

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance</b>	
		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	8	1
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	8	1
Sean Fee	P	9	0
Robert Hoysgaard	A	5	4
James LaBate	A	6	3
Larry Mabson	A	3	2
JoAnne Medalie	A	6	1
Robert Payne	P	7	2
Betty Shelley	P	7	2
Shirley Small	P	6	3
Jay Verkey	P	5	2
Matthew Weiss	P	8	1
Ed Angelbello	P	5	3
Curtiss Berry	P	7	2

**Staff and Guests**

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
 Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
 Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant  
 Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations  
 Bob Bacic, Fort Lauderdale Fire Department  
 Frank Snedaker, Fort Lauderdale Fire Department  
 Kenny Nail, President, Jaguar Youth Football and Cheer program  
 Elizabeth Rivera, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of June 2007 Minutes**

Chair Hartman reported that an amendment needed to be made to the minutes to add the name of the recording clerk, Travis Woods, at the request of the City Clerk's office.

Mr. Weiss stated that a correction needed to be made on Page 7, paragraph 3 of the minutes. He stated that his name appears in the minutes, however he was absent from that meeting.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Weiss, to approve the minutes of the June 2007 meeting with the requested correction. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **Amendment to Agenda for September 2007 Meeting**

Chair Hartman requested to amend the agenda, moving the Board Comments/Other Items of Interest to later in the meeting. Ms. Rynard requested that Item 3, Mills Pond Park Fire Station, be moved forward to accommodate the city employees.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to amend the agenda for the June 2007 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **1. Department Report**

Ms. Rynard reported that the park rules previously looked at by the Board will go to the City Commission for approval on October 16, 2007.

Ms. Rynard requested discussion on combining the October meeting with the scheduled Long-range Strategic Planning meeting in order to gain Board input for the strategic plan. She announced that there will be meetings on October 24 – 25, with a final schedule for those meetings to be released.

Ms. Rynard announced that all Board members had been reappointed.

Ms. Rynard provided a budget update, and stated that the City Commission passed the budget, and it included what had been discussed previously. She noted that a few maintenance positions and one park ranger position had been lost. She stated that they are working to ensure minimal impact to programming

Ms. Rynard stated that the Better Meetings Academy included a requirement that the Chair and the Vice Chair attend, and that they had attended and fulfilled that requirement. The next meeting will be October 30, 2007 at 5:45 and the whole Board is invited. She encouraged the members to attend, as she had found it to include helpful information.

Mr. Berry asked if the park ranger had been dismissed and would not be replaced. Ms. Rynard explained that it was a vacant position that was eliminated from the budget.

Chair Hartman stated that the combined Long Range Planning/Board meeting would be the regularly scheduled October Board meeting. The meeting will be held at Holiday Park on October 24th. He asked for clarification on the time. Ms. Rynard stated that it would be at 6:00 instead of the usual 7:00. He stated that reminders would go out to the members.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Natale, to hold the October meeting at Holiday Park at 6:00 p.m. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Rynard stated that the meeting would be at the Social Center.

## **2. Mills Pond Park Fire Station**

Ms. Rynard thanked Mr. Bacic and Mr. Snedaker for coming to discuss Station 46 at Mills Pond Park.

Mr. Bacic stated that he is assigned to the fire bond project to build ten new fire stations in Fort Lauderdale. He explained that, due to annexation and the results of their response analysis, they found that a Mills Pond Park station would enhance the overall responses to the community.

Mr. Bacic used visual materials to explain the benchmarks for the first paramedic on the scene, which is eight minutes or less 90% of the time. He also stated that the benchmark for the first fire engine on the scene is six minutes or less 90% of the time. He explained that by moving the fire station to 19<sup>th</sup> Street at Mills Pond Park, they would be able to greatly enhance the overall coverage.

Mr. Snedaker gave a description of the area to be used for the new fire station that fronts on Northwest 19<sup>th</sup> Street. He stated that they are proposing a single-story station with three engine bays, parking for fire fighters, and access for the fire trucks onto 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Snedaker stated that the existing athletic fields in the park are within 70 feet of Northwest 19<sup>th</sup>. He stated that they had prepared a proposal to shift the athletic fields approximately 100 feet north. Their proposal showed that they would lose the southernmost pair of lakes and add two more. He estimated the cost would be minimal, and Parks would not be paying for this. Some funding would come out of the fire bond, and some out of the CRA.

