

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8th Floor Conference Room**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2004**

<b><u>BOARD MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT/PRESENT</u></b>	<b><u>Cumulative from 10/02/03</u></b>	
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
John Rude, Chair	P	3	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Julie Cameron	A	1	2
Elizabeth Hays	P	2	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	2	1
Joann Medalie	P	3	0
Robert Missal	A	2	1
Timothy Nast	P	2	1
Michael Natale	A	2	1
Rosalind Osgood	A	0	3
Randy Powers	P	2	1
Victoria Pristo-Revier	A	0	3
Joe Shover	P	3	0
Shirley Small	P	3	0
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	1	0

**Guests**

Tom Andrew, Riverside Park Residents' Assn., Vice President  
 Dave Marshall, Riverside Park Residents' Assn., President

**Staff Present**

Mayor Jim Naugle (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)  
 Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent  
 Sue McAllister, Community Programs Supervisor  
 Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
 Tom Fogan, Ocean Rescue Captain  
 Darlene Pfeiffer, City Parking Division  
 Lori Dimeolo, Administrative Assistant  
 Debbie Vallier, Secretary  
 Lisa Edmondson, 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 Mr. Hosgaard, to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2004 meeting, with corrections as noted. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Mr. Shover mentioned the fact that the agenda did not indicate whether an issue would be a voting or non-voting matter. Mr. Thornburg stated, and subsequent discussions with City staff confirmed, that if an item is agendaized as a voting issue, it limits the action the Board can take. He suggested that information be omitted allowing the Board broader range of action on issues brought before them.

### **1. Welcome New Board Member (Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.)**

Chair Rude introduced Mr. DeGraffenreidt as a new member of the Board. Mr. DeGraffenreidt provided a brief history of his involvement in the community and his current interests and goals.

### **2. Recreation Program of the Month (Recreation Grants)**

Community Program Supervisor, Sue McAllister provided a handout to the Board outlining Grant Applications and Awards from June 1, 2002 to the present in the Recreation Division, which contained an overview of the program, funding source, grant funds received, use of funds, and total affected participants. Ms. McAllister stated that the Parks Department does not have grant writers on staff. She said she supervises the program-related grants and as the department seeks out grants, they pool resources in writing the grants themselves.

Vice Chair Melnicoff inquired regarding matching grants from the City and was advised by Ms. McAllister that the County and State grants require a 12.5% administrative match showing monies input toward program supervision, although each grant varies in its requirements. Vice Chair Melnicoff asked if there had been grants that could not be obtained due to the unavailability of City matching funds. Ms. McAllister stated cash matches are more difficult; however, many agencies allow an in-kind match, such as bus use, employee staffing, etc.

Mr. Shover complimented the Parks Department on their efforts.

### **3. Recommend to Change Name of Riverside Park Community Center**

Parks Superintendent, Phil Thornburg presented this item to the Board, outlining Commission guidelines for these types of requests.

Riverside Park Residents Association President, Mr. Dave Marshall addressed the Board

providing a history of the individuals, Charles and Irene Radford, whom they wish to name the pavilion after. He requested that an exception be made in this case as a tribute to the Radford's due to their efforts in the community.

Mr. Shover inquired regarding the number of City facilities named after living people. Mr. Thornburg advised that there were 10 or 15 such instances and although the Board could take no action, it was part of the process to bring these requests before the Board.

Several of the Board Members encouraged taking this request to the City Commission. Mr. Gizzi advised that it would be on the City Commission's conference agenda for March 2nd, and would then be on the consent agenda for that evening's City Commission meeting.

The Board, by consensus, encouraged Mr. Marshall and Riverside Park Residents Association Vice President, Tom Andrew to take their request forward to the City Commission.

#### **4. Update on Beach Issues**

Mr. Hoysgaard stated that, emanating from his July 17<sup>th</sup> letter regarding the South Beach issues, he wished to bring up several matters, including fiber optics, cracks in the sidewalk, beach signage, trees, lifeguard stations, warning flags, the Air & Sea Show, and South Beach parking.

With regard to the warning flags, Mr. Hoysgaard stated that there will be a lifeguard safety meeting in Australia and at that time final certification on five international safety flags will be given. Ocean Rescue Captain, Mr. Tom Fogan advised it was his belief that meeting had taken place last week and he was attempting to ascertain the results. Mr. Fogan stated that free flags had been offered to municipalities and the City had requested a set of flags and signs for every lifeguard station.

As to parking on South Beach, Mr. Hoysgaard indicated that City residents could not get to the best parking available or to the picnic tables, which are apparently being reserved and then resold. He noted that Mr. Bentley had suggested picnic table permits. Mr. Hoysgaard felt that the Board should send the City Commission a message that 1) the City is looking for additional sources of funds, and 2) at any given time 60% of the people using the lots come from outside the County due to the inexpensive parking at South Beach. He felt that parking fees should be raised from the current \$6 rate to at least \$20. He also indicated that there is abuse of handicap spaces.

