

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

**City of Fort Lauderdale**

**100 North Andrews Avenue**

**8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Wednesday, April 25, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative 1/07-12/07</b>	
		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Ed Angelbello	P	3	1
Curtiss Berry	P	3	1
Sean Fee	P	4	0
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	3	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	4	0
James LaBate	P	2	2
Larry Mabson	A	1	1
JoAnne Medalie	P	4	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Robert Payne	P	3	1
Betty Shelley	P	4	0
Shirley Small	P	2	2
Jay Verkey	P	4	0
Matthew Weiss	P	4	0

### **Staff**

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director

David Miller, Recreation Superintendent

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Cliff Bush, Tree Services Foreman

Gerald Roberts, Recreation Program Coordinator

### **Guests**

Bob Wells, Golf Fort Lauderdale

Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of March 2007 Minutes**

Mr. Weiss noted that he had been present at all three meetings this year and asked that his attendance be corrected in the minutes.

Ms. Shelley said her name had been spelled incorrectly.

**Motion** made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Berry, to approve the minutes of the March 2007 meeting as amended. Board unanimously approved.

#### **1. Director's Report**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg distributed information regarding the Big Truck Extravaganza scheduled for May 12, at the Holiday Park War Memorial Police Barn.

Mr. Thornburg asked Mr. Miller to provide the Board with a report on the swim team's trip to Washington D.C.

Mr. Miller said they had taken 27 swimmers to Washington D.C. for the swim meet and their team had placed number one. He presented photos to the Board from the trip. Mr. Miller noted that the meet had coincided with the release of the film "Pride", which was based on a black swim team from Philadelphia, and a person from their staff had been a swim double in the film.

Mr. Miller said the kids visited the National Holocaust Museum, the National Archives and the Capitol. The kids also saw snow. Mr. Miller said he had been proud of the kids' behavior on the trip and looked forward to next year.

Dr. Hays said this had been an excellent program and she was glad the City Commission recognized it.

Mr. Thornburg advised Board members to let him and/or Stacey know if they were not receiving materials from the FRPA and NRPA. Mr. Thornburg had copies of the FRPA's printout of the legislative platform. He said the FRDAP grants had received funding and would continue. He agreed to monitor the tax reform situation in Tallahassee and keep the Board up to date on any developments.

Mr. Thornburg said the new summer program information would be in the mail soon. He invited the Board's comments on the brochure.

Chair Hartman thanked Mr. Thornburg for distributing copies of the legislative platform and informed the Board that this was important to follow because it explained what Parks and Recreation was advocating in Tallahassee.

Mr. Natale noted that Civic Peoples' Park was not on the map. Mr. Thornburg said this map was of pools and community centers; an all-inclusive map would have been too busy.

Mr. Berry informed Mr. Thornburg that there was a very large dead tree near the Fireman's Hall on Southwest 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 27<sup>th</sup> Street. He asked if the City was responsible for this tree. Mr. Thornburg said if the tree was not on the right-of-way, it was not the City's responsibility. He agreed to inform Code Enforcement of the situation.

**2. Recreation Program of the Month**  
Golf Fort Lauderdale

David Miller

Mr. Miller reminded the Board that when they had annexed Oswald Park three years ago it included a golf course. They had initiated the Golf Fort Lauderdale Program there that is run by Gerald Roberts. Mr. Miller introduced Mr. Roberts and Mr. Wells, a golf pro, who gave a Power Point presentation, [a copy of which is attached to these minutes.]

Mr. Natale asked if there had been any more discussion regarding development of property on 31<sup>st</sup> in which Commissioner Moore was interested. Mr. Thornburg said there had been no more discussion on this, as far as he knew, and agreed to find out.

Mr. Weiss asked the hours of the three-hole course and if it was open to residents. Mr. Roberts explained that the hours were from 8:00 a.m. to dusk Monday through Friday and until 6:00 p.m. on the weekend. There were no fees for City residents, but so far there was no overuse problem. Mr. Roberts said he had created a golf committee to police the issues.

Mr. Hoysgaard noted that the loss of the American Golf Center was devastating. Mr. Wells agreed, noting that the driving range was still open during daylight hours. Mr. Wells noted that the skills the kids learned would be lost if they did not have the facilities to keep them up through practice.

Mr. Hoysgaard suggested they send a message to the City and County Commissions and the developer.

Dr. Hays said there was a selling point Mr. Roberts had not discussed: athletic college scholarships available for golf. She felt it was important the parents know about this.

Mr. Angelbello asked how many kids were in the program; Mr. Roberts said approximately 30 – 50 kids. The fees for kids were \$1 for residents and \$2 for non-residents in the Saturday program. Mr. Roberts felt once the program was readily available the fee could be increased.

Mr. Fee asked if kids were provided with clubs to use and if they solicited donations for equipment. Mr. Wells said they had a lot of donated equipment for the kids' use and they had not yet sought outside funding sources.

Mr. Thornburg thanked Mr. Roberts and Mr. Wells for the outstanding jobs they had done getting the program together and in involving the kids. Mr. Roberts thanked the recreation program supervisor, Barbara Barber, and their superintendent, David Miller, for their support and for making these programs possible.

### **3. Tree Pruning Demonstration**

Terry Rynard  
Cliff Bush

Mr. Thornburg said he had invited Mr. Bush and Ms. Rynard to attend to explain how trees could be prepared for hurricane season.

