

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2007 - 7:00 P.M.**

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance	
		Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	1	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Matthew Weiss	P	1	0
Sean Fee	P	1	0
Curtiss Berry	P	1	0
Robert Payne	P	1	0
Betty Shelley	P	1	0
James LaBate	P	1	0
Shirley Small	P	0	1
JoAnne Medalie	A	0	1
Jay Verkey	P	1	0
Ed Angelbello	A	0	1
Robert Hoysgaard	A	0	1
Larry Mabson	A	0	1
Kevin Mays, Jr.	P	1	0

Staff and Guests

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director
 Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
 Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant
 Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations
 Hilda Testa, 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 September 2007 Minutes

Chair Hartman asked about the note in the minutes on Page 2 in the agenda. The minutes show a motion regarding the June 2007 meeting. A correction needed to be made to state "September 2007" meeting.

Mr. Natale noted the term "Riverland Parkway" in the minutes should read "Riverland Park." Mr. Natale stated that a correction needed to be made on Page 13 to add an out of order motion to adjourn made by Mr. Berry.

Motion made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Berry, to approve the minutes of the September 2007 meeting with the requested corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

1. **Department Report**

Terry Rynard

Ms. Rynard introduced Mr. Kevin May, a new Board member. Mr. May provided a brief description of his personal and business background.

[Mr. James LaBate arrived at 7:09 p.m.]

Ms. Rynard reported on the Long Range Strategic Planning meeting held in October. She reminded the Board members that under the Sunshine Law two Board members cannot discuss any business that might come before the Board, and anything mentioned to any Board member, which did not appear in the October minutes needed to be disclosed.

Ms. Rynard announced the consultants are working on surveys, and mailers have been sent out. The consultants have guaranteed 600 responses, so any who do not respond by mail will be followed up with phone surveys. No data has been returned from the October meeting, but there will be a briefing in January with the City Manager.

Dr. Hays asked if Ms. Rynard had attended the meeting with the school officials. Ms. Rynard stated she had not, as the consultants wanted the citizens to feel free to voice their opinions without the Parks and Recreation Department present.

Ms. Rynard noted the Fire Department would be attending the January Board meeting to further discuss the proposal on the fire station at Mills Pond and to respond to questions as well as provide follow up discussion.

Ms. Rynard explained some sort of high tide had taken out several feet of the beach at 16th Street. The following steps were taken following the unusual occurrence:

- Some trees at risk of falling had been removed.
- The State approved an emergency sandbag operation, which was completed.
- The State gave permission for a sand dump at the location, but the sand needs to be approved before it can be dumped.

- The City Manager declared an emergency, allowing the hiring of a consultant to assist with permits.
- The Parks and Rec Department also met with the County to request money to purchase more sand.

Ms. Rynard emphasized the Federal Beach Renourishment Plan will not be completed for two years, and in the interim the beach is at risk of losing infrastructure. The Parks and Rec Department is working with the County and the State on these issues.

Ms. Rynard provided a flyer detailing upcoming holiday events.

Ms. Rynard also discussed the annual Winter Break Camp for 1st through 6th graders at the Community Centers.

Mr. Weiss asked if the City was renting out park areas for the boat parade. Ms. Rynard confirmed there were agreements made with private parties to use park space, including:

- An unknown sponsor rented 80% of Coolie Park for a private party. It was noted the area homeowners were not happy about the agreement, but the issue had been approved by the City Commission.
- The Homeowners' Association near Francis E. Brady Park reserved part of the park for the Association's holiday party.
- The south side of New River between 3rd Avenue and Andover would be used by the Downtowner for a VIP dinner. Those tickets are available to anyone.

Mr. Fee asked if there would be grandstands in the parks. Ms. Rynard stated there would be two sets of bleachers on the south side of the river in the Downtowner area.

Mr. Weiss felt the Board should have been made aware of the parks being rented out privately. Ms. Rynard noted there are many agreements which do not come before the Board, but agreed to make an effort in the future to keep the Board more informed.