Ms. Darlene Pfeiffer, City Parking Division, agreed with the Board's recommendation to raise the parking fees. She indicated that several times they had approached the City Commission asking for an increase in parking rates and have been unsuccessful, as it was the City Commission's observation that hotel, nightclub, and charter patrons also use the parking lots. She suggested that either individually or as a Board they address the Commissioners using whatever leverage they can to get the entire City Commission's support. Ms. Pfeiffer stated that a previous parking study had recommended there be no change in the rate at South Beach. There are approximately 500 spaces generating gross revenues of \$500,000 to \$600,000 per year. Vice

Chair Melnicoff suggested metering the lot. Ms. Pfeiffer stated there is a plan for metering when the area is reengineered for traffic purposes; however, that is not anticipated until 2005/2006.

Vice Chair Melnicoff was astounded that the City was not tapping into such a viable and lucrative source of income. Mr. Hoysgaard stressed that the parking lot had been built for the express purpose of servicing South Beach and the first choice should be for use by the residents, stating that others should be discouraged from parking in the lot. Ms. Pfeiffer responded that the lot is for the public and the City cannot restrict who parks in it. Mr. Hoysgaard felt there was a threshold where people from outside the county would stop coming due to the inviting parking rates. However, Dr. Hays pointed out that County money is used for beach re-nourishment and County residents should have beach access. Vice Chair Melnicoff suggested doing a telephone survey of other Broward County cities' 24-hour parking rates.

***Motion** made by Mr. Hoysgaard, seconded by Ms. Medalie, for the Board to recommend to the City Commission a substantial rate increase for nonresidential parking at South Beach. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Dr. Hays suggested that the handicapped parking issue should be on a future agenda.

Ms. Medalie pointed out a problem with signage at South Beach stating that it is not maintained and out of control, and that she had sent pictures three or four months ago to the Commissioners, the City Manager, and Parks & Recreation with no response. She contended that signs are worn and deteriorating and there is an excess of signage cluttering the landscape. Vice Chair Melnicoff agreed, asking who was responsible for sign maintenance. Mr. Thornburg stated there are City, County, and State signs, the maintenance which is the responsibility of each entity. Chair Rude concurred that this was "visual pollution." Ms. Medalie pointed out that the beach itself is well maintained and clean, inquiring why the employees who work along the beach do not address broken and deteriorated signage. Mr. Thornburg indicated this is the first time this issue had been brought to his attention and agreed to report on this issue at the next meeting.

Ms. Medalie asked that the tubing for the fiber optic lighting be removed.

## **5. Park Development Report**

Special Facilities Superintendent, Vince Gizzi reported that the 1996 parks bond is winding down including completion of 36 projects and the purchase of seven parcels. He stated it had been a \$35 million bond which, after leveraging funds, obtaining grants, and outflow of reserves, allowed for total expenditures of approximately \$50 million.

- Bayview Park – Bond monies along with a \$500,000 challenge grant have provided \$800,000 for improvements. The plans are in the building department for review and will then go out to bid.
- Carter Park – The construction has been interrupted as the contractor walked off the job. This matter is now in the hands of the bonding company responsible for making sure the project is finished. They are looking into either bringing in a new construction firm or a

project manager to work with the existing subcontractors. It is hoped that by March or April the City Commission will be in a position to approve a new project manager or construction firm. They are working on obtaining a \$400,000 grant to implement computer programs in the recreation center. Flooring, lighting, doors, and windows are being replaced.

- Holiday Park – There was a grand opening for the roller hockey rinks in October and 40 parking spaces have been added. An award has been given for the airplane pedestal, and the airplane should be back up by Memorial Day.
- Riverland Park – The contractor has a clearing permit; trees have been relocated and removed. There will be a new recreation center, swimming pool, multipurpose field, lighting, playground equipment, pathways for bicycling and rollerblading, and pavilion. There is an application for a grant, hopefully enabling the building of a water playground.
- Riverside Park – The park is 85-90% complete; there is still interior work to be done. Parking alternatives are being discussed, pending anticipated installation of sewers in two years. Grand opening will be on April 17, 2004.
- Tree planting goals have been reached.
- George English Ball Field and Tennis Center – The School Board is responsible for building the ball field as part of a previous arrangement allowing portables on the site. A pre-construction meeting had been held in October or November of 2003; however, there have been delays due to DPEP and building requirements. The land has been cleared and irrigation work done. It is expected this project will move forward in the next month. Permitting is being closely followed. The Tennis Center building has been demolished. Plans are close to being submitted to the building department; the bid should go out in April or May 2004.
- Bass Park – A \$175,000 playground with a rubberized surface and state-of-the-art equipment is about 80% complete. No grants were used for this project.

Mr. Gizzi indicated that ADA rules require available access to the playground and equipment, determining the type of ground surface used.

With regard to the George English Park project, Ms. Medalie stressed that there has been non-use of the park for three and one-half years due to School Board delays. Mr. Gizzi stated there is a contractor ready to move on the project. Mr. Hoysgaard suggested penalizing the School Board for delays; however, Mr. Gizzi explained that the difficulty was in getting the School Board to agree to the penalties. Mr. Gizzi mentioned that he is on the phone with the School Board every day to get the project moving forward.

