

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, May 24, 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.	P	2	3
Mark Hartman	A	4	1
Elizabeth Hays	P	5	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	5	0
Jim LaBate	P	3	2
David McNulty	A	2	3
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Timothy Nast	P	5	0
Michael Natale	A	4	1
Robert Payne	P	4	1
Ronald Perkins	P	2	3
Victoria Revier	P	3	2
John Rude, Chair	P	5	0
Joe Shover	P	4	1
Shirley Small	P	2	3

City Staff

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director
Terry Rynart, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent
David Miller, Recreation Superintendent
Suzanne Broucek, Recreation Program Supervisor
Marie Rock, Recreation Program Coordinator
Barbara Barber, Recreation Program Coordinator
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant
Lavya Vassor, Recording Secretary

Call to Order

Chair Rude 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 of April, 2006 meeting

Dr. Hays noted a spelling error on page 4, and Mr. Shover noted that the motion on page 2 did not state the motion's vote.

Motion made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Mr. DeGraffenreidt to approve the minutes of the April 2006 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Thornburg then introduced new Recreation Superintendent David Miller. Mr. Miller stated that he was from Michigan, and had worked for Detroit Parks and Recreation Department for 26 years. He then worked for the state of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the state park system.

1. Recreation Program of the Month – After School Programs Phil Thornburg

Suzanne Broucek, Recreation Program Supervisor, introduced Recreation Program Coordinators, Marie Rock and Barbara Barber. Ms. Rock explained that there were programs for elementary, middle and high school students. Many of these programs followed the guidelines of the reciprocal agreement they had with Broward County Schools. The programs' mission was to provide children and parents with quality, supervised, safe and fun programs at an affordable cost. Ms. Rock and Ms. Barber then described the programs:

- Fort Lauderdale After School Hour - F.L.A.S.H. Program
 - ❖ Croissant Park Community Center/Croissant Park Elementary
 - ❖ Licensed, monitored by Broward County
 - ❖ Includes snacks and computer instruction
- Supervised Neighborhood After-School Program - S.N.A.P.
 - ❖ Bass Park, Lauderdale Manors Park and Warfield Park
 - ❖ Lauderdale Manors and Warfield
 - Lauderdale Manors students
 - Homework assistance, sports and fitness, arts and crafts
 - ❖ Bass Park
 - Includes neighborhood kids as well as Rock Island Elementary and William Dandy Middle Schools

- First Serve at Carter Park
 - ❖ Partnership with First Serve Broward
 - Provide Life Skills, Tennis instruction
- After-School Intramurals & Arts - A.S.I.A. Program
 - ❖ Middle and high school kids
 - ❖ Ft. Lauderdale High, New River Middle, Sunrise Middle, William Dandy Middle Schools
 - ❖ Teachers from the schools provide: homework instruction, sports and fitness, computer instruction, cultural arts and tutoring
- Enrollment:
 - ❖ F.L.A.S.H. – 80
 - ❖ S.N.A.P. – 240
 - ❖ First Serve – 74
 - ❖ A.S.I.A. – 282
 - ❖ Club Carter – 51
- Club Carter College Prep
 - ❖ Monthly visits to various colleges
 - ❖ Sports & Fitness - fighting the epidemic of childhood obesity
 - ❖ Swimming – all sites with pools have swim programs
 - ❖ Computers
 - Carter Park - 20 computer units
 - 1 hour of computer classes per day
- Arts & Crafts
 - ❖ Students exposed to art instruction score 20% higher in creative thinking, fluency and originality
- Community Service
 - ❖ Several programs require students to perform one community service project per month
 - National Save the Turtle Day
 - South Florida Peace Flag ceremony
 - Computer seminars at Nova Southeastern University
 - Volunteer Broward Association
 - Gardening projects
- Trips and outings
 - ❖ King Tut
 - ❖ Broward Center for the Performing Arts
 - ❖ Marina
 - ❖ Disney World
- Club Carter
 - ❖ Funded by a grant from Children’s services Council

