

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8th Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, July 27, 2005 – 7:00 p.m.**

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<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative 1/05 – 12/05</b>	
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
Agnes Burrows	A	1	5
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	6	0
Mark Hartman	P	6	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	6	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	4	2
Jim LaBate	A	3	3
David McNulty	A	2	4
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	A	5	1
Timothy Nast	A	4	2
Michael Natale	P	6	0
Ronald Perkins	P	3	0
Victoria Revier	A	2	4
John Rude, Chair	P	5	1
Joe Shover	P	6	0
Shirley Small	P	6	0

**Staff Present**

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
Steve Person, Recreation Superintendent  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
Sue McAllister, Recreation Program Supervisor  
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Barbara Barber, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary

**Guests Present**

Jana Gray Williams, resident

**Call to Order**

Chair Rude called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Perkins, to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2005 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **1. Recreation Program of the Month**

**Steve Person**

#### **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual David Deal Play Day**

Recreation Superintendent, Steve Person stated that David Deal was an educator who started this program 52 years ago. Mr. Person introduced Sue McAllister, Recreation Program Supervisor and Barbara Barber, Recreation Program Coordinator who provided a presentation on the event.

Ms. Barber explained that Play Day had begun as a track and field event and had grown over the years to include events in aquatics, kickball, baseball, and fitness. She added that City and County Parks and Recreation Summer Camps participated. There were five events on four different days:

- Rib fest Cook off Competition and Concert, July 9
- Adult 5 on 5 Basketball Tournament, July 9 and 10
- David Deal Playday Kids Day, July 13
- Teen Splash Party, July 13
- Championship Swim Meet, July 30

Ms. Barber said that this was month-long celebration commemorating the reopening of and Playday's return to Carter Park. Prior to the Playday events, there had been kickball and softball tournaments to select the City team that would play the County team on July 13.

Some of the events on July 9 were moved indoors due to Hurricane Dennis. Several musical acts performed and there were Chess and Domino tournaments.

Kids Day, which is the biggest event, was a collaborative effort between the Broward County and the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation Departments. There were 27 camps and community groups in attendance and 1,100 kids competed. The opening ceremonies were held in the air-conditioned gym this year and activities included: track and field, tennis, a fitness challenge, an obstacle course, novelty games and races, as well as water and board games.

Dr. Hays asked about attendance and Ms. McAllister stated that there has been an increase of 3 to 4 percent annually. Total camp attendance this year was approximately 1,000, whereas last year's attendance was approximately 850.

Mr. Person noted that there was a philosophical debate as to whether more [attendance] was better.

He felt that limiting camps to 85 to 90 kids enabled them to provide a higher-quality program.

## **2. Department Budget Update**

**Terry Rynard**

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Terry Rynard referred to the printout of the Power Point presentation and noted the budget's "Four Pillars" approach. The Four Pillars are to increase the fund balance; to reintroduce some of the programs that had been lost; to provide tax relief and to pay down the insurance deficit. Of the items submitted by Parks and Recreation Department staff, three were approved. These items are staffing for the new water playground at Riverland Park; filling the Senior Accounting Clerk position; and funding for portable radios. Tree trimming for the newly annexed areas at Twin Lakes was submitted as well.

Ms. Rynard noted that the Full Time Equivalent [FTE] positions had dropped in 2005 but were up in 2006, primarily in the Police and Fire Departments.

Dr. Hays was disturbed by the small increase of approximately \$1 million in the Parks and Recreation budget for next year, compared to the Police Department's increase of \$7 million. She felt that Parks and Recreation might not be getting its fair share. Dr. Hays noted a particular area of concern was the Park Ranger positions; she did not see any additional allocation in the budget for them.

Ms. Rynard announced that the budget public hearing dates are September 7 and 20. Dr. Hays encouraged Board members to attend the public hearings and speak up for Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Hartman agreed with Dr. Hays and stressed that Recreation Programs were an important and effective component of Crime Prevention. Mr. Hartman stated that he had written to the Mayor, City Manager and City Commission regarding this issue and planned to attend the public hearings.

