

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, May 26, 2004

<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u>	<u>ABSENT/PRESENT</u>	<u>Cumulative from 10/02/03</u>	
		<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
John Rude, Chair	P	6	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	P	6	0
Julie Cameron	P	4	2
Elizabeth Hays	P	5	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	5	1
Joann Medalie	P	6	0
Robert Missal	A	3	3
Timothy Nast	P	5	1
Michael Natale	P	5	1
Victoria Pristo-Revier	A	2	4
Joe Shover	P	6	0
Shirley Small	A	4	2
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	A	3	1

Guests

Steve Tilbrook
Nathaniel Wilkerson
Scott Strawbridge

Staff Present

Mayor Jim Naugle
Commissioner Carlton Moore
Ernest Burkeen, Parks & Recreation Director
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent
Phil Thornburg, Parks Superintendent
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent
Michael Fayyaz, Engineering Design Manager
Michael Fay, Landscape Architect
Doug Gottshall, Parking Division Manager
Ernest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
Barbara Barber, Recreation Program Coordinator
Shay Roundtree, Recreation Programmer II
Stu Marvin, Aquatic Complex Manager
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant

Lisa Edmondson, Recording Clerk

Call to Order

Chair John Rude called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

1. Recreation Program of the Month (7th Annual Teen Career Fair)

Ms. Barber and Ms. Roundtree gave a presentation regarding the Career Fair stating that it started 7-1/2 years ago as a plan to bridge the gap between teens and the business community.

The Career Fair was held at the Mizel Center and has evolved from simply a job fair to include educating teens on career choices and achieving their goals, as well as providing information on college assistance and financial aid. Career Fair Partners have included the US Coast Guard, US Army, US Marines, Nova Southeastern University, ITT Tech, Sears, McDonalds, and Winn Dixie – all of whom provide on-site job interviews and hiring. Follow-ups are conducted to see how previous Career Fair participants have progressed.

2. Fundraising Proposal for Air and Sea Show

Commissioner Moore gave a presentation on his proposal to generate income for the Air & Sea Show. He stated he had gotten the idea while attending Louisville's "Thunder," a similar type of event held yearly in Kentucky. Special event commemorative pins are sold to pay for the event.

Commission Moore stressed that in addition to providing revenue, the pins are an opportunity for the participants to interact with each other, creating a very friendly community atmosphere.

Five pins are sold; one of which is a metal pin that when purchased enters the participant in a drawing for a Cadillac, as well as providing privileges such as access to special areas of the event. Two million dollars had been raised solely through the sale of the pins.

Commissioner Moore felt that a key element in the success of this type of fundraising is determining who will control the money. He stated a pin manufacturer who creates pins for the Olympics had contacted him. This manufacturer plans to create prototypes of five pins for use in a presentation to the City Commission at the June meeting. It has been suggested that the pin maker would pay for the pins, returning fifty cents to the City for each pin sold. The difference in this case would be the City would write a check to the promoter providing more control over accounting of the proceeds through an internal audit.

Commissioner Moore felt strongly that no one feel that tax dollars are being used to finance special events and that any funds now being used should be directed to pay for City programs.

Commissioner Moore advised that the City Commission is split on this idea and encouraged the Board Members to contact their Commissioners to further promote the proposal and encourage their cooperation. He stressed the following advantages of this plan:

- Continuation of special events in the City
- No use of tax dollars
- “Public” ownership of the event
- Voluntary participation of persons attending
- Interaction and community spirit between attendees

Mr. Shover indicated he was in favor of the idea, but would like the opportunity to hear the other Commissioners’ opposing views.

Approval of Minutes

As a quorum was now present, Mr. Shover made a motion to approve the minutes of the April Board meeting, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, with the following correction:

2. Update on South Florida Motocross Proposal at Mills Pond Park

*Motion made by Dr. Hayes, seconded by Mr. Shover, to recommend approval of a motocross facility in Mills Pond Park, with the stipulation that a report be made to the Board and the City Commission at the end of the one year trial which will include input from City and Wilton Manors residents. In a roll call vote as follows, the motion passed 9-2: Mr. DeGraffrenreidt, yes; Mr. Shover, yes; Ms. Pristo-Revier, yes; Mr. Natale, yes; Mr. Nast, yes; Ms. Medalie, no; Mr. Hoysgaard, yes; Dr. Hays, yes; Ms. Cameron, yes; Vice Chair Melnicoff, yes; Chair Rude, **no**.*

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Beachside Parking Rates Survey Results

Parking Division Manager, Doug Gottshall provided a copy of the South Florida Beachside Parking Survey taken as of May 24, 2004.

