

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8th Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, October 22, 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>
John Rude, Chair	P	10	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	10	0
Julie Cameron	A	7	3
Elizabeth Hays	P	10	0
Robert Hoysgaard	A	6	4
Joann Medalie	P	9	1
Robert Missal	P	6	4
Timothy Nast	P	3	7
Michael Natale	P	7	2
Rosalind Osgood	A	4	6
Randy Powers	A	6	4
Victoria Pristo-Revier	A	6	4
Leon Robinson	A	0	1
Joe Shover	P	9	1
Shirley Small	P	7	3

**Staff Present**

Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Tom Fogan, Beach Patrol  
Stu Marvin, Parks & Recreation  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Beth Roberts, Recording Clerk

**Call to Order**

Chair 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. Medalie, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2003. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.*

### **Election of Officers**

Chair Rude opened the floor for nominations for Chairperson. Mr. Shover nominated Mr. Rude. There were no further nominations from the floor.

*Motion made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to nominate Mr. Rude as Chairperson. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.*

Chair Rude opened the floor for nomination for Vice-Chairperson. Mr. Shover nominated Mr. Melnicoff for Vice-Chairperson. There were no further nominations from the floor.

*Motion made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to nominate Mr. Melnicoff as Vice-Chairperson. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.*

### **Recreation Program of the Month – First Serve and Tennis Welcome Program (Jimmy Evert Tennis Center)**

This item was postponed to the next regular meeting.

### **Easement Request for Northside School**

Mr. Gizzi introduced Jorge Gutierrez, consultant for the School Board responsible for the design of Northside School, and Dave Archer, Project Manager for the School Board, and informed the Board they would be making a presentation regarding the utilization of a portion of Warfield Park for the use of an emergency access easement for the school. Mr. Gutierrez advised the Board the portion of the park they used during construction has been restored to its original condition and thanked the Board for the use of the property. Mr. Gutierrez also informed the Board the streets that are temporarily closed in the area would be reopened in approximately six months after the portables have been removed. Mr. Gutierrez explained that at the completion of the project, inspectors for the School Board suggested obtaining a 30-foot easement on the park site adjacent to the school in order to maintain safe egress for the school campus should an emergency situation arise. Mr. Gutierrez added that as a part of the new construction, sprinklers have been installed on the new building and the existing historic building. Mr. Gutierrez informed the Board that additional lighting would not be affected by this easement.

Ms. Hays inquired about fencing between the school and the park, as well as the safety of the students while they are in the park. Mr. Gutierrez explained the gates have emergency egress to the park, and the school is currently using the park and teachers supervise the students.

Mr. Shover inquired about any potential conflicts with the requested easement and future improvements at the park. Mr. Thornburg explained that this easement would lock up the 30-foot wide easement area from any future improvements. He added that Legal and the City Commission would also be reviewing this easement.

Mr. Gutierrez informed the Board they have not thought of an alternative should this easement request be denied, and the only alternative he could think of was to create self-contained tunnels to route the students to N.E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street and Northeast 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Thornburg mentioned his concerns that this safety issue was not contemplated when the school was built and that the School Board is placing the burden on the City. Mr. Shover expressed his concerns for the safety of the children, however, there seems to be reluctance by the Parks and Recreation Department to relinquish the use of the park property. Mr. Gutierrez informed the Board the School Board is requesting this easement and the City granted a variance to the School Board to build the structures closer to the property line.

Mr. Gizzi explained the baseball field has been removed and replaced with a soccer field. The Board discussed the distances needed for the recreational activities.

Ms. Medalie explained the City has assisted the School Board in the past; however, when the City requests assistance from the School Board, they are slow to respond. Ms. Medalie expressed her concerns for the safety of the children.

Mr. Thornburg summed up the need to ascertain the consensus of the Board regarding this easement request and to carry the Board's wishes to the City Commission.

Ms. Hays expressed her concerns about the loss of park space. Further, she expressed disbelief that the School District was not aware of what they were up to regarding this matter. Ms. Hays advised she is not in favor of the request and suggested further investigation into the matter.

Mr. Nast inquired about the possibility of leasing the property to the School Board in exchange for lighting.

Ms. Medalie noted the Fire Department may not need an easement to get to the school through the park.

Mr. Gizzi explained that portables are no longer legally allowed in the parks. Mr. Melnicoff suggested that should the easement be granted, something should be given to the City in return.

