

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, February 22, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Cumulative 1/06 – 12/06	
		<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	A	0	2
Mark Hartman	P	2	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	2	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	2	0
Jim LaBate	A	1	1
David McNulty	P	1	1
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Timothy Nast	P	2	0
Michael Natale	P	2	0
Robert Payne	P	2	0
Ronald Perkins	A	1	1
Victoria Revier	A	1	1
John Rude, Chair	P	2	0
Joe Shover	A	1	1
Shirley Small	A	0	2

City Staff

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent
Suzanne Broucek, Recreation Program Supervisor
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
Deborah Bylicia, Recreation Programmer II
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant
Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary

Guests

Bob LaMattina, Beach Community Redevelopment Agency Director

Call to Order

Vice Chair Medalie 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

[This item was deferred due to lack of a quorum]

Chair Rude arrived at 7:07

Dr. Hays noted that she would like Middle River Park added to their list on page 6 of parks to undergo crime analysis.

Motion made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Hartman, to approve the minutes of the January 2006 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The Board discussed their strategy for encouraging the City Commission to consider their recommendation to hire additional park rangers. Dr. Hays thought they should make a presentation at a Commission conference meeting. Mr. Natale said he had begun by approaching Commissioners individually. Commissioners Moore and Teel had refused to meet with Mr. Natale, and gave him the impression that this would present a Sunshine Law conflict. Mr. Natale intended to meet with Commissioner Hutchinson on Monday, and with City Manager Gretsas on March 6; he intended to reschedule a planned meeting with the Mayor as well.

Chair Rude informed the Board that he had sent an email to City Manager Gretsas and the City Clerk requesting an agenda item for the City Commission on this issue. Mr. Natale stated that they would attend the Commission meeting as a group when it was on the agenda.

1. Recreation Program of the Month

Phil Thornburg

Noon Tunes Concert Series

Mr. Thornburg introduced Recreation Programmer, Deborah Bylica. Ms. Bylica showed a brief presentation on the Noon Tunes Concert Series and explained the program:

- ❖ Between February 8 and March 15
- ❖ Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- ❖ Stranahan Park
- ❖ Different types of music each week
- ❖ Support from many downtown area entities
- ❖ Positive economic impact on local businesses

- ❖ Logo and poster designed by Art Institute students

Mr. Hartman thanked Ms. Bylica for including Bluegrass music in the program and informed everyone that there were some formulas available to measure the positive economic impact of such programs on the community. Dr. Hays felt this information would help justify these programs in the budget. Mr. Thornburg agreed to look into this.

2. Beach Streetscape Presentation

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg introduced Mr. Bob LaMattina, Beach Community Redevelopment Agency Director, to describe the streetscape plan to the Board.

Mr. LaMattina presented artist renderings of the proposed streetscape plan and informed the Board that they hoped to have the project completed by the 2007 tourist season. The project included:

- ❖ Re-alignment of road
- ❖ Adjust the size of the bike lane
- ❖ 11' – 14' wide sidewalks
- ❖ New curbing, pavers, plantings in median area
- ❖ Jewel Palms lining street
- ❖ New lighting fixtures

Mr. LaMattina informed the Board that Phase 1A would focus on the street area from the bridge to the water, including three intersections. Phase 1B, for which there was an RFQ, would focus on the portal. Mr. Hartman remarked that this was a much better connection from the Aquatic complex to the beach.

Mr. LaMattina reminded the Board that the CRA performs capital improvements, not maintenance. Mr. Thornburg explained that the Parks and Recreation Department was responsible for the softscape maintenance and the Public Works Department was responsible for the hardscape. He added that any trees displaced by the new landscaping would be relocated.

Dr. Hays asked if there were plans to allow outdoor seating in the area. Mr. LaMattina said this was a very complicated process.

3. "How Cities Use Parks for Smart Growth"

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg distributed copies of the article to the Board.

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that they had made a presentation on the Parks Impact Fees

to the DDA two weeks ago and planned to go back to the City Commission in March.

4. Director's Report

Mr. Thornburg presented a video of the City's Summer Parks Programs.

5. Other Items of Interest

Dr. Hays asked Mr. Thornburg to put an item on the Board's agenda within the next two months regarding the Parks' use as a dumping ground for hurricane debris and Mr. Thornburg agreed.

Dr. Hays announced that the Waterway Cleanup would be on March 4 and asked for volunteers.

Dr. Hays informed the Board that Major Kiley had sent her crime information in the four parks she had asked about; she agreed to report back to the Board after she reviewed the information. She asked Ranger Supervisor Jones to supply her with incident statistics as well. Dr. Hays felt that this information could be used for "ammunition" when they brought their request for more rangers to the City Commission.

Mr. Natale announced that the dedication of Jack Washburn's plaque would take place Thursday, March 9 at noon in Civic Peoples Park. Mr. Natale confirmed with Mr. Gizzi that the conceptual designs for Ann Herman Park would be presented to the Board next month.

Dr. Hays explained the Education Advisory Board's decision to help a few of the City's schools. She noted that Sunland Park was very close to Carter Park, but the EAB was unsure about the relationship between the school and the park. Mr. Thornburg informed her that there was an after school program at Carter Park. Dr. Hays stated that the EAB was also working on mentoring at the school, hoping to get City employees involved. They were also encouraging donations for the School's incentive program.

Mr. McNulty asked about the light realignments on tennis courts at George English and Holiday Parks. Mr. Thornburg explained that they were "in line with everybody else." They had managed to get lights focused properly in all of the ball field parks so baseball leagues could start, but remarked that it had been difficult to find a company capable of doing the work. Florida Electric had promised to get to Jimmy Evert shortly.

Ms. Rynard informed the Board that hurricane debris pickup was almost complete; they hoped to finish within two weeks. She then announced that there was a tree giveaway at Riverland

Park on Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Handouts

1. Copy of article, "How Cities use Parks for Smart Growth"
2. Flyer for Noon Tunes program
3. Flyer for the SunTrust Jazz Brunch Program