Chair Hartman asked if the proposal would include the demolition of the existing maintenance building and construction of a new one. Mr. Snedaker stated that Parks would absorb none of the costs.

Mr. Snedaker stated that a concession, restroom, and storage buildings would have to be demolished to accommodate the relocated athletic fields. Those buildings would be replaced further north. He added that the ball fields further north would not be affected. Mr. Natale felt they would be affected by the construction; however, Mr. Snedaker explained that construction would come in off the service gate, which is not used by the public, so it really would not affect those areas. He said they would work out the scheduling with Parks to provide other venues for teams during the reconfiguration of the fields.

Mr. Weiss asked how many parking spots were being lost to the new fire station and was advised it would be about a dozen. Mr. Weiss asked if those would be added back in, and Mr. Snedaker disclosed that had not been planned, but they would be willing to take a look at that.

Mr. Angelbello asked if access for emergency vehicles would be off of 19<sup>th</sup>, or if they would go through the park. Mr. Snedaker noted that nothing will come through the park, and that the existing access would stay in place.

Mr. Angelbello inquired regarding how the construction would be phased in preparing the fields for the construction. Ms. Rynard explained that the work would be phased so that there were two out of the three fields available for use.

Mr. Natale asked if all three fields would be shifted to the north. Mr. Snedaker verified that they would be shifted to the north by approximately a half a field length.

A question was asked about the start and finish dates of the project. Mr. Snedaker expressed that a land use amendment was needed prior to the building, and that would take about one year. He explained that the plans had just been developed.

Mr. Berry asked if Seabreeze would be completed first. Mr. Snedaker confirmed that Seabreeze would be completed earlier.

Mr. Weiss asked what would be done with the current fire station site. Mr. Bacic offered that the fire department was investigating several options, with nothing being decided yet, although it might be retained for fire department use. Mr. Bacic added that the legal department had been looking at deed restrictions to help determine what could or could not be done with the property.

Dr. Hays advised that she was acting as the liaison from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association for the Advisory Board, as well as acting as member of the Council's Crime and Public Safety Committee. She expressed concern over the immediate neighborhood around Mill's Pond, including reduced fire response times around the old site.

Dr. Hays noted that there was no precedence for allowing the loss of park space, and requested that the Board look at this very carefully. She requested information on the size of the park at Riverland Parkway.

Mr. Snedaker noted that the station at Riverland Park was a two story building, and considerably larger than the station being considered. He stated that the Riverland Park building was just over one-half an acre.

Dr. Hays pointed out that the fire department was now wanting to take 1.23 acres of park land to add another station when the same type of design could have been used, which would reduce the impact on the park. She requested that the Advisory Board consider that concern. Dr. Hays advised that the immediate neighborhood would be expressing public safety concerns when the decision came before the City.

Mr. Bacic said that the fire department had been meeting with the neighborhood associations in Lauderdale Manors and adjoining neighborhoods. He admitted that the neighborhoods had concerns, which had been addressed by the fire department. He claimed that by the end of the meeting the neighborhood associations understood the enhancements being proposed.

Dr. Hays contended that this was somewhat contrary to feedback she had received, and that neighborhood involvement would continue to be important in the decision making process.

Mr. Snedaker addressed the issue of size of the new building explaining that the 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue station is bigger than the station being considered. The 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue station was located on a very small site, without recommended parking for the firefighters. The station being proposed complied with recommended parking. Mr. Snedaker commented that the 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue station was a very large building, with living areas above the station, and noted that type of structure would not be appropriate next to a park.

Dr. Hays asserted that the Riverland station was right next to a park.

Mr. Snedaker contended that the Riverland station was an existing station, and that the fire department had looked for another location. Mr. Snedaker stated that the fire department had looked for a larger, more suitable site, but was unable to obtain one.

Mr. Snedaker informed the Board that the fire department was not requesting any more land than was necessary to operate the fire station legally. Mr. Snedaker noted that the land being requested was currently not being used for recreational purposes.

Mr. Angelbello asked what kept the current station from fulfilling response time standards. Mr. Bacic advised that one of the biggest issues was location and that in moving the station to a more central location, all areas would receive greatly enhanced coverage.