### **Construction of Riverwalk Area on Southside of Esplanade**

Scott Strawbridge, Strawbridge, Inc., introduced Paul Rosen, Managing Partner of New River Development Partners. Mr. Rosen referred to a site plan as he explained the amenities of the Esplanade of New River project on the south side of the New River. Mr. Rosen noted they are approximately three months away from completion on the building and that as a part of the approval process with the City, there was a discussion to construct a Riverwalk along the New River that would mirror the Riverwalk on the north side of the river. This Riverwalk would be adjacent to the Marshall Bridge and they will be creating a stairway to the bridge. Mr. Rosen gave a brief, detailed overview of the amenities along the Riverwalk.

Mr. Strawbridge explained a situation regarding the Riverwalk project concerning the marine slips and day dockage and parking requirements. Mr. Strawbridge apprised the Board there is a stipulation that goes along with a grant the City obtained from Broward County that requires half of the dockage be dedicated to small boat day dockage. Mr. Strawbridge added that he could not find any parking requirements for small boat day dockage in the City Code. Mr. Strawbridge suggested the Board endorse small boat day dockage and the removal of the eight southernmost parking spaces adjacent to the roadway, thus creating a larger green area and visual linkage to

the other side of the river.

*Motion made by Ms. Natale, seconded by Mr. Shover, to approve the plan as-is with the recommendation for more day dockage and removal of the eight southernmost parking spaces. In a voice vote, all voted in favor of the motion.*

### **Beach Warning Flags**

Tom Fogan showed an example of the signage to be posted on the stations. Mr. Fogan informed the Board the Florida Department of Environmental Protection will be providing the flags and signs early next year after a proposed change is made to the flags by adding a double red warning flag that would designate extremely hazardous conditions. Mr. Melnicoff requested the City logo be placed on all the signs. Mr. Fogan asked the Board to present Mr. Hoysgaard with the sample sign.

### **Beach Patrol Reorganization**

Mr. Marvin informed the Board that as of October 1<sup>st</sup> the Beach Patrol organization and their corresponding budget moved to the Fire Department and Parks and Recreation no longer has oversight of the Beach Patrol Lifeguards; however, they still have oversight of the three concessionaires on the beach, as well as what takes place on the beach. The new name for the Beach Patrol is Ocean Rescue. Mr. Marvin explained that he and Mr. Burkeen urged the Beach Patrol move to the Fire Department in order to give them the resources that are afforded to them by the Fire Department.

Mr. Hays inquired into the possibility of additional funding from Homeland Security because they are watching the water. Mr. Marvin agreed with Ms. Hays and advised the Board the Fire Department would have to pursue this avenue. Mr. Marvin also informed the Board there will be some crossover training involved due to the Beach Patrol being acquired by the Fire Department.

### **Other Items of Interest**

**Riverland Groundbreaking Ceremony** – Chair Rude announced this ceremony will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Roller Hockey Grand Opening** – Chair Rude announced this ceremony will be held October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Gizzi briefed the Board regarding an issue with Fire Station No. 47 across from Riverland Park. During construction, they will be housing fire engines and staff at the southeast corner of Riverland Park where the garden plots are to be constructed. According to the contractor for the park, this will be the last portion of the park to be constructed and the temporary utilization of this portion of the park will not slow down the construction of the park. Ms. Hays stated she understands the approval was given for one year and there may be a need for a renewal of this temporary use because the Fire Station is still in the design phase. Mr. Gizzi informed the Board the design build firm for the Fire Station is Seawood Builders.

Mr. Natale spoke regarding the parcel of land at U.S. 441 and Riverland Road that the Board

suggested be purchased for Open Space. He found out this parcel has been sold twice, and expressed his concerns regarding the power of this Board. Mr. Thornburg agreed that the system failed regarding the purchase of this property. He further explained that due to the Sunshine Law, government is at a disadvantage regarding purchasing property and advised they worked hard on the acquisition of several parcels and were not successful. The Board and Mr. Thornburg discussed the issue of obtaining "willing seller" documentation. Ms. Hays suggested the citizens need to fight the owners of the Riverland Isles parcel should they decide to develop or sell the property.

Ms. Hays mentioned the School Board increased the price of Southside School and they want an easement from the City at Northside School. She questioned the equity of the deals.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

**Handouts:**

1. Letter dated September 17, 2003, to Vince Gizzi from Jorge A. Gutierrez, A.I.A.
2. Park/School Site Plan, dated 10-22-2003, Multipurpose and Classrooms Northside Elementary School
3. Brochure for 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fort Lauderdale Sound Advice Blues Festival