

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, April 27, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Cumulative from 10/04	
		<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
John Rude, Chair	A	3	2
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Agnes Burrows	A	1	4
Mark Hartman	P	3	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	5	0
Robert Hoysgaard	A	3	2
Jim LaBate	A	3	2
David McNulty	A	1	2
Timothy Nast	P	3	2
Michael Natale	P	5	0
Victoria Revier	A	2	3
Joe Shover	P	5	0
Shirley Small	P	3	2
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	3	2

Staff Present

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent
Sue McAllister, Recreation Program Supervisor
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
David Deal, Recreation Program Coordinator
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant

Jamie Opperlee, Recording Clerk

Guests

Mike Bush

Call to Order

In the absence of Chair Rude, Vice Chair Medalie acted as Chair.

Chair Medalie 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. Natale, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2005 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

1. Recreation Program of the Month

Steve Person

(Bass Park Swim Team Trip to Washington, DC)

Recreation Program Coordinator, David Deal explained that the Bass Park Swim Team had its origins in the Learn to Swim Program. The kids are recruited from the area for the competitive program and performed extremely well on the trip to Washington. In the individual races, each child had attained his or her personal best times, while team mate John Floyd set a record. The team set a meet record, and the girls relay team had won a silver medal.

During their spare time, the team had visited a few of the historic sites in Washington, such as the Holocaust Museum and the Frederick Douglas Historical Museum. Mr. Deal showed a brief video of their trip.

Mr. Deal noted that currently enrollment is at approximately 25 children, but as the weather warms up enrollment will probably reach 45. Mr. Deal stated that the Community Development Grant covered 90% of the trip to Washington. There is another meet in Charlotte, North Carolina at the end of May which will be grant funded as well.

Mr. Hartman asked Mr. Deal to explain the Youth Enrichment Scholarship Program (YES). Mr. Deal explained that Swim Central is an ad hoc committee that finds funding for kids to receive swimming lessons at no cost. Fort Lauderdale has sponsored the YES program in order to provide reduced rates eligible children in all of the City's athletic programs. The criterion for eligibility is based on enrollment in the free or assisted lunch program.

2. Proposal to reduce/eliminate tobacco product litter

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg reminded the Board of Mr. Moran's visit a few months ago regarding this issue and distributed copies of several California ordinances requested by Mr. Moran, which mainly concerned prohibiting all smoking on the beach, rather than preventing and controlling litter.

Mr. Mike Bush, a colleague of Mr. Moran, explained that they wanted the City to consider tobacco products as litter and wanted the police to enforce the littering ordinance in this regard. If need be, he and Mr. Moran wanted the ordinance amended to specifically name tobacco products as litter.

Mr. Natale recalled that the State of Florida Ordinance already named tobacco products as litter and Ranger Supervisor Earnest Jones confirmed that it did. Mr. Thornburg stated that since tobacco products are defined as litter in the state's litter law and these laws are enforceable; it really was a matter of police priorities. Mr. Thornburg noted that the "butt bags" and signs encouraging proper disposal of litter are ready for distribution on the beach. Mr. Natale felt they should concentrate efforts on education and Chair Medalie agreed.

Motion made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Natale, to recommend to the City Commission that the City address and find funding for education and enforcement of the litter ordinance regarding tobacco products in the entire city and especially on the beach. In a voice vote, the motion passed 7 – 1 with Mr. Shover opposed.

3. A1A/Barrier Island Greenway Master Plan Update

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg explained that this master plan was designed to enable one to walk or ride a bike from Deerfield to Hallandale Beach entirely on a greenway system. The plan develops linkage of the barrier islands from Palm Beach County to Miami Dade County. Mr. Thornburg stated that he was unsure whether there was final approval on any portion of the proposal, but will find out and report to the board. Chair Medalie asked if there was County funding this project. Mr. Thornburg replied that there was little funding, but as streetscapes were completed, this plan would be incorporated into the design.

4. Request to Place Plaque in Civic Peoples Park

Michael Natale

(Jack Washburn)

Mr. Thornburg explained that Civic Peoples Park, located on Riverland Road, was developed to recognize prominent civic activists and volunteers.

