

Former Commissioner, John Aurelius introduced Jack Parks who is the National Director of the Navy League and on the Board of Directors of the local Navy League Council. Mr. Aurelius advised the Fort Lauderdale Council has appointed Mr. Parks to bring the Lone Sailor Statue to Fort Lauderdale and they are asking this Board for a recommendation to bring the statue to the City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Aurelius suggested using an area of Riverwalk near the Museum of Science that previously held a weathervane, and advised they are not requesting any funding, only a space for the statue. Mr. Aurelius mentioned the City of Fort Lauderdale, prior to the current situation, had over 40,000 sailors a year coming to this area and it is the number one liberty port in the United States and they feel it is right and fitting that the City recognize people in the Naval service. Mr. Aurelius presented the Board with a picture of what the area would look like when installed and advised there are statues of the same design in six other cities across the United States. Mr. Aurelius advised \$25,000 of funding has been committed, but in order to move forward with further funding, a location needs to be designated.

The Board discussed the location and plaques suggested for the statue and it was determined the City would maintain the statue and lighting.

Mr. Aurelius advised there have only been two issues mentioned regarding this project, one of which being the money for the original barometer as well as four other exhibits came from a PICO grant and there is no problem with this issue because the Museum of Discovery and Science says they spent the funds and will not maintain these items, therefore, they gave their endorsement to the Lone Sailor Statue. The other issue was that one person thought it would

look better on the south side of the river; however, the statue is only seven feet tall and it would be difficult to see. Mr. Aurelius advised the Riverwalk Board wants to have design guidelines prepared by the City, which Mr. Aurelius endorses, but in reality, it won't be done for a year or two and it has been in the mill for five years or more and has not gone anywhere. Mr. Aurelius said they feel this statue fits in with what exists and will set an example for the future guidelines.

Mr. Parks mentioned this statue is not a memorial, but churns the imagination because the Lone Sailor appears to be either going home, going the sea, is on leave, etc.

Mr. Aurelius stated they would like to have this statue ready for dedication next year on Memorial Day and it takes approximately six to eight months to have it cast. Mr. Parks mentioned another dedication date could be the Air and Sea Show next year.

Chair Rude suggested the Board break from protocol to make a decision at this meeting due to the summer scheduling of City Commission meetings.

Motion made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to forward a favorable recommendation to the City Commission. . In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.

Broward Urban River Trails - Update

Chair Rude explained the Broward Urban River Trails is a local nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization with goals to protect, preserve and enhance Broward County waterways. The City provides funding to this organization and they have been requested to make this presentation. Chair Rude made a slide presentation highlighting the Ann Murray Greenway Park, Delevoe Park, future plans for signage, and the U.S. 441 and Orange Drive Wheelabrator site. Chair Rude mentioned noted photographer, Clyde Butcher, will be in town next week and they believe he will do a montage of the south fork and the north fork during a boat tour. Chair Rude gave the Board handouts to look at and offered to take members on a boat tour.

Recreation and Parks Month Proclamation - Presentation

Dr. Hays mentioned she read that July is Recreation and Parks Month and put together a proclamation that was declared at the last City Commission meeting. Dr. Hays gave Mr. Persons a list of 50 ways to celebrate July to give them ideas to present next month. Dr. Hays also suggested press releases for summer programs.

Cancer Survivor Plaza - Update

Chair Rude advised this item is being postponed to next month.

Other Items of Interest

Chair Rude advised a number of members attended the last Safe Parks Bond Referendum and the Riverland Isles site has surfaced and has been put back on the top priority list. Chair Rude mentioned the City fared well in the review process. The County Commission will approve the sites on July 1, 2003, and Dr. Hays advised letters of support are important.

Chair Rude mentioned Starlight Musicals are starting again on Friday nights at Holiday Park.

Mr. Hoysgaard discussed the warning flag issue and mentioned the standards will take a couple more months to be completed. Additionally, Mr. Hoysgaard suggested someone get in touch with the County and have them contact the City in order to pass the information to the beach personnel to post the proper warnings. Chair Rude advised he spoke with friends and colleagues at Broward County Department of Planning and Environmental Protection and requested that the City of Fort Lauderdale be informed of elevated fecal coliform levels on the beach.

Mr. Hoysgaard advised that on April 4, 2003, U.S. Treasury Secretary John Snow was in town and the behest of the City Parks and Recreation Department, however, this Board was not invited to attend with the other guests.

Mr. Hoysgaard and Ms. Medalie mentioned Luis Palau's group should be contacted regarding the concrete sidewalk that is broken up and remains a hazard.

The Board discussed the colorful tugboat installed at Sunrise and A1A by City Park and Recreation as playground equipment and mentioned it would be nice to see more installed.

Mr. Melnicoff reminded staff they would like to receive an Air and Sea Show financial report. Mr. Person advised he will get the report.

Dr. Hays advised there was a decrease in shark attacks last year and passed out copies of an article regarding this issue.

The next meeting of this Board will be in July and there will be no meeting in August.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Handouts:

1. Computer rendering of The Lone Sailor Riverwalk, Fort Lauderdale
2. The Lone Sailor Riverwalk history and budget
3. "The Lone Sailor" U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation
4. Pamphlet – The New River Loop, Broward Urban River Trails
5. Pamphlet – Clean Boating Habits, Florida Department of Environmental Protection