

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 27, 2008 - 7:00 P.M.**

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance October 2007- September 2008	
		Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	8	0
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	5	3
Curtiss Berry	P	8	0
Betty Shelley	P	7	1
John Verkey	A	6	2
Matthew Weiss	P	7	1
Sean Fee	P	7	1
Robert Payne (arrived 7:07)	P	5	3
James LaBate	A	2	6
Joann Medalie	P	7	1
Ed Angelbello	A	6	2
Robert Hoysgaard	P	7	1
Larry Mabson	A	6	2
Donna Guthrie	A	2	4

Staff Present

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director
Gina Rivera, Grants Coordinator
Izhar Aziz, Park Ranger
Alan Brown, Park Ranger
Jon Quinton, Recreation Programmer II
Tom White, Landscape Architect
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 June 25, 2008 Minutes

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

The amended items for the Minutes were as follows:

Page 3, bulleted item 3, line 3; replace the words “be cutbacks,” with “not have as much money as hoped for.”

Page 3, bulleted item 3, line 6; replace the words “details of the budget cutbacks will be available at that time,” with “the Budget will be presented to the City Commission on July 15, 2008 and residents may be able to see items of interest, at that time.”

Page 3, line 1; add Dr. Hays’ title after her name.

Page 6, bulleted item 1, line 2; replace the words, “should be aware of,” with “may be ignoring.”

Page 6, bulleted item 1, line 5; add the words, “at the west entrance,” after the words, “handicapped parking.”

Dr. Elizabeth Hays, from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, noted the June 2008 minutes did not reflect her attendance on the first page, as on previous Minutes. Ms. Daley stated she believed new directives from the Clerk’s Office called for only Staff, Board Members and those giving presentations to be listed. All other guests are to be identified within the body of the minutes.

1. Department Report

Phil Thornburg

- Mr. Thornburg stated the first public hearing for the Budget will be held on September 3, 2008. The City Manager’s presentation held on August 15, 2008, is available on-line for review. The proposal included using the fund balance to accomplish various Department goals, and to increase the fire fee. As a result, there will be no reduction in services from the Parks and Recreation Department until the next fiscal year. The Budget is expected to be adopted at the second public hearing on September 16, 2008.
- Damage from Tropical Storm Fay was minimal with no tree damage to the parks and afforded the Staff a valuable trial run. Mr. Thornburg stated the City is prepared for additional storms. The Emergency Operations Center had been moved to the Executive Airport.
- Mr. Kevin May had resigned from the PRBAB due to scheduling conflicts. Commissioner Teel will be appointing a new Board Member.

- On September 9, 2008, the City will be conducting another Better Meeting Academy meeting at 5:45 p.m. on the 3rd floor at City Hall.
- Two parking spaces on the west side of the gymnasium at Holiday Park will be added to accommodate the handicapped patrons.

Chair Hartman asked if swimming in the ocean was prohibited during Tropical Storm Fay. Chair Hartman stated that the local paper reported the weekly water testing done by the County Health Department for the State was unable to be performed due to the storm. Chair Hartman expressed concern over the residents being denied the use of the ocean due to County's lack of ability to perform the necessary testing.

Dr. Hays clarified that the recommendations for the restricted swimming was in effect for all of the beaches of Broward County, not just the beaches of Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Berry reminded the Board Members of the comments Mr. Verkey had made during the June PRBAB Meeting, where he stated the large ocean going vessels routinely and legally dump the contents of their waste holding tanks into the ocean once they reach two miles from the shore.

Dr. Hays commented that the median on Davie Boulevard is being renovated by the Florida Department of Transportation, which included irrigation and plantings. Dr. Hays suggested drought tolerant plants be installed, as the City of Fort Lauderdale will subsequently be responsible for the maintenance of these areas.

Mr. Berry thanked Mr. Thornburg for the installation of seven trees at the Fireman's Hall and expressed the gratitude of the surrounding neighborhood.

2. Employee Recognition

Mark Hartman

Chair Hartman advised that the first Tuesday in August is the National Night Out On Crime day. The City of Fort Lauderdale assembled an event at Holiday Park to recognize the efforts of the Police and Fire Department. Chair Hartman was asked to present awards to employees of the Parks Department that have been active in crime prevention as recreation park professionals and was pleased with the momentum within the City to recognize the connection between recreation and crime prevention.

Chair Hartman stated he would like to recognize two individuals from the Parks Department; Mr. Izhar Aziz and Mr. Jon Quinton. Chair Hartman went on to say that Ranger Aziz is extremely proactive in his approach to park law enforcement and interaction with the park patrons. He takes the time, not only to enforce the rules, but also to explain in a positive manner, why their actions and behavior is not acceptable in

the parks. Ranger Aziz displays confidence and exhibits a calming effect when dealing with difficult situations, draws on his experience from his military background while working with the youth of the school system to become a mentor. He has encouraged a number of youths currently not part of the City's park program, to get involved with a positive endeavor.