Chair Hartman asked if there was a way to ensure the issue comes before the Board before going to the City Commission for next year. Ms. Rynard agreed Winterfest was a bigger event, and probably should come before the Board.

Motion made by Chair Hartman, seconded by Mr. Berry, to require any permitting of parks for the Winterfest Event Boat Parade to come before the Parks and Rec Board before going to the City Commission. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Weiss asked if there had been a “financial windfall” for the City to give up the park space. Ms. Rynard admitted she was not aware if there was any charge at all to the partner of the event. Ms. Rynard stated the sponsor who rented the space paid a fee to Winterfest.

Mr. Berry suggested the civic associations should be notified that the parks had been rented out to private parties. Mr. Jones stated the PIO office would announce the viewing sites available to the public.

Mr. Natale asked if a fee is charged by the City for an individual to rent a pavilion in a park. Ms. Rynard explained an individual is charged, Homeowners’ Associations are not charged. Ms. Rynard stated there are a few pavilions open to the public on a first-come first-served basis.

Mr. Natale expressed concern over the park space being given to Winterfest, then Winterfest selling the space to someone else. Ms. Rynard admitted the Parks and Rec Department had not been aware in advance of the impact to the neighbors, and agreed changes should be made for next year.

Mr. Berry noted beach sand had been hauled away during construction in Pompano and asked if sand from construction sites could be used for the dumping at the damaged beach area. Ms. Rynard explained the State requires the construction sand be offered to the City, and any time the City is offered the opportunity, the sand is accepted.

2. Board Comments

Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman thanked the Board for signing holiday cards to the City Commission, the Mayor, the City Clerk’s office, and the Broward County Parks Department.

Chair Hartman pointed out the City of Fort Lauderdale was recognized on Page 15 of the FRPA Journal for their “Commit to Be Fit” walk. Chair Hartman acknowledged David Miller and Marie Rock for their participation. Chair Hartman also noted the program’s walking guide had been selected from art created by students at the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale. Chair Hartman also thanked the staff for their hard work.

Chair Hartman discussed the beach parking permits, and stated he had purchased a permit to see what the process was for citizens to obtain parking permits.

- The permits cost \$5.00 for residents.
- Documentation necessary to obtain a permit for one year are car registration, driver’s license, and proof of residency.
- Permits may also be obtained on-line.

- There are also meters located on the beach.

Chair Hartman gave a brief description of the two Long Range Strategic Planning Meetings, and thanked the Board members who attended.

Mr. Natale asked about an off-shore pipeline for off loading ships, which is currently before the Coast Guard for review. Mr. Natale felt the Board should be involved in the process as it is developed. Chair Hartman made reference to a newspaper article regarding the issue, and agreed to make copies for review and further discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Natale recognized a previous Board member for winning a pie baking contest.

Mr. Berry commented on the poor acoustics in the Croissant Park Recreation Center, and suggested the metal roof be sprayed with Styrofoam. Dr. Hays explained the building was built before the Riverland Park building was built, and the Board could request the Parks and Rec Department retrofit the building for acoustics. Chair Hartman noted the function of the Board was only to advise the City Commission, and the matter would have to be taken up by the Commissioners.

Ms. Shelley noted the mulch delivery advertised as available to residents included a three to four month wait. She stated the Parks Department delivered mulch to a central spot in her neighborhood to be made available to Imperial Point residents. Ms. Rynard explained the wait list was lengthy because the City did not have a large quantity of clean mulch available.

Mr. Fee thanked Jim LaBate for starting the traveling soccer program, partnered by the City and the YMCA. Mr. Fee emphasized the program was growing, and receiving notoriety in the State with their winning teams. Mr. Fee also stated the baseball league had received many compliments on the Holiday Park facilities.