There was discussion regarding the City’s fee structure for the parking lot, with Mr. Gottshall stating that the majority of the income from the lot goes to the City’s general fund. Ms. Cameron suggested that a “test run” of higher fees be conducted; however, Mr. Gottshall pointed out that that would have to be a City Commission decision. Mr. Hoysgaard wanted to ensure that the

residents are “being taken care of,” but at the same time felt that rates should be increased for non-residents.

***Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Natale, recommending that the City Commission charge \$20.00 for nonresident parking at the South Beach lot and, in addition, send a resolution to the Budget Advisory Board asking that they review the proposed increase and act upon it, if it meets with their approval. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

4. Approval of Conceptual Design of Park on Southside of Riverwalk

Landscape Architect, Mike Faye gave a presentation to the Board outlining their proposal for improvements to the park on the southeast section of Riverwalk, which included:

- Utilizing the street area one-way solely for emergency vehicles or boat permit parking with an adjacent pedestrian walkway
- Include the area adjacent to the County Courthouse where the sculptures are located as part of the Riverwalk area
- Obtaining a \$1 million grant from the County

Several of the Board Members expressed concern regarding the lack of boat-tie ups, day dockage space, restricting vessel size, and public versus commercial dockage space.

Mr. Natale felt that dockage stations should be removed to allow more public parking for small boats. Mr. Strawbridge and Mr. Tilbrook agreed there needs to be a policy regarding recreational use and small boat dockage. They provided a copy of an e-mail to the Board expressing their concerns regarding the City’s proposal, asking that additional public input be obtained before finalizing plans.

It was pointed out that there could be further discussion regarding the final layout of the park, however, in order to obtain the grant, it would be necessary for the Board to approve the plans in concept.

***Motion** made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Dr. Hays, to approve the conceptual design as proposed by the City. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 6-3, as follows: Chair Rude, yes; Vice Chair Melnicoff, yes; Ms. Cameron, yes; Dr. Hays, no; Mr. Hoysgaard, yes; Ms. Medalie, no; Mr. Nast, yes; Mr. Natale, no; Mr. Shover, yes.*

Mr. Strawbridge presented a Riverwalk brick to Mr. Burkeen in recognition of his achievements on behalf of the City.

5. Department Budget Update

Mr. Burkeen provided a handout to the Board outlining major issues in the City's current budget, next year's budget, and additional services requested from the Parks & Recreation Department, pointing out that they have requested \$28 million this year, with additional services accounting for \$1 million. He stressed the necessity of the City having a Master Plan for their Parks & Recreation Department and expressed the hope that the Board would continue to work towards that goal. He stated he had not yet been notified regarding the status of the budget request.

Mr. Hoysgaard inquired regarding accreditation and was told by Mr. Burkeen that had been put on hold due to loss of department manpower (11 vacancies). Mr. Burkeen stated it was possible there could be a further drop in the number of department employees next year due to budget constraints. He added that the summer recreation program was cut from eight to six weeks, although there will still be a focus on safety training.

6. Cajun Festival and Air/Sea Show Updates

Mr. Thornburg reported that out-of-pocket expenses for the City were \$62,000 for the Air & Sea Show. The City is working to finalize a multi-year contract with the promoter to make the event "revenue neutral" beginning next year.

Other Items of Interest

Mr. Nast expressed concern regarding Park Ranger cutbacks and the parks not being monitored until after 4:00 p.m.

Ms. Irizarry-Binon reported that the wings had been placed on the airplane at Holiday Park earlier in the day and the plane would be hoisted into position the following day. The dedication will be in November on Veterans Day.

Dr. Hays inquired regarding Riverland Park and was advised by Ms. Irizarry-Binon that permits had been issued.

Dr. Hays also mentioned the color scheme contrast between the new Riverland Park building and Fire Station 47. Mr. Gizzi stated he was unaware of a problem, but would get with Alan Gavazzi, the City's architect.

Ms. Medalie reported that the Holiday Park team won the baseball tournament, adding that the fields were well maintained and looked beautiful.

Mr. Natale provided an update on the property purchase from the County's discretionary fund.

Mr. Burkeen stated that the new City Manager would appointment or hire a new Parks and Recreation Director.

Chair Rude asked that the bike lanes at Holiday Park be re-striped.

Mr. Gizzi reported that there is a new project manager for Carter Park and construction is again commencing.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.