Mr. Hoysgaard wondered if citizen volunteers could be utilized to paint the beach wall as they had in the past. Ms. Rynard noted that there was additional prep work needed on the beach wall and that would require the services of a professional.

Mr. Shover thought he remembered Mr. Thornburg telling the Board that some Park Ranger positions were being reinstated with the next budget. Ms. Rynard said their proposal had included a request for an entire additional shift of Park Rangers; which included 5 Park Ranger positions. This proposal had not been approved as yet. Park Ranger Supervisor, Earnest Jones explained that there were currently 7 full time Rangers and one open full time position with shifts from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

Regarding issues with the homeless on the beach, Supervisor Jones stated that the police were made aware of the problems and had their own officers assigned to the beach area and noted that they also worked with Scott Russell of the Homeless Task Force to try to get some of the homeless placed into programs.

Dr. Hays wanted the Board to make the recommendation to the City Commission to find some way to adjust the budget to fund additional Park Rangers as the Parks and Recreation Department had requested in their proposal.

There was some concern about adequate funding for the newly acquired parks, however Special Facilities Superintendent, Vince Gizzi assured the Board that these needs would be sufficiently covered. Ms. Rynard added that when staff looked at the newly acquired properties, they did not feel there was enough maintenance to legitimately request a full time maintenance position.

Mr. Perkins felt that spending 11% of the City's budget on Parks and Recreation seemed a significant investment and wanted to see a comparison with other cities of comparable size.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Natale, to recommend to the City Commission that additional funding be allocated for additional park rangers. In a voice vote, the motion passed with Mr. Perkins dissenting.

Mr. Natale stated he felt it is very important to consider security, especially with the additional responsibility of the newly acquired properties.

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

**Terry Rynard**

Ms. Rynard announced that the City had approved the concept plan Mr. Thornburg had presented, which was a 5-year contract with a 5-year renewal option. Out-of-pocket costs to the City would be just under \$20,000 with some set fees to be paid to the City by the promoter. They would now develop an agreement based on this plan and present it to the City Commission in October.

Mr. Hoysgaard noted that the promoter had already had 11 years in Fort Lauderdale to amortize equipment and infrastructure costs. Mr. Hoysgaard felt that this was therefore a "giveaway program." In addition to the \$20,000, the City would have to pay for its hospitality booth. Mr. Hoysgaard noted that this event was different from most events staged by promoters since the promoter did not pay for the venue [the beach] or the entertainment. Mr. Natale agreed and added that a profit margin should be coming back to the City for hosting the event.

Mr. Perkins was interested to know what the economic impact of this event was to the City. Chair Rude felt that \$20,000 was worth the positive national exposure Fort Lauderdale received and the resulting increase in tourist income.

Ms. Jana Gray-Williams, resident, suggested that the City could be obligated to pay a certain amount, perhaps half of the \$20,000, and the promoter would be responsible to find matching sponsor funds for the other half.

Ms. Rynard agreed to take the Board's concerns to Mr. Thornburg.

### **Other Items of Interest**

Mr. Hoysgaard asked that the “South Beach situation” be put on an agenda for future discussion. He felt there was a serious lack of oversight by the Police and Park Rangers and he felt the situation was a “powder keg.” Mr. Hoysgaard believed that increasing the parking fee to \$20 would eliminate a “certain element” at the beach.

Ms. Rynard confirmed for Mr. Natale that the lights on the wave wall were all working.

Mr. Gizzi confirmed for Mr. Natale that the plaque for Larry Hays had been installed and the plaque for Jack Washburn had been ordered. Mr. Natale reminded him that Mr. Washburn’s widow had requested a particular spot for the plaque.

Dr. Hays asked Ms. Rynard to investigate the per capita spending for Parks and Recreation in Fort Lauderdale as compared to other cities. Ms. Rynard pointed out that half of the Parks and Recreation budget is spent on maintenance; Mr. Perkins commented that in many places, the Public Works Departments not the Parks and Recreation Department handle maintenance.

Chair Rude noted that there would be no August meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

### **Handouts**

1. Flyer for 52<sup>nd</sup> annual David Deal Play Day