

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, January 24, 2007 -7:00 p.m.

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Cumulative 1/07-12/07</u>	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ed Angelbello	A	0	1
Curtiss Berry	A	0	1
Sean Fee	P	1	0
Ronald Goff	A	0	1
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	1	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	1	0
James LaBate	A	0	1
JoAnne Medalie	P	1	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Robert Payne	P	1	0
Betty Shelly	P	1	0
Shirley Small	P	1	0
Jay Verkey	P	1	0
Matthew Weiss	P	1	0

Staff

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
David Miller, Recreation Superintendent
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
David Deal, Recreation Program Coordinator
Officer Monica Ferrer
Stacey Daley, Administrative Liaison
Mona Laventure, Recording Secretary

Guests

Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
Johnny Duncombe, North Fork Elementary Principal
James Griffin, North Fork Assistant Principal
LaRhonda Ware, Dorsey Riverbend Homeowners Association
Kenny Nail, Fort Lauderdale Jaguars

Call to Order

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of September and November 2006 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Hoysgaard, seconded by Mr. Natale, to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2006 meeting. Board unanimously approved.

Motion made by Mr. Hartman, seconded by Mr. Natale, to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2006 meeting. Board unanimously approved.

I. Director's Report

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that the Land Preservation Advisory Board would meet the next day to rank proposals to present to the County Commission for the next phase of the open space and County Parks bonds. Approximately one-third of the properties being considered were Fort Lauderdale's.

Mr. Thornburg reported that the football/baseball issue at Floyd Hull Stadium would be on the City Commission's next meeting agenda on February 6, 2007. The recommendation would be to enter into a new agreement with the football program to continue providing services at Floyd Hull.

Mr. Thornburg stated they were pre-approved for a FEMA grant for window, door and roof protection for some parks buildings. The FEMA grant was \$658,000; the Federal share was approximately \$500,000 and the local match was \$164,000, which would be provided by the Fire Department.

Mr. Thornburg asked the Board members to bring their handbooks to the next meeting; they planned to discuss some items included in the handbook.

Mr. Thornburg explained the attendance policy for Board members.

Ms. Rynard informed Chair Hartman that the roof at Carter Park had been repaired and the building must now undergo mold remediation. Bids for the floor would be awarded in February.

II. Board Comments

Mark Hartman

Mr. Fee brought up the problem of men using Holiday Park as a "pick up" spot. Chair Hartman said he wanted to address the issue of park security, which led back to the need for more rangers in the parks. Chair Hartman felt they must assess the problems and ways to address them, including the funding issue. Mr. Weiss noted that Police

intervention had alleviated the problem last year and Mr. Thornburg agreed to contact the Police chief on this issue.

Mr. Verkey asked for help from the City with notifications about kids programs in the park that were not run by the City. Mr. Thornburg said they could include information in brochures and on the website, and include it in the information sent to civic associations each month. Dr. Hays advised Mr. Verkey that Maureen Dinnen would hold a joint school forum and perhaps Mr. Verkey could provide information to be distributed at this meeting.

Mr. Payne was very concerned about the lack of shower facilities at Carter Park pool. Mr. Thornburg said the Public Works Department was creating a cost estimate; they would then need to identify a funding source. He agreed to let the Board know when he had new information.

Mr. Natale stressed the importance of the Land Preservation Advisory Board meeting tomorrow regarding the park grants and urged Board members to attend.

Mr. Thornburg told Mr. Weiss that the City did have a lightning safety plan and agreed to put this item on next month's agenda.

Mr. Hoysgaard felt that the increase in the south beach parking lot from \$6 to \$10 was not enough. He felt something else must be considered to enable residents to use the beach.

III. Introduction of Members

Mark Hartman

Board members and guests introduced themselves in turn.

Chair Hartman explained that they were in the Southeast region of the Florida Recreation Park Association. City staff had provided copies of the FRPA quarterly magazine and Chair Hartman noted that the magazine and website were excellent sources of information. Dr. Hays encouraged Board members to join the organization and wondered if the City would pay their membership dues.

IV. Recreation Program of the Month North Fork All Stars – Youth Sports Club

David Miller

Mr. Miller introduced David Deal, Recreation Program Coordinator, to give a presentation on the North Fork Youth Sports Academy.

Mr. Deal introduced Johnny Duncombe, North Fork Principal, James Griffin, Assistant Principal, and Ms. LaRhonda Ware, Dorsey Riverbend Homeowners Association. Mr. Deal gave a Power Point presentation on the program.