Mr. Angelbello asked if it was possible to keep the existing fire station and also build a new station for the Rock Island neighborhood. Mr. Bacic said that the Rock Island station was only one of several options the team was looking at, and that no determination had been made.

Chair Hartman questioned the condition of the existing maintenance building. Ms. Rynard claimed that there had been a fire in the building, and much of the structure has been undermined. She stated that it would cost more to repair the building than to replace it.

Mr. Weiss commented that a lot of money had been spent in acquiring green space, and questioned spending millions acquiring green space and giving up acreage here and there. Chair Hartman concurred, and asked about a timeline for decisions being made on the old property. Mr. Snedaker stated that no time line had been established. Mr. Bacic advised that the City Attorney needed to give direction on the decision and agreed to furnish more information to the Board when available.

Mr. Natale requested that the Board think "long and hard" about giving up the land, announcing that he would not go along with giving up any park land for any use.

Mr. Angelbello asked what the current plans were for use of the land, including future expansion or activities that would increase usage of the area. Ms. Rynard explained that with the current layout of Mills Pond and the location of the existing buildings had created unusable space. Ms. Rynard stated that by moving the athletic fields and the buildings, nothing would be taken away from the existing usage.

Mr. Weiss asserted that a better option might be to put the concession building somewhere between the fields and the maintenance building down by the new fire building.

Mr. Snedaker assured that the fire team would not object to considering either of those suggestions.

Ms. Shelley asked whether another maintenance building would be built to replace the existing building and was advised by Ms. Rynard that funding was not in place to build a new maintenance building and pods would probably be used in its place.

Chair Hartman asked what the fire department was hoping to accomplish in tonight's meeting. Mr. Snedaker advised that he and Mr. Bacic had come only to give a presentation to provide information and were not asking for a decision to be made tonight. Chair Hartman contended that the Board still had a lot of unanswered questions and did not feel they were prepared to make a recommendation to the commission. Mr. Natale requested to see other alternatives.

Mr. Snedaker remarked that this would be the third fire station located in a park. It was also pointed out that in the cases of the other parks, no park land was taken for the building. Mr. Snedaker emphasized that in the case of Snyder Park they had built the fire station after the park was built.

Chair Hartman thanked Mr. Snedaker and Mr. Bacic for their clear presentation, and expressed appreciation for the thought and preparation that went into their discussion.

### **3. Goals and Objectives**

Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman provided handouts and reminded the Board that he had asked them to think of goals and ideas for the Board. Chair Hartman expressed that there had been frustration that material being covered at the Board meetings had not been substantive emphasizing that these goals would be only for their own Board, as the Board does not have input into the Department's goals.

Chair Hartman indicated that he had looked at the Board's mission statement, and had found it to be inappropriate for an advisory board. He provided a handout showing a possible revised mission statement and requested discussion on adopting the revised mission statement.

Mr. Natale requested time to read the revised statement over and take it up at the November meeting.

Chair Hartman announced that Mayor Naugle had joined the meeting.

**Motion** made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Berry, to review the proposed mission statement and go over the issue at the November 2007 meeting.

Dr. Hays asked who had written the current mission statement. Chair Hartman advised that he was unsure who had written the original mission statement, but that it had been

included in the Advisory Board manual given to all Board members. Dr. Hays commented that if the statement was a charge by the Commission, she was unclear if the statement could be changed.

Chair Hartman advised that the Board would take the mission statement to the Commission and inform that the mission statement needed to be revised to be in alignment with the functions of the Board. The current statement has the Board advising the Parks and Recreation Department, and that is not really their function.

In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Rynard requested that the Board also look at City Ordinance 17-16, which established the Park Board. Chair Hartman advised that the ordinance was available both online and in the Board manual.

Mr. Fee asked that the Board find out between now and the November meeting whether or not they could make changes to the mission statement. Chair Hartman agreed to follow up on that request.

Mr. Angelbello asked for a discussion on a recommendation to the Commission with respect to the fire station presentation. Chair Hartman agreed, but suggested that the discussion be moved to the Board discussion segment of the meeting.

Chair Hartman opened a discussion of the proposed Board goals outlined in the handout provided to the members. Chair Hartman expressed concerns over the current method of communication with the City Commission and pointed out the importance of personal face-to-face contact with Commission members and the Mayor.