Chair Hartman also acknowledged Mr. Jon Quinton due to his involvement with a large number of programs such as the Teen Advisory Council, Teen Aquatics Club, the Teen Cultural Arts and Talent Programs and, his philosophy on crime prevention by engaging the youth in positive activities that limit the opportunities to be negatively influenced by their peers and their environment. The programs such as scuba and lifeguarding allow teens to gain employment from the skills they have learned in these classes. With the Adopt-A-Street program, teens have a vested interest in their neighborhoods. Chair Hartman went on to list numerous activities overseen by Mr. Quinton, which develop prevention programs, media messages, environmental strategies and advocate policy changes.

Ranger Aziz and Mr. Quinton had received plaques at the Night Out on Crime event and also received the applause of the members attending the PRBAB Meeting.

Mr. Thornburg commented that out of the 300 plus employees, it was very difficult to choose only two; however, both Ranger Aziz and Mr. Quinton rose to the top and deserve to be recognized for their hard work and impact on the community. Mr. Thornburg stated he wanted to thank Commissioner Moore as he requested Parks and Recreation be part of this event.

Ms. Shelley, who co-chaired the event, advised that the event was sponsored by the Fort Lauderdale Council of Civic Associations in cooperation with the City of Fort Lauderdale. The City Commission will be giving commendations to several individuals from the Parks Department, as they were instrumental in coordinating the event.

Dr. Hays complimented Ms. Shelley along with Mr. Tim Smith for their efforts. The participation by the Police and Fire Department, along with the prizes given, all contributed to a successful event. The Board applauded Ms. Shelley's contributions and thanked her for her work.

3. Grant Request – South Middle River Park

**Gina Rivera
Tom White**

Mr. Thornburg introduced Ms. Gina Rivera and advised that she works in the administrative offices and handles grant writing, along with many other responsibilities.

Ms. Rivera stated the Department had selected South Middle River Park to be the focus for the FRDAP grant application as it is the newest addition to the Park's inventory. The park is located within walking distance of homes and will be used for passive recreation. The maximum grant award is \$200,000 with a deadline for grant submission by September 20, 2008.

Ms. Rivera explained the grant application process is administered by the Department of Environmental Protection and subsequently submitted to the Florida Legislature for consideration. The Legislature reviews the submissions, which can take several months, and makes the final funding allocations. The DEP may fund the entire project or only a portion for the development of the park. Ms. Rivera anticipates notification of the status of the grant application between May and August of 2009. If awarded, the Park would have three years to be developed and will include benches, picnic tables, fitness trails, a pavilion and playground. These amenities are consistent with the recommendations on the Master Plan for that neighborhood.

Ms. Rivera passed out a conceptual rendering of the amenities for the PRBAB to review.

Mr. Thornburg added that the site was desirable as there are currently no existing parks in the South Middle River neighborhood. Staff had worked diligently to make the park come to fruition. The basic upgrades have been completed and the final amenities are eagerly anticipated by the Staff and neighborhood alike. The site was purchased through the County Parks Bond program.

Mr. Tom White stated that adjacent to the site, is a church and active playground, and felt the park would be a welcome addition to the area. Mr. White explained the details of the site plan, including the pavilion, concrete entry around the playground, and fitness stations. A drinking fountain will be installed; however, there are no restrooms planned for this park.

Motion made by Mr. Hoysgaard and seconded by Ms. Shelly, to recommend the City move forward with the FRDAP grant application for South Middle River Park. In a voice vote, the Motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hartman advised that the Florida Recreation and Park Association and others, have fought hard to keep the State Legislature funding the FRDAP program despite reduction in the State budget. Local governments depend highly on the FRDAP grants from the State, therefore there is a need to continue lobbying the State to maintain funding of the FRDAP grant program. Chair Hartman extended his thanks to the Staff for the work they must invest to attain these grants.

**4. Park Conceptual Master Plan Design -
Bill Keith Preserve**

**Gina Rivera
Tom White**

Mr. White presented a conceptual plan for the park located at 1720 SW 17 Street in the Shady Banks community. The parcel currently contains no structures and is in the native vegetative state; the City is in the process of clearing the parcel for development. Ms. White went on record to thank the residents of the Shady Banks community for volunteering many hours to clear the site.

A Land, Water and Conservation grant had been applied for and received in the amount of \$200,000. Plans for the development for the three acre site consists of a nature trail, bicycle rack, picnic tables, a sand canoe dock, wildlife observation areas, replanting using native vegetation, and interpretive signage displayed to inform the public of the site's historic value. There does not appear to be any owls at the site; however, there are several archeologically sensitive areas. The park will have three parking spaces, including the handicapped parking.

