

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**  
**City of Fort Lauderdale**  
**100 North Andrews Avenue**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.**

<u><b>Board Members</b></u>	<u><b>Attendance</b></u>	<b>Cumulative 1/07-12/07</b>	
		<u><b>Present</b></u>	<u><b>Absent</b></u>
Ed Angelbello	P	1	1
Curtiss Berry	P	1	1
Sean Fee	P	2	0
Ronald Goff	A	0	2
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	2	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	2	0
James LaBate	A	0	2
JoAnne Medalie	P	2	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Robert Payne	A	1	1
Betty Shelley	P	2	0
Shirley Small	A	1	1
Jay Verkey	P	2	0
Matthew Weiss	P	1	0

**Staff**

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director  
Marie Rock, Recreation Coordinator  
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant

**Guests**

Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations

**Call to Order**

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of January 2007 Minutes**

**Motion** made by Mr. Angelbello, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the minutes of the January 2007 meeting. Board unanimously approved.

**1. Director's Report**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that they were all registered as FRPA and NRPA members and should be receiving materials from those organizations.

Mr. Thornburg reported that the City Commission had approved the Capital Improvement Program [CIP], which included approximately \$4 million for beach improvements, which should begin soon. Mr. Thornburg added that self-cleaning toilets were included in the CIP.

Mr. Thornburg reminded everyone that the Mayor's State of the City address was scheduled for 6 p.m. on March 1 at George English Park.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the Commission had approved the use of Floyd Hull Stadium for the football teams.

Mr. Thornburg reminded the Board that they had sought the Commission's support to fund the purchase of two more parks. The Commission had approved additional monies for school property at Shady Banks. The other property they were seeking was Gore Nursery. Middle River Terrace Park was approved by the County Commission and negotiation was continuing with the owners. The County was considering purchasing the Tarpon River property as well.

**II. Board Member Orientation**

Mark Hartman

Chair Hartman said everything the Board and the Parks Department did should be directed toward their mission and asked them to bear this in mind.

Chair Hartman advised Board members to contact department staff regarding park maintenance issues rather than bringing these items up at Board meetings. He read a question from an article on High Performance Boards, that he wanted everyone to keep in mind: "Do they stay focused on policy and strategic issues, versus daily operations and tactical issues?" He reminded everyone that they were a policy advisory board for the City Commission.

Mr. Berry was concerned that complaints might not receive a response in a timely manner. Mr. Thornburg stated that department members tried to respond within 24 hours, if this was not happening, Board members should let him know.

Mr. Fee noted that part of the mission statement included "promoting diversity in programming, safety and services..."

Mr. Thornburg reminded the Board that he worked for the City Manager, therefore, he brought appropriate items to his office; the Board effectively worked for the City Commission, therefore, they should concentrate on issues they felt the City Commission needed to consider.

Mr. Hoysgaard stated they should deal with the macro issues, not the micro issues. Regarding email, Chair Hartman explained that they should avoid interactive email between Board members, as the meeting was the only forum in which it was acceptable for them to discuss their business. Mr. Hoysgaard felt they need not shut down all communication between Board members and that perhaps an expert in Sunshine Law should address the Board to clarify. Chair Hartman was certain that any discussion regarding Fort Lauderdale Parks and Recreation was forbidden.

Mr. Thornburg had consulted the City Attorney in this regard and had been informed that Board members should have no communication outside their meetings concerning any park issue that had been, was, or could come before the Board. He agreed to invite the Assistant City Attorney to a future meeting to address their concerns.

Chair Hartman advised Board members to visit parks they intended to discuss so they were better prepared for their meetings. He advised Board members to attend their appointing Commissioners' pre-agenda meetings.

Chair Hartman informed the Board that this month's issue of the NRPA magazine had an article regarding sex in city parks [in general] and distributed copies of it. Mr. Weiss said he had spoken with Mr. Thornburg about this earlier and noted the increased police presence in Holiday Park.

**III. Recreation Program of the Month**  
**"Walk Fort Lauderdale"**

Marie Rock

Ms. Rock said this program was designed to get people into the parks to walk. People would be provided with a log to keep track of their progress and could sign a fitness pledge. A map of Fort Lauderdale parks would also be handed out to all participants. She distributed a sheet listing dates and times for four kickoff events.

Mr. Thornburg said this was their start in Commit to Be Fit and that they were considering Swim Fort Lauderdale and Bike Fort Lauderdale programs.

**IV. Plaque Honoring Audley Ebanks**  
**Civic People's Park**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg said Board members had received backup pursuant to their desire to add Audley Ebanks to the Civic People's Park honorees.

Dr. Hays explained that Mr. Ebanks was active in Melrose Park. He had been involved in real estate and finance, first in Jamaica, and then in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Ebanks was the victim of an accidental shooting on New Years Eve. Dr. Hays said Mr. Ebanks had been Vice President of Melrose Park Civic Association and served on the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations. His group was also a member of the Southwest Coalition. The Southwest Coalition and Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations had recommended Mr. Ebanks for inclusion in Civic People's Park.

**Motion** made by Mr. Hoysgaard, seconded by Ms. Medalie to recommend a plaque in Civic People's Park for Audley Ebanks. Board unanimously approved.

**V. Ensuring a Green City**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg distributed copies of a Power Point presentation to Board members regarding the amount of tree damage from the 2005 Hurricane season and the reforestation efforts. The presentation included the changes to be made to the landscape ordinance, the FPL line feeder program and the reforestation plan. He drew the Board's attention to the ordinance changes that were highlighted. He noted that the new requirements would take effect when a homeowner applied for a permit.

Mr. Thornburg explained that the tree giveaway program was for smaller trees. The Adopt-a-Tree was for larger trees that must be located in the right of way.

**VI. Board Comments**

Mark Hartman

Mr. Natale said there was a request from District 3 for a plaque in Civic People's Park for William Dandy, who had passed away recently.

Mr. Hoysgaard wanted an update on Beach parking fees. Mr. Thornburg said the issue had not been settled yet.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mark Hartman

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.