Mr. Natale explained that Mr. Washburn was very active with the Southwest Coalition and they felt he was deserving of a plaque for his community involvement. Dr. Hays concurred and added that Mr. Washburn had been elected to the Broward County Senior Hall of Fame. Ms. Small, a member of the Southwest Coalition, also endorsed installing a plaque for Mr. Washburn.

Motion made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Dr. Hays, to approve the placement of a plaque in Civic Peoples Park to honor Mr. Jack Washburn. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. NRPA "Step Up to Health" Program

Mark Hartman

Mr. Hartman distributed a packet of information from the National Recreation and Park Association and gave a Power point presentation explaining the "Step Up to Health" program. In his presentation, Mr. Hartman explained the problems caused by the

growing obesity epidemic in the United States and the role that public parks and recreation should play in encouraging a healthier lifestyle starting with young children.

Mr. Hartman provided statistics about obesity in the U.S. and the health and economic burdens this epidemic is causing. He was particularly concerned about youth and helping them to develop healthier habits as early as possible. Mr. Hartman stressed the adults' responsibility to give kids incentives to be physically active and to make the activities fun.

Mr. Hartman outlined the responsibilities of Parks and Recreation:

- Provide access to parks and recreation facilities
- Facilitate opportunities to participate in active recreation
- Provide leadership to mobilize initiatives
- Inform and educate the public about healthy lifestyle choices

Mr. Hartman described the unique assets of Parks and Recreation:

- The ability to mobilize the community
- Large infrastructure for physical activities
- Opportunity to educate the public
- Ability to implement new policies

Mr. Hartman then displayed examples of posters in use by the NRPA to encourage a healthier lifestyle. These had been printed up with the NRPA's legislative platform and distributed to Florida legislators. Mr. Hartman pointed out that parks and recreation professionals understand the critical need for parks and recreation programs and should market them appropriately.

Mr. Hartman outlined the NRPA's goals for the 2005 Step Up to Health Summit:

- Partner with 500 leadership agencies to define and develop grass roots movements
- Engage national partnership resources
- Develop technical assistance material
- Document the good work already taking place
- Define research agendas to support health
- Obtain national visibility for the field
- Advance public policy and sustainability

Dr. Hays felt it was now an important responsibility of Parks and Rec to make up for some of the loss of physical activities in the schools.

Other Items of Interest

Park Ranger Supervisor, Earnest Jones confirmed that there are eight full-time Park Rangers. Mr. Shover was concerned about lights being left on at a couple of ball fields and felt more rangers should be patrolling and turning out field lights. Mr. Nash noted that there was a timer on the main field, but the smaller fields were occasionally left on at Floyd Hull Stadium. Ranger Supervisor Jones said they were considering a timer for those secondary fields. Mr. Thornburg encouraged the Board to tell people to phone the Park Rangers whenever lights were left on at a field.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt asked Mr. Thornburg about the heater for the Bass Park pool. Mr. Thornburg informed him that the heater had been ordered and according to the vendor, was in route.

Mr. Natale informed the Board that the Herman property closing had taken place. Mr. Thornburg said that the City had already taken control of the property. Mr. Natale noted that Riverland Woods County Park should open in July and would be turned over to the City shortly thereafter.

The Board then discussed the Riverland Isles parcel at 441 and Riverland Road. In 1996, the property was valued at \$275,000 and is currently valued at \$3 million. In order to purchase the property, the City is researching whether a portion of the land can be used for water storage. Dr. Hays stated that Joan Sheridan informed Southwest Coalition members that the property had been removed from the land preservation list. Mr. Thornburg thought it was off the "active" list, but did not think it had been moved off of the "pending" list.

Mr. Thornburg distributed a handout of Carter Park and introduced Ms. Terry Rynard, the new Parks and Recreation Department Assistant Director from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Mr. Nast asked Mr. Thornburg if this would be the final year for the Air and Sea Show in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Thornburg said that currently negotiations were on hold, but would resume when this year's show was over.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Handouts

1. Carter Park brochure
2. City swim program flyer
3. NRPA information packet