- ❖ Includes academics, sports and fitness, cultural arts, community service, life skills
- ❖ 4-H participation, Junior Achievement curriculum
- Michael Ervin Academic and Recreational Academy
 - ❖ Provides additional resources for extra programs
 - Russell Reading Program
 - Urban Dance Academy
 - Gift cards
 - Laptop computers

Ms. Rock noted the benefits of after-school programs:

- Improve college competency
- Better work habits
- Better interpersonal skills
- Improved grades

Dr. Hays wondered why the kids were not involved in Citizens Volunteer Corps [CVC] projects. Ms. Barber said she would follow up on this. Dr. Hays informed Ms. Barber that Ms. Batie, the principal at Sunland Park Elementary, had requested a garden at that school.

Mr. Payne asked about programs at Riverland Park. Ms. Rock thought that Riverland had some “drop in” sports programs. Dr. Hays noted that there were two schools in close proximity to Riverland Park; she hoped they would start a program for those schools at Riverland Park. Mr. Thornburg said he would investigate this.

Mr. Shover stated he was very proud of the programs and the people who administered them.

Dr. Hays said there was a lot of confusion regarding these programs and hoped this presentation could be made for the Education Advisory Board [EAB]. She explained that the EAB had adopted three at-need schools to help last year: Lauderdale Manors, Sunland Elementary and Arthur Ashe Middle school. The schools’ principals had been consulted regarding the type of help they wanted most. Dr. Hays explained that the City was coordinating a mentoring program at Lauderdale Manors involving City employees and the Broward County School Board was in the process of initiating a magnet program at Arthur Ashe. The EAB was especially concerned with Sunland Park, and they were able to do a few things this year, such as organizing a King Tut field trip, initiating a mentoring program at the school and a garden project.

Dr. Hays felt there was a disconnect between the after school program at Carter Park and what was happening at Sunland Park. Dr. Hays remarked that Sunland’s reading scores had gone down significantly and she felt they needed a lot of help from the City. This was why she

wanted the presentation made to the EAB. Mr. Thornburg stated that Parks staff needed to meet with the new principal to discuss the programs.

2. Air and Sea Show Update

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg announced that this was their best-run show ever. He invited Board members to email him with input they received about the show; he was meeting with the promoter in the next few weeks to discuss possible changes for next year.

Mr. Nast said he had used the Holiday Park shuttle to reach the show and he wondered why it went "10 miles out of the way instead of going straight down US1." Mr. Thornburg said the County developed those shuttle routes. He wanted to continue to encourage people to use the busses, but agreed it should be made easier.

Mr. Shover asked if the City had made any money this year. Mr. Thornburg said the final numbers were not in yet, but he felt they would break even. Since there were no fireworks or concert this year, fewer police and fire personnel were needed later in the evening on Saturday.

Mr. Hoysgaard wanted to ask the City Manager who had received the 100 complementary tickets. Dr. Hays thought that each commissioner was allotted a certain number of tickets to distribute. Mr. Thornburg confirmed that each commissioner and the mayor received 10 tickets for each day.

Chair Rude felt they had done an excellent job in the prior week prep and the cleanup. Mr. Thornburg agreed that everyone had done a great job of scheduling and logistics.

3. Parking Fees for Special Events on the Beach

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg had provided the Board with a copy of the ordinance regulating the special event beach parking fees charged to vendors. Mr. Thornburg explained that the application fee for an event was \$100. Impact fees for beach events was \$500 for the event day and \$250 for each prior or subsequent day for setup and teardown. The parking rate was \$10 per space for the day of the event and \$6 per space [the regular rate] for setup and teardown. Mr. Thornburg explained that Section d(11) of the ordinance concerned the phasing in of new rates.

Mr. Hoysgaard felt it was overly-complicated and he wanted to know the actual amount certain major events had paid for use of the parking lot. Mr. Thornburg agreed to request this information.