Mr. Verkey provided an update on the Floyd Hull Stadium. Mr. Verkey described his conversation with the attorney representing football, and explained the City had been served, had filed a motion for dismissal on the trespassing charges, and the attorneys are currently awaiting a decision. Mr. Verkey emphasized the City is cleaning up the fields and getting everything back in order in preparation for next year.

Mr. Verkey pointed out the activity center, which was built to be used for private rentals, was not currently being used as it was intended. Mr. Verkey hoped the Board would continue to stay involved in the issue, and continue to be supportive of the football program.

Mr. Natale referred to Page 11 of the September minutes where a motion was made to have mixed football and baseball activities at the park, and to make every effort to dissolve the current exclusive use agreements for the park. Mr. Natale believed the current City Commission could dissolve a previous agreement and that the lease agreement could be canceled with seven days written notice. Mr. Natale asked if that motion had been sent up to the City Commission. Chair Hartman pointed out that the current agreement had no provision for canceling the lease agreement.

Mr. Berry stated income from the building was supposed to be paying for new equipment, and the building was maintained by the City. Mr. Verkey disagreed, and explained the City does maintain the building, and there is a City employee required to be present during events, but there is no other support from the City.

Chair Hartman asked if the building situation would be resolved when a decision is made in the courts on the football issue. Mr. Verkey explained the football program had never left the fields, even though the agreement had expired, and stated the building and the football teams are two completely separate issues. Chair Hartman confirmed the support of the Board, and asked that they be kept up-to-date on developments.

Mr. Weiss discussed property at Holiday Park utilized for police department horse or dog training. Ms. Rynard stated the police were very supportive of the Park Action Plan, and have been paramount in helping to take care of issues at the City parks. Ms. Rynard explained the police had come to the Parks and Rec Department requesting more space be allowed for usage by the police department. Mr. Weiss argued there had been long running parking problems in the park, and the area was supposed to be used for overflow parking.

Chair Hartman expressed concern over the property being given away without the Board's knowledge. Ms. Rynard reminded the Board the property belongs to the Parks and Rec Department, and the Department would do what they pleased with the property. Ms. Rynard emphasized there are decisions made daily at the Director's level, and the Board would not always be advised if no formal agreements are made.

Chair Hartman held there had been criticism of the City's Administration advisory boards being "sidelined." Chair Hartman felt the City Manager had been forthcoming with the advisory boards, but issues being decided outside the Board's knowledge would fan the flame of the critics. Ms. Rynard noted the City Manager was probably not even aware of the issue, since these decisions were not matters that would be taken to the City Manager's office.

Mr. Payne asked if the Parks and Rec budget would be maintaining the horses. Ms. Rynard denied the budget was impacted by the decision.

Mr. Fee asked if the Gore Nursery spot was being used. Ms. Rynard stated the Phase I Environmental Reports had some minor issues, and a more in-depth survey is currently being conducted. Ms. Rynard emphasized the property had been earmarked for a park, but environment issues needed to be resolved first.

3. Election of New Officers

Terry Rynard

Ms. Rynard opened the floor for nominations.

Motion made by Mr. Fee, seconded by Mr. Weiss, to retain the current chair and vice-chair. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

4. Goals and Objectives Comments

Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman reviewed the proposed mission statement and the goals and objectives given out in the September meeting. Chair Hartman emphasized the current mission statement stated the function of the Board is to advise the Parks and Recreation Department. Chair Hartman noted the mission of the Board is to advise the City Commission, not the Parks and Rec Department.

Motion made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Berry, to approve the rewritten mission statement. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hartman briefly addressed the proposed changes to the goals and objectives. Mr. Natale felt the Board looked to the Chair for guidance on goals and objectives, and felt the proposed goals and objectives reflected the desired direction the Board wanted to take.