North Fork All Stars Program:

- Goals:
 - Encourage teamwork and sportsmanship
 - Quality sports programming to the underserved North fork area
 - Create a positive collaboration with North Fork elementary
 - Introduce families to the benefits of leisure activities and fitness
- Description:
 - 120 current participants [and growing]
 - Program is free
 - Instructional
 - 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Competitors
 - YMCA
 - Boys and Girls Clubs
 - The Urban League
- Strengths/Resources
 - Local governmental entity
 - Professional
 - City/School administration works hand-in-hand
 - City provides equipment, school provides space
 - City school busses provide transportation to games
 - Parental/community involvement
- Schedule
 - Announcements and information
 - Implementation
 - Quality assurance/evaluation/reprogram
- Future Plans
 - Snorkeling and boating
 - Bussing to Carter to aquatics
 - Seasonal sport coordination

Mr. Johnny Duncombe, North Fork Principal, explained that the school was a marine science magnet with approximately 600 students and 85 staff. They were currently rated a "B" school.

Mr. James Griffin, Assistant Principal, said this program provided activities for kids who were not able to participate in other programs. They also had the opportunity to participate in the intramural league to showcase their talents.

Mr. Duncombe explained that this program provided certified teachers to work on any of the students' academic deficiencies. They also worked with the kids on social skills.

Dr. Hays asked Mr. Deal to make his presentation to the Education Advisory Board.

Ms. LaRhonda Ware, Dorsey Riverbend Homeowners Association thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the activities they provided and their beautification efforts.

Mr. Miller informed Mr. Natale that they were currently analyzing the project costs.

Mr. Verkey liked the fact that participants did not have to be A or B students, or could even have a learning disability.

Mr. Payne was concerned about kids being turned away from the program. Mr. Deal was not sure how many kids might have been turned away, but agreed to look into this.

V. Homelessness in the Parks

Earnest Jones

Ranger Supervisor Jones described the situation in the parks and said they worked with the Police and different agencies to provide assistance. He introduced Officer Monica Ferrer to describe outreach the Police performed.

Officer Ferrer explained that the City had three homeless outreach officers. She stated they could place people in the Homeless Assistance Center (HAC), the Salvation Army and the Broward Outreach Center (BOC) in Hollywood and Pompano Beach.

Officer Ferrer informed the Board that they maintained a database of the homeless. There was a meeting location where interviews were conducted and people from various social service agencies came and explained services.

Officer Ferrer explained the Reunification Program, whereby the County provided homeless people with free bus tickets to reunite them with family members in another state.

Mr. Weiss asked if it was illegal to sleep in City parks, and Ranger Supervisor Jones said this was not illegal activity. They tried to relocate the homeless to areas where they would have the least negative impact. Mr. Fee suggested that since the homeless tended to congregate around table/bench areas, these should be moved out near Sunrise Boulevard so they would be away from where families congregated.

VI. Ensuring a Green City

Phil Thornburg

Chair Hartman asked to defer this item to their next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to defer this item to their next meeting. Board unanimously approved.

VII. Other Items of Interest

Chair Hartman distributed copies of "Charting the Course" from an FRPA seminar. He invited board members to bring copies of articles they wanted to share with other Board members.

Mr. Hoysgaard presented a copy of a newspaper article from October 8, 2006 that referred to a report that described the beach as “not up to standard” and listed the problems as: “poor appearance of public spaces..., inadequate landscaping, insufficient maintenance of wavy sitting wall..., lack of good signage and a beach identity branding..., not enough security and protection for visitors.”

Mr. Hoysgaard asked Mr. Thornburg about ongoing beach improvements. Mr. Thornburg explained that this year’s capital improvement budget included “significant dollars put toward the beach improvements.” The Beach Improvement District [BID] was a group of businesses along the beach that contributed additional funds for day-to-day beach maintenance.

Mr. Hoysgaard said the beach had seemed cleaner on his most recent visit. Mr. Thornburg said the new equipment did seem to be performing better cleaning.

Mr. Weiss returned to the subject of the Holiday Park solicitation and drug problems and wanted to put this item on their next agenda. He felt they should review the Parks and Recreation disciplinary codes for violators, and “try to take back Holiday Park; it’s getting out of hand over there.” Chair Hartman felt community pressure usually resulted in an immediate decline in such problems, but Police and Rangers would invariably need to address other issues, and the problems would resurface. The question was how to keep the problems from returning.

Mr. Weiss noted that Park rules currently allowed an individual three “strikes” per month until he or she was suspended from the Park. He felt individuals should be given fewer chances. Mr. Thornburg offered to have a Police officer address the Board to explain how they patrolled the Park and to hear the Board’s concerns.

Dr. Hays distributed copies of a request from Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations and Southwest Coalition to place a plaque in Civic People’s Park honoring Audrey Ebanks, including some information on Ms. Ebank’s background. Dr. Hays asked that this item be placed on the Board’s February agenda for discussion and vote.

Dr. Hays informed everyone that there had been a CVC project at Snyder Park this past weekend to paint tables, mulch, and clean up the grounds. She said they had accomplished a lot, but there was more to do there. Dr. Hays reminded Board members that points were awarded to civic associations and kids earned community service hour credit for volunteering for the CVC projects.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.