

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Cumulative Attendance October 2007- September 2008</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	4	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	A	2	2
Curtiss Berry	P	4	0
Betty Shelley	A	3	1
John Verkey	A	3	1
Matthew Weiss	P	3	1
Sean Fee	P	3	1
Robert Payne	P	3	1
James LaBate	A	1	3
Joann Medalie	P	3	1
Ed Angelbello	P	3	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	3	1
Larry Mabson	P	3	1
Kevin May, Jr.	A	2	2
Donna Guthrie	A	0	2

**Staff and Guests**

Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
 Barbara Barber, Parks and Recreation  
 Gerald Roberts, Recreation Coordinator  
 Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
 Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant  
 Cate McCaffrey, Business Enterprise Director  
 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 7:03 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of February 2008 Minutes**

Ms. Rynard noted a correction to page eight, paragraph two of the February 27, 2008 meeting minutes to add "Civic People's Park" after the words "proposed monument." Mr. Berry noted a correct to page thirteen, paragraph two where it stated that the City would spend over \$10,000 of taxpayers' money. It should read \$100,000 of taxpayers' money. Mr. Fee asked the recording secretary to review the fifth paragraph of page fourteen; after listening to the audio recording, the words "to rent the facility" were added after the words "\$700 for the day."

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to approve the minutes of the February 2008 meeting with the requested corrections. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hartman requested the agenda be taken out of order for the benefit of the guests in attendance.

#### **4. Conceptual Plan for Aquatics Complex      Cate McCaffrey**

Ms. McCaffrey presented poster boards of the conceptual plan for the Aquatics Center and had received instruction from the City Commissioners to move forward and present the plan to the various City Boards.

Poster boards showing the aquatics center as it exists today were shown along with conceptual plans for the new complex. Additions to the existing complex would include a five story parking facility, aquarium, water park, restaurant, and roof top pool, and the refurbishing of two of the existing pools. Ms. McCaffrey detailed each of the various levels and their themes.

- ® Level 1 - Admission Booth and Entry to the Aquarium
- ® Level 2 - 2nd Story of the Aquarium, Museum Room with portals into the tank decorated with picture frames to resemble museum artwork with classical music playing. Rivers of the World Exhibit, Coral Reefs of the World Exhibit, and Shark Tank.
- ® Level 3 - 3rd Story of the Aquarium and the International Swimming Hall of Fame
- ® Level 4 - 4th Story of the Aquarium and Meeting Rooms

® Level 5 - Roof Top Restaurant and Pool

The parking facility allows for a maximum of 312 cars with additional parking outside of the structure in the parking lot. The surrounding areas would also augment the parking for the facility.

The Consultants were tasked with determining feasibility of the project with regard to generating revenue and maintaining the tradition of swimming as well as being an international center for swimming and diving competitions in Fort Lauderdale.

Mr. Weiss asked about the logistics regarding the locker rooms and apparatus storage. Ms. McCaffrey reminded the Board that the plan is still in the conceptual stage and would require additional design and renderings before a final plan is approved for construction.

Ms. McCaffrey advised the Hall of Fame would remain at the complex. The estimated cost of construction has not yet been determined; however, would likely be funded by public and private funds. A market analysis determined visitors to the complex would encompass tourists and locals alike.

Mr. Weiss, along with the other Board Members, felt the water park was an excellent idea for the complex and would enhance the family atmosphere at the park. The Board discussed logistics regarding bleachers, the retail areas and restaurant, and an area to house the Water Rescue unit and the staff for each of the areas.

**Motion** made by Mr. Weiss and seconded by Mr. Fee, to approve the conceptual plan for the Aquatics Complex. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**3. Recreation Program of the Month Gerald Roberts**

Ms. Barbara Barber introduced Mr. Gerald Roberts to discuss the Marine Sciences and Maritime Training Program.

Mr. Roberts advised that the Parks and Recreation Department has had the help of several teachers with different aspects of this program to enrich the learning experience of the students. Marine sciences are used in this program for applied reading purposes, writing and math skills. Maritime training aspects offer more of a career path introduction to the marine industries. Mr. Roberts went on to highlight several aspects of the overall program.

- Michael Irving and Playmaker Charities have funded some of the field trips and registration fees for many of the students. In addition, Broward Community College has also partnered with the Parks and Recreation Department to offer direction with regard to careers in the marine industry such as yacht repair and refurbishing, in addition to marine service technology. A vocational school at BCC has recently opened and mirrors the automotive vocational studies already in place. Dr. Dick Doge at Nova Southeastern University will be hosting an international symposium on coral reefs. Various students from the program may be invited to attend.
- The Maritime Science Explorers is a program offered at New River and North Fork Middle Schools. Mr. John Quinton, an accomplished diver, created a program to introduce the children of these schools to snorkeling and scuba and may be included in the Learn to Swim and Swim Central Programs.
- The Maritime Operation course was designed for South Broward High School students to attend during the regular school year and during the summer. Students are encouraged to join as volunteers, earn credits, and receive training in the Beach Program.
- The Parks and Recreation Department continues to move forward to design other initiatives with the assistance of South Broward High School. As part of the maritime component, the program would allow children the opportunity to board the bridge of a vessel and experience the exit and entry of Port Everglades.
- An area of focus was the coastal environment and the disruption of the natural environment on the beach. Several teams of students from Saint Thomas High School and their Marine Biology Club put together a study to develop ways to impact sand migration from the beach. Wind and storm events take sand from the beach and deposit the sand into the streets at great cost to the City to return the sand to the beaches.

The benefits of dunes were studied and several questions were raised as to the effectiveness of the dunes on sand migration. Mr. Roberts presented slides of several areas of the beach illustrating the environment created by the dunes. Dune construction has been adopted by beachfront developers to protect their structures from sand migration.