Motion made by Mr. Weiss, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the proposed goals and missions, subject to revision, for the upcoming year for the PRAB. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Middle River Terrace Park Statue “Guardian of the Park” Terry Rynard

Chair Hartman provided pictures of the three statues being considered for Middle River Terrace Park. He informed the Board that the Homeowners’ Association is in agreement with the statues, and would like approval by the Board to place the artwork in the park; however, none of the statues are available to the City at this time. Chair Hartman explained the statues were originally designated to be placed in the median at

13th Street. Since the statues had never been placed, 13th Street was offering the statues to the park.

Dr. Hays requested information on the City policy regarding the placement of statues in parks. Ms. Rynard stated the City Commission is required to accept any donations, and this issue had been before the City Commission in the past. Ms. Rynard suggested the Board formally accept the donation so when the statues become available the issue could go before the City Commission.

Motion made (in order to open a discussion) by Chair Hartman, seconded by Mr. Berry, to recommend the City Commission accept the three pieces of art for Middle River Terrace Park.

Chair Hartman stated the Homeowners' Association would need to raise the money to create bases for the statues. Mr. Natale felt the Homeowners' Association should approve the statues, and the associated costs, before the Board gave their approval. Chair Hartman confirmed the issue had not formally gone before the Homeowners' Association, but Tim Smith, President of the Homeowners' Association, was definitely in favor. As a member of the Homeowners' Association, Chair Hartman felt the issue would easily pass. Mr. Natale stated he felt the motion should be amended to be contingent on the neighborhood Homeowners' Association approving the placement of the statues.

Motion amended by Chair Hartman, seconded by Mr. Berry, to recommend the City Commission accept the three pieces of art for Middle River Terrace Park, contingent on a letter of approval to the Parks Board from a majority of the active Homeowners' Association members. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. School Board and Playgrounds

Terry Rynard

Ms. Rynard explained the reciprocal use agreement between the School Board and the City of Fort Lauderdale. Ms. Rynard noted there are some locations with parks on or adjacent to school property, which is used for school activities. Ms. Rynard provided copies of the agreement, and explained the City uses the parks during non-school hours and, in addition, provides capital improvements for the parks.

Dr. Hays noted there was a difference between acceptable playground equipment for City playgrounds and the more restrictive requirements of the School Board. Dr. Hays stated non-stationary equipment (such as swings) could not be used during school hours due to liability issues. Dr. Hays requested clarification on the agreement between the School Board and the City.

Ms. Rynard stated the Parks and Rec Department felt as long as National Playground Safety Standards were followed, equipment was serviced, and inspections were performed on a monthly basis, there was recreation value in non-stationary equipment. Ms. Rynard noted there is a Sub-committee with the School Board and the Parks and Rec Department, and the playground issue would be covered in their meetings.

Mr. LaBate asked if there was a provision in the agreement to encourage the School Board to make the play areas available to other groups. Ms. Rynard denied there was anything in the agreement to force the School Board to allow the City to use the field space, and the principals had a lot of latitude in the management of their individual facilities. Ms. Rynard asserted the Parks and Rec Department could go directly to individual principals, on a case-by-case basis, to discuss other individuals being able to use the facilities.

Mr. Fee asked if the baseball field at George English Park was City or Bayview Elementary property. Ms. Rynard confirmed the field was City property. Mr. Fee noted the field is beautiful and well maintained, but is rarely used. Ms. Rynard explained the School District had given money to the City for lights on the field, but not enough to complete the project. The City is attempting to match the School Board funds to light the field.

Mr. Weiss requested a list of the schools involved in the park programs. Ms. Rynard advised that frequently agreements are done on just a phone call request and no written documentation is involved. Mr. Weiss clarified he was interested in schools using specific parks maintained by the Parks and Rec Department. Ms. Rynard explained the parks are never closed to the schools, but sometimes the school properties are closed to the public during school hours.

Mr. Natale asked if the current School Board/City relationship had improved over the past few years. Ms. Rynard confirmed there had been a concentrated effort between the City Administration and the School Board to make sure the groups are working together.

7. Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by K. Bierbaum, Prototype, Inc.]