

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

City of Fort Lauderdale

100 North Andrews Avenue

8th Floor Conference Room

Wednesday, June 27, 2007 - 7:00 p.m.

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Cumulative Attendance	
		<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ed Angelbello	A	4	3
Curtiss Berry	P	6	2
Sean Fee	P	8	0
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	7	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	5	3
James LaBate	P	6	2
Larry Mabson	P	3	1
JoAnne Medalie	P	6	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	A	7	1
Robert Payne	P	6	2
Betty Shelley	A	6	2
Shirley Small	P	5	3
Jay Verkey	A	4	2
Matthew Weiss	A	7	1

Staff

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director

Earnest Jones – Park Ranger Supervisor

Vince Gizzi – Special Facilities Superintendent

Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant

Stephanie Brady, Special Events Coordinator

Travis Woods, Recording Secretary

Guests

Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations

Karen Badalamenti, GreenPlay

Rob Layton, Design Concepts

Rachel Brenna, Design Concepts

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of May 2007 Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Mabson, to approve the minutes of the May 2007 meeting. Board unanimously approved.

1. Department Report

Terry Rynard

Ms. Rynard reported that the meeting schedules were available on paper for Board members who requested it. She announced that FRPA magazine would now be sent to the main office and would be distributed to Board members from there. Ms. Rynard informed the Board that minutes attendance would now be calculated by the fiscal year not the calendar year. She reminded all Board members to sign in at every meeting, and to announce their arrival if they showed up late.

Ms. Rynard reminded the Board that David Deal Play Day and Summerfest were coming up in July. These were their flagship events for kids, culminating the summer camps. She encouraged Board members to attend David Deal Play Day between July 21 – 25 at Carter Park.

Mr. Rynard informed the Board that the Starlight Musicals theme this Friday night at Holiday Park was tropical, and this was Margaritaville week with Joe's Stowaways performing.

Ms. Rynard stated they had hired the consulting firm of Gladding, Jackson to create the long-range strategic plan for the department. Concept Designs and GreenPlay were two of the partners working with Gladding Jackson. They had been in the City all week looking at all parks and facilities and creating a comprehensive inventory.

Ms. Karen Batalamente from GreenPlay explained they were currently conducting inventory and staff meetings, and they planned to return in July to meet with the City Commission. In September, they would hold stakeholder and public meetings and compile the data. They would return in November or December with their findings and then prepare draft recommendations.

Dr. Hays said she had attended the meetings a couple of years ago regarding planning for the parks, and she had never seen the outcome of those meetings. She asked if contributions made by the community at that time would be incorporated into these findings.

Ms. Rynard explained that this was the long-range strategic plan; they were not looking at specific parks, but the comprehensive system demographics and way the system should look 5, 10 and 15 years out.

Mr. Gizzi said they had created an RFP to find the best consulting firm. Three firms had responded to the RFP and the committee had recommended the firm of Gladding Jackson. Their kickoff meeting with Gladding Jackson had occurred two weeks ago.

Dr. Hays referred to meetings that had taken place at Holiday Park. Mr. Gizzi explained that these meetings concerned the northwest in downtown areas of the City only. Dr. Hays wanted to be sure that this group had access to the results of those meetings. Ms. Rynard said the consultants had been provided with all information staff had collected.

Ms. Rynard announced that on July 4 there would be activities all day long at the beach, culminating in fireworks at 9 p.m.

Ms. Stephanie Brady, Special Events Coordinator, presented a movie showing July 4, 2006 activities at the beach and described the schedule for this year. She explained that the stage was on the beach across from D.C. Alexander Park. The fireworks would be across from Las Olas Boulevard.

2. July – Parks and Recreation Month

Mark Hartman

Chair Hartman said he had been at the June 19 City Commission meeting and had accepted the proclamation announcing that July was Parks and Recreation month in Fort Lauderdale. He presented this proclamation to City staff and congratulated them.

Mr. Hoysgaard remarked that this proclamation was a testimony to why the City should have festivals.

3. Park Rules and Regulations

Terry Rynard

Chair Hartman reminded the Board that he had asked them last month to look at the Park Rules and Regulations and prepare comments for this meeting. He asked Board members to each state his or her case in a concise sentence or two.

Chair Hartman asked if anyone wish to comment on the Hours of Operation. Ms. Rynard stated that hours of operation were posted, and could change depending upon the season and special events. Ranger Supervisor Jones explained that neighborhood parks closed at 9 o'clock, and the larger regional parks closed at 11 o'clock. A few specialized parks had different seasonal closing times. Mr. Payne asked if the community could request a change in park hours. Supervisor Jones stated they had

met with homeowners associations requesting changes in park hours in the past and subsequently adjusted the hours.

Dr. Hays asked if the time the gate was locked at Riverland Woods had been changed. Ms. Rynard said the park hours had not changed but the gate was not locked. Supervisor Jones said they had been monitoring the situation and had communicated with the neighbors.

Chair Hartman asked for comments on Park Property. Board members had no comment on this item.

Chair Hartman asked for comments on Fireworks [Safety Hazard]. Dr. Hays encouraged the Board to approve the change from Safety Hazard to Fireworks.

