

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

City of Fort Lauderdale

100 North Andrews Avenue

8th Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, September 27 2006 – 7:00 p.m.

| <u>Board Members</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Cumulative 1/06 – 12/06</u> | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|
| | | <u>Present</u> | <u>Absent</u> |
| Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr. | P | 5 | 3 |
| Mark Hartman | P | 7 | 1 |
| Elizabeth Hays | P | 8 | 0 |
| Robert Hoysgaard | P | 7 | 1 |
| Jim LaBate | P | 5 | 3 |
| David McNulty | A | 4 | 4 |
| Joann Medalie, Vice Chair | A | 7 | 1 |
| Timothy Nast | P | 7 | 1 |
| Michael Natale | P | 6 | 2 |
| Robert Payne | P | 7 | 1 |
| Victoria Revier | P | 4 | 4 |
| John Rude, Chair | P | 8 | 0 |
| Joe Shover | P | 7 | 1 |
| Shirley Small | A | 3 | 5 |

City Staff

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director

Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Liaison

Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent

David Miller, Recreation Superintendent

Mary Ann Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator

Barbara Barber, Recreation Community Program Supervisor

Gerald Roberts, Recreation Program Coordinator

Tom White, Landscape Architect

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor

Stacey Daley, Administrative Liaison

Mayor Jim Naugle

Jamie Opperlee, Recording Secretary

Mona Laventure, Recording Secretary

Guests

Micheal Irvin, Playmaker Charities

Playmaker Charities Kids

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 August 2006 meeting

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

1. Presentation to Michael Irvin

David Miller

Mr. Miller thanked Mr. Irvin and Playmaker Charities for their contributions to Carter Park.

Chair Rude presented Mr. Irvin with a plaque, and thanked him for his contribution. Mr. Irvin thanked the Board for the opportunity to help the community.

2. Presentation of the FRPA "Agency Excellence Award"

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg announced that the Parks and Recreation Department had been awarded the FRPA Agency Excellence Award in Orlando in August. Mr. Thornburg said he was very proud of the efforts put forth by the Department, Staff and the Board.

Dr. Hays thanked Mr. Thornburg on behalf of the Council of Civic Associations, and noted that his department was in the running for another award as well.

3. Plaque Presentation in Recognition of Retiring Members

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg presented plaques to the four Board members who were retiring: Dr. Elizabeth Hays; Mr. Timothy Nast; Mr. Joe Shover and Mr. John Rude, and thanked them for their service. He also presented a plaque to Ms. Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, who would no longer serve as the Board's administrative liaison, and thanked her for her contribution.

Dr. Hays stated she would now serve as liaison between the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations and the Parks and Recreations Board, so she would still be attending meetings. Mr. Shover thanked Chair Rude for his service and asked the remaining Board members to remember the impact the Parks and Recreation facilities and programs had on kids. Ms. Irizarry-Binon thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as their liaison. Chair Rude remarked that this was the best group of people with whom he had ever worked, and thanked the Board members for their work.

4. Warbler Wetlands Update

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi presented a conceptual drawing for the Board to review this evening. He stated they had a 30-year lease agreement with the County to build out and manage the property. The 6.1-acre conservation area for Warbler Wetlands included a raised boardwalk with some seating areas and plant identification spots. They were working with the South Florida Water Management District to maintain the wetland area. Mr. Gizzi said there was \$350,000 available for the development of the property.

Motion made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Shover, to approve the conceptual plan for Warbler Wetlands. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tom White, Landscape Architect, explained to Dr. Hays that the wetland part of the property was "fairly low-lying" the first 50 – 80 feet from the canal north, and would be under water in the wet season. Ms. Mary Ann Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator, said the Water Management District would pump water from the canal into the wetlands to keep it wet.

5. Coontie Hatchee Landing Park Update

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi reported that they had acquired this 2.68-acre property through a Broward County Safe Parks referendum for \$2 million. This was also a conservation area, and the planned amenities would include a footpath, a playground, bicycle racks, two gazebos, a fitness trail, benches and picnic tables and low-level lighting. Mr. Gizzi noted that \$404,000 of the development would be funded through the Florida Communities Trust; \$500,000 would be funded through the Parks and Recreation Department's CIP. Phase II of the project would include a floating dock.

Motion made by Mr. LaBate, seconded by Ms. Revier, to approve the conceptual plan for Coontie Hatchee Landing. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Slough explained to Mr. Hartman that funding for the floating dock was part of the grant. She added that permits were required from the Army Corps of Engineers for the dock, and this could be a very lengthy process.

