

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY JUNE 25, 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	8	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	A	5	3
Curtiss Berry	P	7	0
Betty Shelley	P	6	1
John Verkey	P	6	1
Matthew Weiss	P	6	1
Sean Fee	P	6	1
Robert Payne	A	5	2
James LaBate	A	3	4
Joann Medalie	P	6	1
Ed Angelbello	P	6	1
Robert Hoysgaard	P	6	1
Larry Mabson (arrived 7:03)	P	6	1
Kevin May, Jr.	P	5	2
Donna Guthrie (arrived 7:05)	P	2	3

**Staff Present**

Terry Rynard, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director  
Gene Dempsey, Urban Forester  
Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant  
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 May 28, 2008 Minutes**

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to approve the Minutes of the May 2008 Meeting, as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

The amended item for the Minutes is on page 5, paragraph 7; replace the words “Shady Bay Park” with “The Bill Keith Preserve.”

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

**Terry Rynard**

Ms. Rynard introduced Ms. Patsy Mennuti from Riverwalk Trust to give a presentation regarding a tree program currently being put together with the support of the Fort Lauderdale Parks Department and others.

Ms. Mennuti asked Mr. Scott Strawbridge of Riverwalk Trust and the Bonnet House, to make the announcement regarding the program and thanked the City of Fort Lauderdale for their support.

Mr. Strawbridge introduced himself and Mr. John Terrill, of the Master Plan and Projects Committee for Riverwalk Trust and a member of the City’s Marine Advisory Board. The Trust had been instrumental in founding a statewide organization called “Florida Riverwalk Trust,” (FRT) and had conducted a series of meetings with other cities called the “Florida Riverwalk Exchanges.”

In preparation for a visit from the FRT, the staff of Riverwalk Trust had noticed the park was not looking its best due to tree damage from the hurricanes. As a historic site, replacing the large canopied trees with young trees was not in the best interest of the linear park. Concurrently, Mr. Strawbridge had noticed a new development underway across the river with several mature trees and subsequently made arrangements to salvage those trees for Riverwalk.

That transaction led to the idea of donating trees to Riverwalk as part of the mitigation process the developers are obligated to deal with on any given development. The Planning Department of Fort Lauderdale also saw the value of such a program and is considering making participation in the program part of the development review process, or DRC.

In addition, because of the water access and the ability to use barge transportation instead of trucks, communities outside of the Fort Lauderdale area will be able to participate. The Trust is now reaching out to planning departments, landscape architects, the Urban Land Institute, the American Institute of Architects, as well as

other groups in the design and development community within South Florida for participation. Mr. Strawbridge distributed a brochure with details of the program for Board Members to review.

With the help of a GIS coordinated system, the exact needs of Riverwalk with regard to the number of trees, their size and species can easily be documented. Trees that may not fit the needs of Riverwalk will be made available to the City of Fort Lauderdale Parks Department for distribution in other areas.

Ms. Rynard thanked the members of Riverwalk Trust and advised the Board Members to contact Ms. Daley if they wished to be put on the mailing list to receive a free subscription of the *Go Riverwalk* magazine.

Ms. Rynard continued with the monthly department report as scheduled on the Agenda.

- The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Spectacular is scheduled to start at 1:00 p.m. and is free to the public. The event will encompass kids' activities, music, and an interactive DJ. The first live concert begins at 4:30 p.m., the second concert begins at 7:00 p.m. and the fireworks will begin at 9:00 p.m. The fireworks barge will be located near A1A and Las Olas Boulevard and the activities will take place near A1A and SE 5<sup>th</sup> Street.
- The Starlight Musical is scheduled for July 11th at Holiday Park. This date had been chosen as the official birthday party for the Starlight Musical celebrating 30 years of entertaining the residents of Fort Lauderdale.
- At the last PRAB meeting, it had been reported that the budget was status quo; however, since that time, there have been indications from the State that there may not be as much money as hoped for. The Department is now in the process of reducing the budget; efforts are being made to have this reductions not affect current programs being offered or result in layoffs of park staff. The budget will be presented to the City Commission on July 15, 2008. You may be able to see items of interest, at that time.

Dr. Hays asked if a percentage was suggested for cuts to the \$26 million Parks and Recreation Budget. Ms. Rynard replied that she was given a target amount and that targeted reduction percentage is not consistent across all departments. Ms. Rynard was pleased the Parks and Recreation Department had been given an opportunity to make suggestions.

**2. July – Parks and Recreation Month**

**Mark Hartman**

Mr. Hartman attended the City Commission meeting on June 17<sup>th</sup> and was presented with a proclamation from the Mayor stating July is National Parks and Recreation Month. The proclamation speaks of the quality of life offered to the residents and the boost to the economy provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

**3. Calypso Project**

**Terry Rynard**

The City Commission passed a resolution urging the Governor of Florida to deny the application for a proposed deep water port. Ms. Rynard distributed a copy of an article in the local newspaper regarding the public hearing for the proposal.