Chair Hartman asked the Board for comments regarding Nuisances. Ms. Rynard said Mr. Natale had submitted a comment stating that the section regarding responsibility for pets should be moved to the "exceptions" section with the discussion of dogs and leashes. Dr. Hays suggested the language addressing aggressive dogs be placed after B.3. Ms. Rynard explained that the language referring to service animals was an ADA clarification.

Chair Hartman stated he opposed 4.1, prohibiting the presence of any pet in parks. He stated this was inconsistent with and contrary to policies allowing dogs in State and County parks. Chair Hartman stated dogs were permitted in County parks on six-foot leashes. He expected restrictions would apply if the City permitted dogs in parks. Chair Hartman said there was significant support favoring allowing dogs in City parks.

Mr. Rynard reported that many discussions had occurred regarding this issue, and the conversation usually boiled down to the size of the properties. Supervisor Jones explained that Park rules tended to follow City ordinance. Ms. Medalie felt the shortage of Rangers prevented the City from having activities such as this, because they did not have the manpower to enforce the rules. Supervisor Jones confirmed that the presence of a ranger was required at the canine beach during its operation.

Chair Hartman, stated that under 4.1.B.1, 4.1.C.1 and 4.1.D.2, he would add that the leash must be six feet at all times.

Ms. Rynard noted some typographical errors that had been edited out.

Under 4.6, Chair Hartman wanted to specify that sleeping or reclining was prohibited in "athletic fields" instead of "fields." Mr. LaBate pointed out that people rested in the parks during the day and the homeless slept in the parks at night. He wondered if it would be possible to further define the language to distinguish between the two

activities. Chair Hartman admitted this was a difficult distinction; he felt the rules gave the Rangers and Police latitude to use their discretion on this issue. Ms. Rynard felt this language was intended to indicate that certain amenities had specific uses and visitors should not be sleeping in areas designated for certain activities.

Regarding 2.6 concerning canine beach permits. Ms. Medalie asked if it was possible to obtain a permit online. Ms. Rynard said this was not possible yet, but it could be accomplished through the mail. Supervisor Jones explained that a weekend permit cost \$6; an annual permit cost \$35 for residents and \$50 for nonresidents. Ms. Medalie felt the nonresident fees were too low.

Dr. Hays pointed out that in 4.7, she was concerned with the removal of Riverwalk, because she felt people did not view Riverwalk as a park. Ms. Rynard said this had been removed simply because no other park had been specifically named. Supervisor Jones said Riverwalk had been specifically named because at the time, Riverwalk was brand-new and they had wanted to emphasize it.

Mr. Hoysgaard agreed with Ms. Medalie that the fee for nonresidents was too low and said, "I don't know when the City's going to get it through its head that we're not in the business of taking care of nonresidents."

Chair Hartman and said there were times when this argument was valid, but pointed out that there were times the City went out of its way to attract nonresidents, because the City was a tourist destination.

Chair Hartman asked the Board for comments regarding vehicles and traffic. Ms. Reynard said Mr. Natale had submitted a comment on 5.7 regarding mopeds. He had suggested this be changed to *ATVs* and mopeds.

Chair Hartman asked about bikes on park walkways, and wondered if they should consider people locking their bicycles to park equipment, fencing, signage and trees. In 5.6 under boats, Chair Hartman felt trailer parking should be addressed as well.

Ms. Medalie noted that bicycles, skateboards and roller skates were all over the Promenade at the beach, and she had only seen one sign indicating these were prohibited.

Dr. Hays asked if waxing a car would be considered motor vehicle maintenance. Supervisor Jones stated this was not maintaining a vehicle; changing the oil would be a problem.

Chair Hartman asked the Board for comments regarding Picnicking. Ms. Rynard said on occasion, there was a shortage of grills in the parks, or there were no grills in parks.

She explained that provided all safety rules were followed, people could bring their own grills into the parks. This was why the "personal grills" reference had been removed. Mr. Hoysgaard stated reserving tables for parties who had not yet arrived was not permitted, and he noted how difficult this was to enforce.

Chair Hartman asked the Board for comments on beach regulations. Ms. Medalie asked about the regulation that stated bathers were not permitted to wear long pants or shoes. Supervisor Jones said these prohibitions have been included at the request of the beach patrol to help prevent drowning.

Chair Hartman wondered if the child's age should be specified in 7.1.D. Ms. Rynard said the section mirrored City ordinance. She said the first question was whether they could insert an age, and the second was whether they wanted to. Supervisor Jones said there were also beach patrol guidelines regarding this. Ms. Rynard agreed to research this report back to the Board.

Mr. Berry suggested adding a prohibition against removing sand from the beach. Ms. Rynard said state law prohibited this.

Ms. Medalie noted that 7.4.A referred to certain activities being confined to certain areas at certain times, but she did not know where the areas were or when the times were. Supervisor Jones explained that initially many of the activities were entirely prohibited. It was up to the lifeguards to determine if activities were safe in relation to crowd density. Ms. Rynard said the intent was to permit activities unless lifeguards determined they were hazardous, and she felt the language could be changed to better explain this.