6. FRDAP Grant for Osswald Park Renovations Update

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi explained that they went through a community involvement process with any interested groups to obtain consensus on these projects. This was a FRDAP grant for \$200,000, which the City's CIP would match with another \$200,000. They intended to reconfigure the multi-purpose field, add on to the existing playground, and resurface the tennis and basketball courts. Mr. Thornburg noted that this was in the recently-annexed Rock Island neighborhood.

Motion made by Ms. Revier, seconded by Mr. Nast, to approve moving the project forward. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Slough explained to Mr. Payne that Park Staff had attended and discussed the grant with residents at the last homeowners association meeting in that area. She stated that many of the park amenities had been determined by the County, working with the homeowners association prior to the neighborhood's annexation.

7. Departmental Budget Update

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that the Park Rangers would not be privatized, but no new ranger positions would be added. The following line items had been approved:

- ❖ Beach maintenance:
 - New equipment
 - Additional operators for cleaning equipment
- ❖ Additional money for background checks
 - Hardware, software and additional Staff
- ❖ Median maintenance increase- \$250,000
- ❖ Tree replacement - \$100,000

Mr. Thornburg stated that a Business Improvement District [BID] had been approved for the beach as well. Beach business owners would contribute to a fund for additional beach maintenance. This was estimated to be \$500,000 - \$600,000 per year.

8. Director's Report

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg invited Board members to attend the George English Park Community Tennis Center grand opening on Saturday September 30. Congressman Clay Shaw and County Commissioner Jim Scott would attend the event.

Mr. Thornburg asked Board members to make him or Ms. Daley aware of any available properties they felt suitable for parks as the County Open Space process would begin in the next month or so. The Board reminded Mr. Thornburg of the property at Riverland and 441 and the property on Davie Boulevard near the bank.

Chair Rude stated that Mayor Naugle had just joined the meeting.

Other Items of Interest

Ms. Revier said there was a problem on weekends in Bayview Park with youth loitering after hours and damaging the Port-O-Lets behind Bayview Elementary School.

Mr. Natale said there was a problem in Riverland Woods with homeless people bringing the fence down. Some homeless people were also bathing at the public spigot. Mr. Natale said it was difficult to get resolution for the problem since neither Davie nor the State wanted to assume responsibility.

Mr. Hartman noted the improvement at Middle River Terrace Park, but wanted to move ahead with other improvements, equipment, infrastructure and staffing so the park could be better utilized. He noted this was an important park to this area of the City. Mayor Naugle explained that some neighborhoods approached other entities for funding for improvements, such as a community club or corporate sponsor.

Dr. Hays remarked on how well Riverland was doing, and thanked Mr. Gizzi for his efforts on Riverland's behalf.

Mr. Thornburg explained to Dr. Hays that the City Commission had approved the movement of the stadium project. The County had committed \$800,000 and the application would now go to the State. Additional discussion was needed on details of the plan before it was a "done deal." Mr. Thornburg explained that the stadium would be stripped to the steel shell and rebuilt. Where Lockhart stadium stands, four additional practice fields would be built. The south end would be multi-use for parking or athletic use. The Orioles had agreed that high schools could play football and soccer in the stadium.

Regarding the most recent attack on a homeless person in Esplanade Park, Dr. Hays wondered how this could be dealt with. Chair Rude felt this was an enforcement issue. Dr. Hays agreed, and noted that everyone should feel safe in the parks and she hoped the new Board would investigate ways to address this.

Dr. Hays remarked on the significant reduction in turtle nests along the east coast of Florida. Ms. Rynard explained that Fort Lauderdale's turtle nesting had actually increased slightly. Mr. Thornburg said Nova was monitoring the turtle situation for the Broward County Environmental Protection Agency.

Ms. Rynard informed Dr. Hays that there had been a tree giveaway in August, and one was scheduled for Saturday at George English. Mr. Thornburg said they worked with homeowners when they could regarding "right tree, right place" planting rules. He explained that the Adopt-a-Tree program was specifically for trees planted in the City swale and was City-funded; the tree giveaway trees were purchased with grant money from the hurricane and were planted on private property.

Mr. Hoysgaard asked the Board to put the Coral Ridge Country Club on their agenda for a future meeting. Mr. Hoysgaard also felt Board members should be provided with business

cards and promotional items. He also thought it a brilliant idea to appoint students to City advisory boards.

Mr. Hartman agreed that advisory boards should be promoted more at statewide functions. He also thought FRPA could provide something to identify citizen members at conferences.

Regarding the Coral Ridge Country Club, Ms. Revier said she knew someone who would be glad to address the Board and give them updated information. Chair Rude noted that this was zoned as open space but was private property. Ms. Revier said the owners must apply for a change of use to build homes there.

Mr. Nast thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Mr. Shover thanked the Board and reminded them "it's all about the kids."

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