The Mayor explained that the City Commission receives stacks of Advisory Board minutes, and that if there are issues that need urgent attention a motion from the Committee would be preferable to just relying on the minutes. Dr. Hays mentioned that Boards might ask for time at the afternoon conference meetings to address issues directly with the City Commission.

Chair Hartman made the following comment:

- The Board needs to be better involved in the process to provide a clear message to the City Commission regarding budgeting needs.
- The Board needs to be well-informed advocates on environment issues regarding National, State, regional, and city parks.



- The Board should become more educated on parks issues. A recommendation was made to read the book Last Child in the Woods, by Richard Louv.
- It is not the function of an Advisory Board to support the city staff, but that their role should be to support the Parks and Recreation Department. Employee recognition, program recognition, and facility recognition programs were suggested.
- A winter social be held for the Board.
- Concern was expressed that the Board does not meet in August, which causes problems for September budget discussions. It was suggested that they take July off and meet in August to discuss budget and strategy.
- At a meeting with the City Manager regarding Riverfront Park, he had requested that the Board brainstorm ideas regarding the park property.

Mr. Fee thanked Chair Hartman for taking the time to make the list of goals. Mr. Fee asserted that present day issues such as field space are what the Board wanted to be involved in versus program issues.

Mr. Weiss requested that the naming of the park be moved down on the agenda so that he could have time for discussion. Chair Hartman agreed.

Mr. Weiss stated that it was brought to his attention that the Little Yankee baseball program has brought suit to gain control of Floyd Hull Park from the City and from the football program.

Ms. Rynard stated that the issue had been brought to her attention, but she is not aware that the City had been served yet. Ms. Rynard stated that the City had been informed that the baseball program had an attorney, but couldn't speak to specifics.

Mr. Weiss stated the City needs to get away from the lease that they have with the baseball program. Mr. Weiss explained that football had been brought back in, but the baseball program is stating that the City overrode authority by letting the football program back into the agreement. The baseball program wants to have complete control of the park year round for their baseball.

Mr. Angelbello informed the Board that the park has 12 baseball teams in a facility that has fairly large acreage. Mr. Weiss commented that one organization should not be allowed to have complete control of the park. Chair Hartman asked the current status of the football team.

Kenny Nail, President of the Jaguar Youth Football and Cheer program informed the Board that the City Parks and Recreation have been extremely helpful in getting the parks ready for the program. Mr. Nail stated that fences, which belong to the baseball program, were to be removed, but they had not been removed. Mr. Nail explained that the baseball program has continually stood in the way of the football program, but emphasized that the City had been supportive of what the Advisory Board had recommended. Mr. Nail announced that, as a resident, he had a concern that the parks could not be used by anyone without a lease. Mr. Nail suggested that the City cancel the leases with baseball and football, turn the park completely back over to the City, and the City designate who can use the facility.

Mr. Weiss clarified that baseball and football do not overlap, and that the baseball program wanted control of the park year round. Ms. Rynard emphasized that even during baseball season, the general public has access to the playground in the park; the agreement says that the park is not closed to the public.

Mr. Weiss asserted that the lease is a bad deal, and the City needs to get rid of the agreements. The baseball program does not pay permit fees, while everyone else in the City pays permit fees.

Mr. Berry stated that the City was supposed to be served the following Monday, and that the City Attorney needed to get a letter to the City Commission in reference to this discussion.

Mr. Nail explained that there had been attempts to work the situation out and have the issue not rise to the level of a lawsuit.

Mr. Berry asked for advice from Mayor Naugle. Chair Hartman requested information on the time line for action on the issue.

Mayor Naugle affirmed that the lawsuit had been served the day before, but it could not be discussed; a copy of the lawsuit could be made available to the Board.

Mr. Fee asked why one park would be given preferential treatment over another park when no permit fees were being paid. Ms. Rynard answered that the waiving of fees was part of their original agreement in 2000, and that the agreement goes for 25 years.

Mr. Angelbello asked for clarification on the agreement for use of the property during the off-season from baseball. Ms. Rynard explained that the football agreement was separate and had not been renewed until last January. Ms. Rynard added that the

original agreement had also included maintenance of the field and the buildings as part of the compensation for not paying for use of the facility.

Mr. Weiss asserted that the fields had not been kept up. Ms. Rynard stated that there were maintenance clauses in the agreement, but that structural issues were not included and that there was work that needed to be done. Mr. Verkey stated that there were parking issues at the facility, and the football program had tried to work with the baseball program on the issues.