Ms. Rynard introduced Mr. Bush, who gave a Power Point presentation regarding hurricane evaluation and preparedness, [a copy of which is attached to these minutes.]

Mr. Natale said he was "shocked and appalled at FPL's treatment of our trees." He noted the hacking FPL had done to the Riverland Road canopy. Gene Dempsey had informed Mr. Natale that the trees were trimmed properly, but all on one side. Mr. Natale felt that it appeared excessive and was upset that the City had no recourse. Mr. Natale was surprised that "FPL has that type of power that they can get away with doing that."

Mr. Thornburg said FPL did have the authority to do this; it was granted by the Utilities Commission to keep their lines clear. Mr. Thornburg said they had worked with FPL to increase the frequency of the trimming so it was not so severe.

Mr. Fee asked who decided which trees to plant in medians. Mr. Thornburg explained that if it was a DOT or County roadway, DOT controlled it; existing trees were grandfathered in. He explained there was several criteria used to determine what trees could be planted.

Mr. Berry asked if there was a way to fine people for planting inappropriate trees under power lines. Mr. Thornburg did not know if there were regulations regarding this.

Mr. Weiss asked what was being done to replace trees taken out by the hurricanes. Mr. Bush said this was a slow process and they were being very mindful of replacing native trees with the same species. He said there was a shortage of larger trees at nurseries because of the hurricanes. Mr. Thornburg remarked that with the drought, they had stopped new plantings.

Mr. Hartman asked if the City's trees were prepared for the oncoming hurricane season. Mr. Bush said they had started trimming in the winter and there were where they wanted to be.

#### **4. Water Restrictions Phase II**

Terry Rynard

Ms. Rynard said they were only planting new sod where they absolutely must. They were starting to see signs of wear on the athletic fields. She explained that annuals would not be replanted until they were able to plan more. In the meantime, they were using more Xeriscape and more drought-tolerant plants.

Dr. Hays said the Water Management District would consider instituting Phase III restrictions in May. Mr. Thornburg said City employees had been charged with reporting problems with irrigation systems and asked the Board to report any problems they saw to 828-8000. He stated someone would shut water off as soon as it was reported and the unit would be repaired later.

Mr. Rynard reminded the Board that they watered fields, tennis courts and the equestrian center arenas for ten minutes prior to use. They were also permitted to run the sprinklers for 10 minutes per zone per week for maintenance.

Chair Hartman thanked City staff for their efforts to comply with the restrictions.

#### **5. Board Comments**

Mark Hartman

Chair Hartman thanked City staff for their presentations this evening and for taking the time to attend the Board's meeting.

Chair Hartman referred to a report from Iraq describing efforts to re-create parks there to encourage residents to come together as a community and to promote peace. They began by getting kids interested; the kids then put pressure on their parents to become involved.

Chair Hartman announced that the Aids Walk would begin and end this weekend in Huizenga Park. Board members could go to [www.AidsWalk.net](http://www.AidsWalk.net) and click on Fort Lauderdale to donate or sponsor an individual [such as Chair Hartman] or to sign up.

Chair Hartman said he had attended a fund-raiser for the Annie Beck House. The Broward Trust for Historic Preservation was moving the house into a Middle River Terrace Park and would use it as an office for the Broward Trust for Historic Preservation.

Chair Hartman reminded the Board of the Successful Citizen Advisory Board and Committee training meeting on April 27 from 12:30 to 4:30 at Lauderdale Lakes. Mr. Thornburg explained that there would be another meeting in May for Chairs and Vice-Chairs to discuss how to run a meeting.

Chair Hartman said Dr. Hays had provided a copy of a Miami Herald article regarding Art in the Park and Dog Parks. Chair Hartman informed the Board that Fort Lauderdale had a Doggie's guide to parks in Fort Lauderdale.

Chair Hartman reminded Board members to take advantage of the opportunity to tour the parks with Park Ranger Supervisor Jones.

Mr. Natale stated he was the Co-Chair of the Southwest Coalition and the airport was an issue of concern to them. He announced that the FAA would hold a meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the airport. Mr. Natale said the 13/31 crosswind runway was his concern, affecting Melrose Park, Riverland Woods, Riverland Park, Ann Herman Park, and Floyd Hull Park. This was a quality of life and safety issue. Mr. Natale said the Coalition had adopted a resolution in August 2005 and the City had adopted this resolution in July 2006. He requested the Board to complete comment forms he had brought, stating their desire for the decommissioning of the 13/31 runway.

Mr. Berry wondered why no one had said anything last year when the 13/31 runway was in temporary use during repairs. Mr. Natale said those who complained were put on a list to be notified when the 13/31 runway would be used.

Dr. Hays remarked that up until recently 13/31 had only been used in times of “operational necessity”, but it was now open all of the time and the restrictions had been lifted. The airport hoped that using two runways would help speed up arrivals and departures and reduce delays. Without the South runway, 13/31 would not be decommissioned.

Mr. Fee asked about the long-term projects for the fields in Croissant Park and Hardy Park. Mr. Thornburg said a Master Plan was developed for Hardy Park. The projects at Croissant were only the fields and relocation of light poles. Both of these were in their capital program, but they were unsure about when they would be funded.

Mr. Verkey asked why Riverland Woods Park was being closed after dark. He noted that some fishing friends were concerned about being locked in if they arrived back too late. Ms. Rynard said they had stopped locking it within the last two weeks because early morning fisherman had complained. For now, it would be left open.

## **6. Adjournment**

Mark Hartman

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.