

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
8th Floor Conference Room  
Wednesday, June 28, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

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<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative 1/06 – 12/06</b>	
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	3	3
Mark Hartman	P	5	1
Elizabeth Hays	P	6	0
Robert Hoysgaard	A	5	1
Jim LaBate	P	4	2
David McNulty	P	3	3
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	6	0
Timothy Nast	A	5	1
Michael Natale	A	4	2
Robert Payne	P	5	1
Ronald Perkins	P	3	3
Victoria Revier	A	3	3
John Rude, Chair	P	6	0
Joe Shover	P	5	1
Shirley Small	A	3	3

**City Staff**

Terry Rynart, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
David Miller, Recreation Superintendent  
Maryann Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Suzanne Broucek, Recreation Program Supervisor  
Debbie Bylica, Recreation Programmer  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Lavya Vassor, Recording Secretary

**Guests**

Heidi Davis Knapik, Gunster Yoakley

## **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 May 2006 meeting**

**Motion** made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Dr. Hays to approve the minutes of the May 2006 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Rude announced that the City had issued a proclamation naming June 13<sup>th</sup> as “Joe Shover Day.” He presented Mr. Shover with the key to the City.

Mr. Miller introduced Ms. Broucek, who informed the Board that July was Parks and Recreation Month. She distributed “It starts in parks: ask me how” buttons, visors and caps to Board members and asked them to spread the word in the community.

## **1. Featured Recreation Program - Starlight Musicals**

David Miller

Ms. Bylica described the Starlight Musicals Program:

- ❖ Friday night family/friends activity
- ❖ Showcases parks
- ❖ 20-Year tradition
- ❖ Different music showcased each week
- ❖ Costumes and themes
- ❖ Community support
  - Non-profits hold prize drawings for fund raising

Dr. Hays wanted to thank Bank of America for their support of the program, and Ms. Bylica suggested they also thank SunTrust for their support of the Jazz Brunch program.

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Hartman, for Chair Rude to send a letter to Bank of America and SunTrust Bank on behalf of the Board to thank them for their support of the programs, and to request that the City Commission issue a proclamation in recognition of the Banks’ support. Board unanimously approved.

## **2. Request to Name Georgian Oaks Park**

Terry Rynart

Ms. Rynart introduced Heidi Davis Knapik, representative of Georgian Oaks LLC. Ms. Knapik informed the Board that Georgian Oaks had donated an acre of land to the City for a park. One

of the developers wanted to name the park Esterre Davis Wright Park for his mother, who had been killed in a car accident at 36 years old. Ms. Knapik distributed proposed plans for the park to the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. DeGraffenreidt, to name the park donated by Georgian Oaks LLC "Esterre Davis Wright Park." Board unanimously approved.

### **3. Long Range Strategic Plan**

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi explained that the Parks and Recreation Department was developing a long-range strategic "Master Plan" for the next 10 years. This plan would cover: land acquisition, park development, locations of new parks, programs, technology and maintenance. They intended to get input from the community via questionnaires, focus groups, neighborhood association meetings, and newsletters. They would identify and assess resources, and make recommendations based on these assessments regarding funding. Mr. Gizzi continued that they would also compare their parks with state and national standards and other park facilities.

Mr. Gizzi informed the Board that the results would be compiled into an executive summary and a long-range strategic plan for the next 10 years. An Request For Proposal for a consultant was put out to bid on June 19; evaluation of RFPs would take place on August 9; presentations from the top 3 would be held on August 17, and the City Commission would award the project in November. Mr. Gizzi estimated it would take 9 – 12 months to complete the assessment.

Ms. Slough explained that the consultant would interview the Board and this input would be included in the assessment. Mr. Gizzi agreed to suggest that a member of the Board be on the consultant selection committee.

Ms. Rynart informed Dr. Hays that the City Commission had seen the second presentation of the proposed parks impact fees at their last meeting and had reduced the fee by half. Dr. Hays noted that these fees could be used to fund the Master Plan projects. Dr. Hays felt they tended to ignore maintenance issues. Mr. Gizzi explained that they had specifically built staffing levels and maintenance into the plan.

Mr. Gizzi agreed to keep the board apprised of the progress of the strategic plan development project.

### **4. Director's Report**

Terry Rynart

Ms. Rynart distributed copies of the past five years' Park Rangers Goals and Objectives report.

Ms. Rynart announced that the American Golf Course project would first go to the DRC, then to the Planning and Zoning Board, then to the City Commission.

### **Other Items of Interest**

Dr. Hays noted that the beach photos highlighted the maintenance issues at the beach. Ms. Medalie wondered how maintenance problems progressed to this point when maintenance workers were on the beach every day. Ms. Rynart said, "The reality is, we haven't done a great job of having people cross-functional and cross trained," and the result was a mentality of workers with a very narrow idea of their responsibilities. Ms. Rynart said they were trying to instill a broader sense of responsibility in the maintenance personnel.

Mr. Shover said the City Manager had made a presentation last night at Mr. Shover's civic association meeting. The City Manager had stressed at the meeting that this problem had been recognized and corrected. Ms. Rynart felt that their department was 60 – 70% of the way toward correcting this problem.

Ms. Rynart informed the Board that the department had requested some funding from the CIP next year for capital improvements on the beach, including replacement of showers and playground equipment, and the wall.

Regarding the Park Rangers Goals and Objective Report, Mr. McNulty asked what constituted a "major incident," and what caused the fluctuation in the number of reports. Ms. Rynart felt a major incident must apply to an occurrence important enough to warrant issuing a report. Dr. Hays was concerned that the "still inadequate police force and how it's affecting safety in the parks."

Dr. Hays thanked Parks and Recreation staff for their contributions to Neighborhood Services Night earlier this month.

Mr. Hartman felt it was their responsibility to educate the public, City officials, City staff and the City Manager about the function of park rangers. He felt they typically did not understand the "customer service" function of park rangers. Mr. Hartman distributed a copy of an article on National Park Rangers from the Miami Herald.

The Board agreed that they would meet in July, but not in August.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Handouts:

1. Starlight Musicals brochure

2. Prospective plan for Esterre Davis Wright Park
3. Miami Herald article on National Park Rangers
4. Park Rangers Goals and Objective Report