Mr. Natale suggested a motion be sent to the City Commission that the Board was in support of the mixed use of the park, and not limit use to any one group. Mr. Weiss requested that the motion also strike down the existing leases. Mr. Natale believed that the current City Commission could look at previous agreement and absolve them. Chair Hartman believed that City could get out of a lease agreement with seven day written notice. Ms. Shelley focused on the historical aspects of the original agreement, and felt that was what the baseball program was basing their comments on.

**Motion** made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Berry, to have mixed football and baseball activities at the park, and to make every effort to dissolve the current exclusive use agreements for that park. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Shelley requested clarification on the baseball program leasing the facility out to different organizations. Mr. Berry explained that this was part of the original agreement made with the baseball program.

Chair Hartman asked that the baseball/football issue be put on the agenda for the November 2007 meeting.

**Motion** made by Mr. Angelbello, seconded by Mr. Natale, to invite representatives from the Little League to speak to the Board.

Mayor Naugle cautioned that with the suit going on, it would be difficult to discuss.

**Motion** withdrawn by Mr. Angelbello.

Dr. Hays asked that infrastructure be added as a budget issue that is often ignored. Chair Hartman also added accessibility and equal access.

#### 4. Renaming of Jack Kaye Park

Terry Rynard

Ms. Rynard reported receiving a letter from the Freedoms Foundation requesting the renaming and rededication of Jack Kaye Park to Jack and Harriet Kaye Park. She informed the Board that Mrs. Kaye had passed away.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to rededicate and rename Jack Kaye Park to Jack and Harriet Kaye Park. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **5. Board Comments/Other Items of Interest**

Mr. Berry requested an update on responses to the bond issue from the City of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Gizzi reported that the City had purchased 13 pieces of property using the County parks bond money, totaling over \$25 million at this point. Mr. Gizzi added that there were three or four other properties the City is trying to acquire. Mr. Berry expressed concern that the money was coming from the bond. Mr. Gizzi assured the Board that the money was coming, and commitments had been made for development. He stated he would provide details at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Hays stated that Mr. Gizzi used to give updates on the parks bond issue, and wanted to know if there was a final report available. Mr. Gizzi affirmed that all the commitments to all of the projects had been completed, with all funds having been spent.

Mr. Natale reintroduced the subject of the proposed fire station. Mr. Natale pointed out that there would be a new maintenance building and better response times, but would be giving up park space. Mr. Natale announced that he is unwilling to give up any park space. Mr. Natale expressed concerns with the architect chosen for the project and the fact that the project has already gone this far without being brought before the Board.

Mr. Angelbello agreed that acquiring the old property from the existing fire station would be key to a positive vote on the issue. Mr. Angelbello pointed out that the property at Mills Pond was really not conducive to a park. Chair Hartman cautioned that 12 parking spaces would also be lost.

Mr. Fee questioned the rationale of not putting in a two-story building, since that would save a half an acre.

Dr. Hays argued that even without an equal amount of land, the fire department would still provide the maintenance, and that could be part of the deal to make it a little more palatable. Dr. Hays pointed out that the land could be open space and would be appropriate with just some trees. Chair Hartman emphasized again that the fire

department would have to be willing to give the old property to the parks in order for the Board to support the movement.

Ms. Rynard informed the Board that the fire department was willing to come back and explain other options and possibilities for the old property.

Mr. Natale requested follow-up information on the possibility of festivals coming back to the City. Mr. Gizzi informed the Board that the festival was being conducted by another city, and anything Fort Lauderdale did would be duplication. Mr. Gizzi stated that his department was attempting to make sure that any new event would break even through revenue generation or through sponsorship. Mr. Natale asked if any other events had been discussed. Mr. Gizzi explained that private promoters had taken over many of these events, and that the events are very expensive to produce without sponsorship. Mr. Natale suggested that the City had caused some of the failure by not providing what was needed to encourage the events to make money.

Mr. Berry made a motion to adjourn while Mr. Natale was speaking. The motion was out of order and no action was taken on it.

Mayor Naugle provided an update on the parks being advertised on the Internet as a place for sexual activity. The Mayor announced that arrests had been made in Holiday Park, and requested that if any activity is noticed to please call the police department and the Mayor's office. The Mayor emphasized that arrests would continue, and the activity would be stopped.

## **6. Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.