Chair Hartman asked the Board if there was any action they would like to take in support of the Commission's opposition to the deep water port. Chair Hartman stated he felt the Board had fulfilled their obligation and directive to advise the City Commission as to the position of the PRAB.

Dr. Elizabeth Hayes from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, pointed out that the Broward County Commission and the Governor are both in favor of the deep water port and that perhaps more discussion may have shown the benefits of the project.

**4. Board Comments**

**Mark Hartman**

- The June *Recreation Management* magazine highlighted two concerns of the industry; one being budgetary issues and the second being equipment and facility maintenance. Regional trends in managed recreation fitness and sports facilities show that the southern and western areas of the United States are expected to see the most population growth. Due to the current state of the economy, the concern is in maintaining the current level of service in their existing facilities as they face budget cuts. Staffing issues in parks continues to be a problem despite increased usage and demand from the community in conjunction with shrinking resources.
- Chair Hartman distributed another article from *Recreation Management* magazine that talks about the National Recreation Park Association and their visit to Washington.
- The Live Nation proposal for the beach festival had been presented to the City Commission. The local newspaper had written a story regarding the festival and had

made a comment regarding jazz; the next day's article apologized for that comment. Chair Hartman distributed a copy of that article for review.

- Chair Hartman, along with Dr. Hays and Mr. Dennis Ulmer, attended the Planning and Zoning meeting where Fire Station 46 was discussed, and voiced their objections to building a fire station in Mills Pond Park. It was noted that the Planning and Zoning Department did not support the construction of a fire station in Mills Pond Park. Dr. Hays felt the Board Members should contact their appointing Commissioners to discuss this issue before the upcoming vote regarding Station 46.
- The Mission Statement for the PRAB now reiterates the ordinance, as well as the duties of the PRAB.
- Due to budget meetings scheduled in September, it was decided that July would be a more advantageous month to take off instead of August.
- In light of the anticipated budget cuts, Mr. Fee asked if the Parks and Recreation Department has a dedicated grant writer on staff. Ms. Rynard advised that Ms. Gina Rivera in the Park and Recreation Department spends significant time applying for funds for the development of County bond parks among other objectives, one being the shade structures recommended by PRAB. Grant proposals are brought to the Department weekly for consideration; Ms. Rynard felt confident and satisfied with the efforts by Ms. Rivera.
- Mr. Mabson inquired as to whether or not the PRAB had an opinion regarding the City of Fort Lauderdale possibly hosting the Broward County Fair. Ms. Rynard advised that last year the Fair had been at Lockhart Stadium and she was not sure why it would not be the same this year. She also noted that the Fair organizers had donated monies to the City for their New Year's Eve celebration.
- Ms. Medalie asked about the completion of the beach wall before the beach festival planned for next year by Live Nation. Ms. Medalie felt the dilapidated state of several of the structures on south beach would be an embarrassment for the City if not completed before the proposed beach festival. Similarly, the public restrooms on south beach had remained in a state of disrepair for an extended period of time until the roof finally collapsed. Only then were new restrooms constructed. Ms. Rynard advised she will be participating in a meeting regarding the design of the south beach parking lot, including details of the landscaping, materials, showers, etc. The State permit process is a lengthy procedure; plans are scheduled to be submitted for construction as the area is protected for the local turtle population.

- Mr. Verkey advised that large ocean-going vessels legally dump the contents of their sanitary waste holding tanks into the ocean two miles out from the beach. Mr. Verkey had inquired as to the source of the bacterial contamination that had led to the recent beach closures; the Parks and Recreation Department had not received any notification of a beach closure.
- Dr. Hays complimented the Holiday Park Activities Camp and the youth basketball sports program. Dr. Hays felt the coaches may be ignoring the sexism being displayed by the some of boys on the co-ed teams. It seems the girls are not given the opportunity to get the ball. The gymnasium at Holiday Park has no allocated handicapped parking for the west entrance. Ms. Rynard stated she would check into the parking situation.
- Ms. Shelley advised there will be a Police and Fire Appreciation Day on August 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Mr. Fee advised Holiday Park is hosting the 11th annual State baseball tournament on July 10-13<sup>th</sup>. The tournament, with a total of 14 teams, reserved over 100 hotels rooms in the area, contributing favorably to the economy.
- Ms. Rynard advised that the Parks Long Range Strategic Planning Committee is scheduled to give a preliminary presentation to the City Commission on Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m.
- Mr. Verkey commented that the Fort Lauderdale parks are in great shape as compared to the parks in Orlando.

## **5. Adjournment**

**Mark Hartman**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.