Students from Saint Thomas High School were tasked to report various findings from the beach study. They studied the beach and effects from significant ridges, beach erosion, plants, rocks, basketball courts, playing children, and tracks from service workers. The students referred to their books to identify the

species of plants and animals found, such as seaweed, mangrove seeds, seagulls, pelicans, crabs, man-o'-wars, in addition to other coastal characteristics.

- Mr. Roberts and Dr. Russell Kerr from Florida Atlantic University had collaborated to provide a trip for students to visit the Keys to observe Dr. Kerr and his PhD students conduct field studies to discover possible new drugs harvested from the ocean for cancer research and other medical uses.

Mr. Roberts explained the value of these programs to stimulate the interest in marine sciences in students. The Parks and Recreation Department, in conjunction with the magnet schools, continues to develop additional marine sciences programs and advised the close proximity of the communities to the ocean allows for this academic opportunity.

Mr. Weiss asked if today's presentation was part of the same program previously presented by North Fork Elementary. Mr. Roberts stated that North Fork Elementary is the marine magnet for the elementary level. There are currently four schools participating in the Marine Sciences program; almost seventy students have participated in the program to date.

## **1. Department Report**

**Terry Rynard**

Ms. Rynard report included the following :

- The Beach Memorial Playground had been completed, along with the sixth tower, to memorialize the six crew members of 1996. The families of the crews were present and expressed their gratitude for the memorial.
- The Parks and Recreation Department had put together a team to address environmental issues with a "green plan" that includes recycling in the offices and in the field, alternative fuel vehicles, purchasing practices, etc. A Citywide inventory had been taken and analysis of the procedures are currently under review.
- The Turf Rodeo, a maintenance staff competition of the southeast region from various municipalities, took place with demonstrations and "friendly" competition using maintenance equipment for the benefit of morale amongst the department's staff. The City of Fort Lauderdale took first place in the overall competition.

- Ms. Rynard attended the Lauderdale Manors Homeowners' Association meeting and reported the Association supported the move for Fire Station 46 at Mills Pond.
- The Morton Center is on the agenda for discussion at the next City Commission meeting at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, and the Parks and Recreation Board minutes are attached as support for the City Commission to review.

Mr. Fee thanked Ms. Rynard and her staff for the exemplary work done on the baseball and softball fields at Holiday Park, which may be nominated for "Facility of the Year" on the State level.

## **2. Board Comments**

### **Mark Hartman**

Mr. Hartman reported he had attended the Council of Civic Associations meeting along with Mr. Natale and Ms. Shelley along with several City dignitaries. Mr. Natale passed along the Board's opposition to the use of park lands for purposes other than parks, specifically the Station 46 move to Mills Pond Park.

The newspaper featured an article about the County's Charter Review Panel and their efforts to reinforce or strengthen the ordinances to protect park lands from sale and other uses.

A March article in the newspaper stated the State was funding the purchase of properties for park land due to the favorable real estate market and the willingness of landowners to consider sales to municipalities. The article speaks about the issue of land availability versus the current funding availability.

The County is reported that an estimated 47% of the wild raccoon population had been vaccinated against the rabies virus by dropping bait laced with the vaccine from helicopters.

Ms. Medalie reported that Mr. Dick Mills had recently passed. Mr. Mills was a strong advocate for Mills Pond Park. Ms. Medalie thought the Board could send a note of condolences; the funeral services are scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Weiss expressed concern with the number of programs being presented to the Board each month, as the presentations limit the time the Board has available to discuss other business.

Chair Hartman recommended finding a balance, as he believes it is important for the public to be aware of the programs developed by the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Berry suggested the presentations be shortened.

Dr. Hays asked the Board if she might read a memorandum from Ms. Rynard regarding the issue of the gains and losses of park lands.

“Per your request, the total number of park acres on January 1, 2007 was 783. The total on March 20, 2008 was 784.07, which included the addition of Coral Ridge Park and South Middle River Terrace Park. There are currently proposed additions, including River Oaks and Hortt Park. There have been no losses of park land in this time period.

Additionally, Broward County bonds were also used to fund recent land purchases prior to 2007. Since 2002, the City of Fort Lauderdale had acquired 45.4 acres through acquisition. These acquisitions have included the following sites: Cypress Creek Preserve, Mills Pond Addition, Bill Keith Preserve, Harbordale Park, North Fork, Sailboat Bend, Coontie Hatchee Landing, Ann Herman, Flagler Heights, and the Hardy Park Addition.

One of the goals of the Land Preservation Bond Program is to ensure the preservation and protection of ecologically valuable lands, while expanding the recreational opportunities for the residents of Broward County. As such, any park lands acquired utilizing these funds must be maintained as a park in perpetuity.”

Dr. Hays felt the information in the memorandum would be of interest to the Parks and Recreation Board and reiterated the fact that any park lands acquired with County Bond dollars must be maintained as a park in perpetuity.

Dr. Hays also pointed out that the issue of the loss of 1.3 acres of Mills Pond Park is scheduled to come before the Planning and Zoning Board at their May meeting.

Dr. Hays suggested an annual report be provided to the Parks and Recreation Board with the total losses and gains of park land in Fort Lauderdale for the Board to review.

Chair Hartman announced some items of interest for the benefit of the public –

- Sunday Jazz Brunch at Riverwalk on April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Registration for Summer Camps starts April 14<sup>th</sup>, information can be found on-line and brochures are available at the parks.
- Fort Lauderdale is looking for staffing for the summer camp programs.

- The National Summit on Environmental Stewardship is on May 4<sup>th</sup> –7<sup>th</sup> in Portland, Oregon

**5. Adjournment**

**Mark Hartman**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

[Minutes prepared by H. Testa, Prototype, Inc.]