

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8th Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, June 23, 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	7	0
John Melnicoff, Vice Chair	A	6	1
Julie Cameron	P	5	2
Elizabeth Hays	P	6	1
Robert Hoysgaard	A	5	2
Joann Medalie	A	6	1
Robert Missal	A	3	4
Timothy Nast	A	5	2
Michael Natale	P	6	1
Victoria Pristo-Revier	P	3	4
Joe Shover	P	7	0
Shirley Small	P	5	2
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	4	1

**Guests**

Jaime Guerin  
Eric Hoyt  
Jim LaBate  
Dick Wynn

**Staff Present**

Phil Thornburg, Acting Parks & Recreation Director  
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
Ernest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Lisa Edmondson, Recording Clerk

**Call to Order**

Chair John Rude called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

*Motion made by Ms. Pristo-Revier, seconded by Ms. Cameron, to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2004 meeting with the following change: Under item #3, motion made by Mr. Hoysgaard. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

### **1. Recreation Program of the Month East Broward United Soccer Club**

Mr. Guerin gave a presentation to the Board regarding the East Broward United Soccer Club including the following:

- Founding principles
- Mission
- League affiliations
- Growth and accomplishments
- Enrollment
- Fundraisers
- Future plans

He emphasized the team's need for a permanent home field located east of I-95, as they have been moved from field to field and are now in a location west of I-95 which has caused several team members to drop out due to travel constraints.

Mr. Person addressed Mr. Guerin's request indicating that the City currently does not have enough ball fields, adding that this is an issue which should be looked at by the Board for future recommendations. He stated that funds should be found to work with the School Board to put lights on "every available piece of property," although Dr. Hays cautioned regarding the potential problem of neighborhood opposition to lighting at night.

Mr. Person added that funding was needed to improve existing fields such as at Croissant Park. He stated that Mills Pond Park was a viable option for the soccer team; however, that site is currently being used by the football program until Carter Park is reopened. He stressed the necessity of focusing on the larger problem of needing more fields for the City's sports activities.

*Motion made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Shover, to recommend that the addition of sports fields be considered when the Parks & Recreation Master Plan is being developed. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.*

### **2. Mills Pond Park Motocross Proposal Update**

Mr. Gizzi reported that due to additional sound tests conducted at the request of the City of Wilton Manors, Mills Pond would not be hosting the motocross park, and other areas were being considered. He stated that Mr. Scalzo met with the Orioles organization arranging for a portion

of the event site near Fort Lauderdale Stadium to be used for motocross. Dr. Hays and Mr. Shover both spoke in favor of this arrangement stating that the location was perfect in that there were no nearby residential areas to be affected by the noise. Chair Rude commended Mr. Gizzi for his assistance in “brokering the deal.”

### **3. Air and Sea Show Update**

Mr. Thornburg reported that the City Commission was in the process of working out a stipulation with the promoter as follows:

- A contribution of \$100,000 from the “Save our Air & Sea Show Committee” toward expenses.
- The City will not be setting up the barricades.
- Skilled trade City employees will not be used during the event.

Mr. Thornburg stated the deadline for signing the agreement was July 1<sup>st</sup>, after which time a new contract would be drawn up. It is anticipated that the City’s out-of-pocket costs would be reduced to approximately \$30,000 for providing in-kind services.

### **4. Zero Based Budget Update**

Mr. Thornburg provided a breakdown of the Parks & Recreation budget by division, service provided, facility, and projects, stating that their bottom line proposed budget was \$27 million for the upcoming year. Last year’s requested budget had been \$30 million. Mr. Thornburg was not sure if there would be staff reductions, although the department is heading towards additional downsizing, outsourcing, and program elimination. The department currently outsources several jobs including maintenance, mowing, and restroom cleaning, especially on the beach, although Mr. Thornburg did point out that they do have to oversee the quality of the work provided by outside contractors. Dr. Hays noted improvement was needed in the maintenance of park facilities. Mr. Shover suggested that raising taxes would be a better alternative than cutting services.

Mr. Thornburg pointed out that due to the City’s budget crisis, Parks & Recreation would not be high on the list of funding priorities. He suggested that the Board Members continue to communicate with and encourage the City Commission to adequately fund Parks & Recreation.

### **5. City Park Forum (Community Revitalization)**

Mr. Thornburg provided a printout of information from a website he felt would be of interest to the Board from the American Planning Association.

### **Other Items of Interest**

Dr. Hays reported on the City's Volunteer Corp's plans to clean up the South Side School site, asking for additional volunteers.

Dr. Hays also inquired regarding the County's Open Space Program, and was advised by Mr. Thornburg that the program is currently on hold due to the County Commission having requested an equity report.

Chair Rude stated they are trying to obtain the former Denison Marine site as a natural preserve, asking that the Board contact County Commissioner Rodstrom in that regard.

Mr. Thornburg stated there are currently no confirmed plans for the South Side School site or relocation of the Parks and Recreation Department to that site.

Mr. Natale applauded the efforts of Comcast Cable and a local law firm in picking up the cost of the fireworks display for the City.

Chair Rude provided an update on the Chula Vista property stating that there had been a community gathering at the site with County Commissioner Rodstrom and City Commissioner Hutchinson. He added that the area has a very active civic association, which will be putting together a wish list of amenities for the park.

Ms. Edmondson offered to provide information regarding opportunities for fundraising during NASCAR events.

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