

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8th Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, June 22, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.**

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<u><b>Board Members</b></u>	<u><b>Attendance</b></u>	<b>Cumulative from 10/04</b>	
		<u><b>P</b></u>	<u><b>A</b></u>
Agnes Burrows	P	2	5
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	5	2
Mark Hartman	P	5	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	7	0
Robert Hoysgaard	A	4	3
Jim LaBate	P	4	3
David McNulty	P	2	3
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Timothy Nast	P	5	2
Michael Natale	P	7	0
Ronald Perkins	P	2	0
Victoria Revier	A	3	4
John Rude, Chair	P	5	2
Joe Shover	P	7	0
Shirley Small	P	5	2

**Staff Present**

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director  
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Kathy Connor, Parks Supervisor  
Adrienne Ehle, Bicycle and Pedestrian Planner  
Mary Ann Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Mark Almy, Chief Arborist  
Scott Massey, Chief Beach Horticulturist  
Sheryl Dell, Chief Horticulturist

**Guest**

Tom Andrew, New River Park Planning and Development Committee

**Call to Order**

Chair Rude called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Hartman noted that on page 4, the minutes stated, “The Board was unanimous in its concern about parks being used for dog walking...” Mr. Hartman wanted it noted that he was against the current policy and felt it was not sustainable or consistent with State and County policy. He thought the policy should be amended to allow dogs in parks.

**Motion** made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2005 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

## **1. Parks Division Reorganization**

**Terry Rynard**

Ms. Rynard noted that when she arrived, “nothing was broke”, but she felt there were some areas that could be made even better. For instance, the landscape area was in need of more personnel and resources due to the large number of ongoing beautification projects.

Ms. Rynard referred to the organizational chart and explained the hierarchy of responsibilities and positions. She then announced that Corey Collier had been promoted to Park Foreman of the Northeast district. Ms. Rynard introduced Jim Romeo, who would be in charge of Riverwalk; Mark Almy, responsible for the tree service operation; Scott Massey, who is in charge of the barrier island landscaping, and Sheryl Dell, who is in charge of the rest of the City’s landscaping.

Ms. Rynard explained that there were 30 people reporting to Ms. Ingold-Mordas, 48 people reporting to Mr. Dempsey, and 62 people reporting to Mr. Mucciaccio. Ms. Rynard noted that the Park District Managers were ultimately responsible for all aspects of their individual districts.

Mr. Thornburg explained that the Parks Division had lost 8 employees in last year’s budget reduction. The Parks and Recreation Department is requesting additional people for a facility crew. They hoped to be able to hire their own skilled technicians such as carpenters and plumbers and need not rely on the Public Works Department.

## **2. Department Budget Update**

**Phil Thornburg**

Mr. Thornburg noted that during the City Commission conference meeting, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) had discussed the City’s direction for the next year. Mr. Thornburg referred to the printout of the budget presentation from the Tuesday meeting and discussed the major points as follows:

- 2006 Budget Calendar
  - July 1, 2005 – Delivery of Form DR-420, Certification of Taxable Value to the City from the Broward County Property Appraiser’s Office
  - July 19, 2005 – City Manager to present budget to City Commission
  - September 7, 2005 -- First public hearing for the tentative millage rates

- September 20 – Second public hearing for tentative millage rates
- Budgetary Reforms/Controls
  - Departmental trend analysis
  - Hire THAW process worker
  - OMB approval of capital items over \$1,000
  - Salary savings approval to expend dollars
  - Approval of temporary agency services
  - Department head accountability to budget appropriations
  - Development of comprehensive revenue manual
- Fiscal Year 2005 General Fund Overview
  - Property tax revenue ahead of same period last year
  - Communications tax down due to technological industry changes
  - Fines and forfeitures down compared to the same period last year
  - Departments in line with appropriations
- Summary of Fiscal Year 2005 General Fund Revenue Outlook
  - Overall revenue growth – 5%
  - Most important factor – tax base growth
    - Ad Valorem revenues – 46% of General Fund
    - Fiscal Year 2006 estimate – 12% growth over projected final roll for Fiscal Year 2005
- Overall Expense Growth – 7%
  - Increases over inflation for selected operating items
    - Fuel
    - Steel
    - Construction
- 2006 Budget Impacts
  - Pension costs to increase \$3.8 million
  - Repayment of insurance deficit
  - Labor and management contract negotiations
  - Rock Island and Twin Lakes North annexations
  - Fund balance growth
- The Four Pillars
  - Restore fund balance
  - Pay down insurance deficit
  - Restore needed services
  - Tax stability

Dr. Hays asked Mr. Thornburg if there was a goal to increase the number of Park Rangers; Mr. Thornburg explained that they were seeking to hire Park Rangers, staff for the Special Events and the Facilities sections.