Mr. Mabson felt there should be some language addressing pool regulations. Ms. Rynard explained that each pool had very specific regulations posted. Ms. Rynard pointed out that the beach rules could be enforced differently than other park rules because they were part of City ordinances. Mr. Mabson felt there should be some generic language requiring adherence to rules at specific locations. Supervisor Jones explained that 9.2 addressed this.

Ms. Medalie referred to 7.4.F prohibiting glass containers on the beach, but noted that businesses in the area frequently provided patrons with glass containers that they subsequently brought to the beach. Ms. Medalie said she was not sure how she felt about 7.4.G, because canopies were used on the beach for sun protection. Ms. Rynard recommended removing the word "canopies." Supervisor Jones said they had just added fences and canopies to the language in response to "condominiums" people erected on the beach for the Air and Sea Show.

Ms. Rynard said Mr. Natale had indicated that in 7.4.F, he would like to see “bottles and glass containers ” changed to “glass bottles and glass containers.”

Chair Hartman asked if there was any mention of turtles in the rules, or of littering. Ms. Medalie said turtles and littering came under state law. Dr. Hays informed him that there was a change pending to the ordinance to consider cigarette butts as litter.

Member noted that 7.5.B should include “film” with commercial photography.

Chair Hartman invited the Board's comments on Collection of Fees. Ms. Medalie felt fees for special events needed to be looked at. Ms. Rynard said their fee pricing structure would be considered as part of the long-range strategic plan.

Chair Hartman invited the Board's comments on General Laws and Additional Operating Procedures. The Board had no remarks on this item.

Chair Hartman invited the Board's comments on Permits. In 10.1, Chair Hartman felt some direction should be given regarding how to obtain a permit.

Ms. Rynard said under 10.3, some specific sites were listed, and there had been some conversations internally that other sites might be added. She said they wanted to make sure people were given the opportunity to have events that benefited the community, but they did not want these to take place in parks that were adjacent to residences. They had selected the sites because they had the least impact on residents, but she was not sure this provided sufficient coverage and they were still considering the sites internally.

Dr. Hayes asked if anyone could obtain a permit for an event, and Ms. Rynard informed her that there was a whole process an event organizer went through in order to secure a permit. Organizers must complete an application and explain security and traffic provisions. The Police and Fire departments had input as well.

Chair Hartman invited the Board's comments on Enforcement. Ms. Rynard explained that they had removed the language regarding habitual violators, and the rule now stated the City had the discretion to remove anyone violating a park rule and to keep someone out of City parks for six months.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to approve the proposed changes to the Parks and Recreation Rules and Regulations document.

Chair Hartman wondered if rather than approve the document with the changes, they should request the changes so they could review the document one more time before approving it.

Board approved the motion 5 – 4.

Ms. Rynard agreed to make the suggested changes and e-mail the revised document to Board members. If a member noticed a requested change had not been made, they could inform her of this.

4. Board Comments

Mark Hartman

Mr. Hoysgaard reported the last time the City had hosted the Cajun Zydeco Festival the City had made \$75,000. He felt the City had an obligation to hold festivals and other events. Mr. Hoysgaard said the festivals were great opportunities to bring the community together. He noted that volunteers were key to making the festival lucrative for the City.

Mr. Hoysgaard asked Mr. Gizzi what he had discovered about the Cajun Zydeco Festival. Mr. Gizzi reported that he was told the festival was no longer being held in May but would be held in November by the same promoter. Mr. Hoysgaard doubted this, since the crawfish were the key to the festival and their season was March, April and May.

Chair Hartman reminded the Board that if they felt this issue was worthy of further action, it should be brought to the attention of the City Commission. He asked Board members to contact their individual commissioners regarding this.

Mr. Berry asked where the airplane was. Mr. Gizzi said they had and the been unable to get the air base to work with them on this, but they were obtaining proposals to have the plane repaired and the pedestal redone, and he hoped it would be replaced at some point in the near future.

Mr. Payne reported he had attended the youth sports annual banquets for kids at Carter Park. He thanked staff for the wonderful job they had done.

Mr. Madsen restated his interest in further discussion on park ranger resources.

Dr. Hays said she had heard that the City was considering relocating one of the fire stations that was being refurbished to Mills Pond Park. She was concerned about the loss of park land and felt this matter should come to the Parks and Recreation Board. Dr. Hays said residents near the fire station were very concerned about additional response time due to relocation.

Mr. Fee thanked staff for all of their efforts at the Holiday Park baseball tournaments.

Chair Hartman reminded the Board that they had decided that at the July meeting they would consider their goals and objectives for the upcoming year. Chair Hartman clarified that these were goals and objectives for the Board, not for the department. Chair Hartman announced that the Jazz Brunch would take place July 1 at Riverwalk, from 11:00 to 2:00. On July 4, there were events at the beach starting at 1 p.m., with fireworks at 9 p.m. He reminded everyone that Starlight Musicals took place every Friday night in July in Holiday Park.

5. Adjournment

Mark Hartman

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.