Ms. Medalie felt that the rates should be reevaluated. She remarked on the way the volleyball tournament monopolized a large section of beach as well as the entire parking lot. She felt that

higher fees could be used for more maintenance. Ms. Medalie had brought photos of sections of the beach wall that were disintegrating. She noted that Mr. Thornburg's people did a great job, but "Phil can't do anything without money." Mr. Hoysgaard felt the rationale was that Fort Lauderdale felt it needed to promote itself. He felt that this was no longer the case, and felt they could now say, "You want to come here, you're going to pay."

4. Director's Report

Phil Thornburg

Ranger Supervisor Jones had distributed a copy of a report on ranger goals and objectives, created from rangers' reports. The report analyzed the following categories:

- Number of Major Incidents, Formal Reports
- Number of Reports Requiring Follow-up
- Percentage of Reports Followed up Within 3 Days
- Number of Complaints Responses
- Response Time to Complaints
- Percentage of Responses Less than 15 Minutes
- Number of Incidents Requiring Police
- Number of Ejections
- Number of Arrests

Dr. Hays noticed that in many categories, the actual figure was 50% greater than the target. Also, the target numbers for 2006 were sometimes higher than the 2005 targets. Supervisor Jones explained that he analyzed the previous year, and used this as a benchmark for the coming year. Dr. Hays asked if there was a substantial increase in the number of ejections or major incidents over the past five years. She was also interested in finding out what was causing the increases. Supervisor Jones felt the numbers were higher right now due to an increase in teen presence. Dr. Hays felt this data, combined with police reports, made it evident that safety in the parks was declining. She asked Supervisor Jones to compile statistics for the past five years.

Mr. Thornburg distributed copies of the 4th of July event, noting that Comcast and Big 105.9 were the main sponsors.

Other Items of Interest

Ms. Revier informed the Board that at George English Park, kids were toppling the Port-O-Lets and the baseball field was strewn with feces. She thought perhaps these single Port-O-Lets could be replaced with "banks" of 3 or 4 connected units. Mr. Thornburg said they would find a solution. Ms. Revier felt the Park required additional monitoring to prevent vandalism as well.

Mr. Revier was concerned about the proposed change of use at the American Golf Course from park/open area to residential. She thought the City was required to maintain a certain percentage of green space, and asked if the City had any ability to stop this from going forward. Mr. Thornburg did not know of a regulation requiring the City to maintain a certain amount of open space. The American Golf Course was zoned as park space, but was not open to the public as a park. He confirmed that a zoning change would be required, and it would be presented to DRC, the Planning and Zoning Board and the City Commission. He agreed to find out the dates the item would be presented to the various boards.

Ms. Revier said the house had been demolished from the land on 27th Avenue; she asked Mr. Thornburg what was happening there. Mr. Thornburg said County Commissioner Jim Scott had allocated \$1 million of land preservation money to that project. The County was in negotiations with the property owner to agree on a price; if the price was within the \$1 million allotted, it would become a park.

Mr. DeGraffenreidt said he had received complaints from neighbors of Carter Park that the automatic lights were not working properly and this was facilitating a gambling problem at the park. Mr. Thornburg admitted that Carter Park was a challenge. Rangers were present in the afternoon hours and there was a detail officer there at night.

Mr. Payne stated that the DeGraffenreidt building was too small and must be remodeled. Mr. Thornburg agreed that the building was small. They were in the process of repairing the back doors and had done a lot of other work there recently.

Mr. Hoysgaard reported that he recently spoke to a member of the International Parking Institute [IPI], who informed him that “the majority of municipalities in the United States” issued parking permits to residents for a yearly fee.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Handouts:

- 1.Park Rangers’ Goals and Objective Report
- 2.City of Ft. Lauderdale July 4th Family Celebration Brochure
- 3.Copy of Ordinance No. C-05-22
- 4.South Beach Parking Lot Drawing