Dr. Hays reminded Board members that money could be taken away from Parks and Recreation during the budget process and urged them to attend the public hearings and speak in support of the department.

### **3. Planning Initiatives Update**

**Kathy Connor and Mary Ann Slough**

Ms. Connor provided the Board with updates on several initiatives. She displayed a map depicting existing and planned parks in the City. Ms. Connor explained the different types of parks: community parks; urban parks; conservation sites; school parks; neighborhood parks and urban open space (formerly called mini parks).

Ms. Connor distributed several conceptual plans for various pieces of land throughout the City and briefly explained the individual projects. Ms. Connor explained that the One Stop Shop and Heliport were designated as parkland according to the Downtown Master Plan and the Public Realm Plan. An urban skate plaza is being considered for the former Heliport location.

Ms. Connor then provided the Board with grant updates.

- Children's Services Council \$150,000 grant for Hardy Park children's "Boundless" Playground".
- Two National Boundless Playground Foundation grants totaling \$200,000, which Ms. Slough had recently applied.
- Two additional grants, one for the Herman property and one for the Lincoln Park expansion.
- A \$15,000 Design Arts Grant for Southside School in which a panel of experts will oversee the design process for the school and park.

Ms. Connor stated that they were also working on the citywide impact fee study and the Recreation Open Space Master Plan and hoped to accomplish this by the end of July.

Ms. Connor introduced Adrienne Ehle, the new Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. Ms. Ehle discussed her priorities list that includes:

- Youth education programs for bicycling and pedestrian safety to be incorporated into summer camp programs
- Greenways Master Plan
- Crash mapping in order to identify problem areas

Dr. Hays asked about the bikeway coming into the City of Fort Lauderdale from Interstate 595. Ms. Ehle stated that she knew of the connections the County was proposing outside the City limits. Ms. Connor showed part of the proposed route on the map and explained that they were not sure where it the route would continue from the bus terminal. Ms. Connor stated that in the fall, they would create bicycle suitability maps to determine the best way to connect the neighborhoods to the main spines of the greenway. Ms. Connor pointed out that they have a 2007 Transportation Enhancement Grant in the amount of \$500,000 for the section of the greenway east of the railroad tracks between the bus terminal and Sistrunk Blvd.

Dr. Hays said she was very impressed with the work Ms. Connor and her group is doing. Mr. Thornburg also glad that they were able to secure so much grant money for their work.

#### **4. Request to Name Property on Southwest 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Phil Thornburg**

Mr. Tom Andrew, New River Park Planning and Development Committee, read from a letter he prepared for fellow committee members and City staff detailing the Committee's reasons for wanting to name Site 232 "Coontie Hatchee Landing."

**Motion** made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to recommend to the City Commission that the property on Southwest 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue [Site 232] be named "Coontie Hatchee Landing." In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **Other Items of Interest**

Mr. Natale informed the Board that a section of the beach wall lights was not working.

Mr. McNulty asked the status of the new building at George English Park. Mr. Thornburg stated that this was out to bid right now and would close in one or two weeks. Money was already earmarked for this project.

Ms. Medalie informed the Board that the Swimming Hall of Fame had a new director who was highly regarded. Mr. Thornburg explained that the Swimming Hall of Fame came under the Business Enterprises Department now.

Mr. Thornburg had determined that the parcel of land on Sunrise Boulevard where the old water tower had stood was sold to Bank Atlantic in 1992 for \$120,000; it was no longer city property.

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that Bob Clapp, the former City landscape architect, had passed away this morning.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

#### **Handouts**

1. Starlight Musicals pamphlet
2. Trips and Tours for adults and seniors pamphlet
3. Copy of 6/15/05 memo from Terry Rynard to the PRB members
4. Copy of Parks and Recreation Parks Division organizational chart
5. Printed copy of Power Point presentation from City Commission 6/21/05 budget workshop
6. Copy of 6/15/05 memo from Kathy Connor to PRB members

7. Copy of letter from Tom Andrew regarding the naming of the property on Southwest 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue [site 232]
8. Copy of letter from Dave Marshall, Riverside Park Resident's Association President, regarding the naming of the property on Southwest 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue [site 232]
9. Copy of 6/22/05 letter from AAB member Mr. Hartman to Mayor Naugle