Dr. Hays inquired regarding Riverland Park and was advised that the southeast corner of the park would be used to temporarily house firefighters and equipment. She also asked regarding the FRDAP grant. Ms. Dimeolo responded that the grant had been applied for in September and they were awaiting ranking results. If this grant is obtained, Ms. Dimeolo will be applying for a phase 2 grant to cover playground expenses. Dr. Hayes also brought up tree planting and was advised by Mr. Gizzi that tree planting in the City was ongoing, but not under that particular program; funds are now being used from the City's Tree Fund.

*Motion made by Mr. Hoysgaard, seconded by Mr. Nast, to approve the Parks Bond Status Report. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

Dr. Hays also inquired about audits and over billing in the Parks Department reported by the newspaper. Dr. Hays questioned the comments regarding "overtime spending," the possibility of an audit of Riverside Park as RDC is involved with that project also, and further asking who would be writing the "business ethics policy."

Mr. Thornburg responded that the overtime audit had been conducted as a result of budgeting cycles. He suggested placing the audit on the Board's next agenda for further discussion. He advised that the city auditor is auditing all work done by RDC on City projects.

Mr. Thornburg was unaware of who would be doing a business ethics policy and whom it would affect. Dr. Hays asked that he obtain further information in that regard.

## **6. Cancer Survivor Plaza**

Administrative Assistant, Lori Dimeolo reported that the site plan for Cancer Survivor Plaza was approved, providing artist renderings of several elements in the park. The drawings have received Mr. Block's approval with the exception of moving a statue closer to Federal Highway. Cost estimates are now being prepared and should be received within the next week. Ms. Dimeolo met with the City Architect two weeks ago to proceed with the vacation of a small roadway going through the property. Mr. Block will provide \$750,000 for basic park amenities while the art features will need to be publicly funded through cultural arts grant money. Ms. Dimeolo stated it would be a challenge to obtain an agreement from Mr. Block to extend the completion date from the one-year deadline he has requested. She indicated that they hope to form a group called "Friends of Cancer Survivor's Park," for fundraising, along with the People for Parks fund. Ms. Medalie pointed out that the City would have to look to match Mr. Block's contribution.

Ms. Dimeolo advised that although Mr. Block would be contributing approximately \$1 million, this would not be enough to cover the project, as the City would like to see it done. At this point, they are awaiting cost estimates, which will be brought before the Board and then to the City Commission for approval.

Dr. Hays spoke about the lack of trees and was advised that there were additional existing trees not reflected in the drawings. A row of palm trees will also be planted.

## **Other Items of Interest**

Vice Chair Melnicoff asked if the City Commission would be discussing the Air & Sea Show. Mr. Thornburg reported they are working out the figures and contract with the promoter, with this item scheduled on the City Commission agenda for Tuesday's conference meeting.

Vice Chair Melnicoff expressed his disappointment in the City's priorities in giving funds to the promoter for the Air & Sea Show while 20 employees in the Parks Department have been laid off. Ms. Medalie pointed out that at the Board's January meeting it had been stated that the City was working with Air & Sea Show promoters and would be bringing the plan for the 2004 show directly to the City Commission, bypassing the Board. Vice Chair Melnicoff emphasized that the show is a great promotion for the City when the City is in a stable financial situation, but at this time priority should be given to the employees. He also stated it would be a good idea for the promoter to put money back into the beach in the form of lifeguard towers, etc., and "give back to the community rather than take."

Vice Chair Melnicoff asked about impact fees and was advised by Mr. Thornburg that monies are only received when platting is done; however, the City is considering changing the ordinance and implementing development fees.

Dr. Hays asked about the Northside School easement. Mr. Gizzi explained that the problem had been due to a firewall and emergency vehicle access. He was not sure of the status of this matter at this time. Dr. Hays suggested the City monitor the situation before they "sneak their easement in." Mr. Gizzi offered to report on this item at the next meeting.

Dr. Hays brought up the subject of open space. Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that the County had started accepting applications March 1<sup>st</sup> which would then go to the open space advisory board and the County Commission, although Phase 6 has "hit a snag" in that the County Commission has requested additional information and back-up showing allocations in each of the County's Commission Districts and individual cities. Mr. Thornburg will keep the Board advised.

Ms. Medalie mentioned the cutback on hours of operation at the Swimming Hall of Fame, stating it was shortsighted solution to the City's financial problems and that the Board should have been consulted on their thoughts in that regard. Mr. Thornburg stated that Mr. Stu Marvin would be at the next Board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

**Handouts:**

1. Grant Applications and Awards 6/1/02 – Present.
2. Letter from Dave Marshall, Riverside Park Residents' Association, to Director Ernest Burkeen dated 1/22/04 re: Naming of Riverside Park Pavilion, with City Ordinance II-22, Naming of City Parks, Recreation Areas and Facilities.
3. 11/26/03 memo from Bob Hoysgaard.
4. 7/17/03 letter from Bob Hoysgaard to Mayor Naugle re: South Beach Access for City Residents.
5. February 2004 Parks Bond Status Report.
6. Architectural drawings (2) Cancer Survivors Park in Holiday Park.