Motion made by Mr. Berry and seconded by Ms. Shelley, to recommend approval of the conceptual plan for the Bill Keith Preserve. In a voice vote, the Motion passed unanimously.

5. Board Comments

Mark Hartman

- The Jazz Brunch is scheduled for Sunday, September 7, 2008.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the color pink is the theme.
- The Fit Kids Club of Fort Lauderdale includes a golf clinic, flag football, end of year banquet, soccer, cheerleading, basketball, baseball, among others. The program began August 18, 2008 and is available Monday through Friday, registration is on-going.
- The Better Meetings Academy meeting was cancelled and moved to September 9, 2008 at 5:45 p.m. on the 3rd floor training room of the City Hall building. A post card or e-mail will be sent to all Board Members.
- The City of Plantation is hosting a "Living Green and Leaving No Footprints" overview on August 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. More information can be found on the City of Plantation's website.

- Chair Hartman wanted to acknowledge and appreciate Terry Rynard of the Parks Department as she was selected by the Florida Recreation and Park Association for the Joe Abrams Academy For Leadership and Excellence in parks and recreation.
- Middle River Terrace Park is the new home for the Annie Beck house previously located near Las Olas Boulevard. The City celebrated on Sunday, July 27, 2008; several news stations were on hand to cover the event. Chair Hartman passed out flyers explaining the history of the house. The house is in need for refurbishing and dollars to complete the task.
- Broward County will be closing a number of their parks on Tuesdays, starting October 1, 2008 due to the budget reductions.
- Chair Hartman passed out an article regarding the Starlight Musicals that took place at Holiday Park over the summer.
- Chair Hartman also passed out an article regarding the Bush Administration wanting to relax the rules on the Endangered Species Act by allowing people to self report as to whether they are in compliance or not.
- The newspaper reported on August 24, 2008 that a study of 33 laparoscopic surgeons found that those who play video games were 27% faster at advanced surgical procedures and made 37% fewer errors than those that do not play video games.
- Residents may obtain a parking pass for the Las Olas, South Beach and North Beach parking lots. Parking passes are good for one year and are available at Parking Services on 3rd Street and 3rd Avenue in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The cost of the card is \$5 and is also available on the City's website.
- Vice Chair Natale asked Ms. Rivera where the City was in the process of obtaining the FRDAP Grant for Ann Herman Park. Ms. Rivera answered that the grant was awarded to the City in the amount of \$200,000 and construction must be completed by April of 2009.
- Vice Chair Natale also asked if the City was refunded for the fire works display of July 4th. Mr. Thornburg stated the City had paid a deposit of half the total cost and had not received a refund. The show was scheduled for 25 minutes; however, it only lasted for 15 minutes. Next year's fire works display has not been discussed by the Parks Department at this time.
- Vice Chair Natale voiced his displeasure regarding the City Commission's decision to fast track Fire Station 46, despite the PRBAB and the Planning and Zoning Board being opposed to the project.
- Mr. Fee complimented Mr. Thornburg, Ms. Rynard and the Parks Department Staff for their efforts at Holiday Park for the 11 and Under baseball tournament. The City of Fort Lauderdale had received rave reviews as the parks were immaculate and were well maintained through out the tournament.

- Mr. Fee suggested the Parks Department analyze how the field space at the parks are being utilized. Due to the large number of participants, some of the parks are now inadequate with respect to field space. More participants, which Mr. Fee stated was a good problem to have, has resulted in shorter games, less practice time and larger teams. Maximizing field space by having multi-use fields may be something the Parks Department would want to investigate. Mr. Thornburg agreed and acknowledged the Parks Department is aware of the situation and would like to bring ideas to the PRBAB to discuss at an upcoming meeting.
- Mr. Berry commented on the new fence at the South Side School on SW 9th Street and asked for the status of the additional improvements scheduled. Mr. Thornburg advised the school at the park is being refurbished along with the installation of a new playground which can accommodate handicapped children. The City of Fort Lauderdale had received a grant to pay for the playground equipment. The area to the west where the ball fields and tennis courts are located will remain the same. A Master Plan had been developed to utilize the space more efficiently.
- Mr. Weiss asked if lighting protectors are scheduled to be installed in the parks. Mr. Thornburg advised this issue will be discussed at the next PRBAB Meeting. Hand held lightning detectors are being used at the pool areas. The City is concerned with park patrons not heeding the warnings when the predictors and/or detectors sound. The effectiveness of the equipment has not been proven. Mr. Thornburg related his experience at another City's park where the lighting equipment did not sound, despite the presence of lighting in the area. The hand held lightning predictors can be wired into the speakers to ensure all of the patrons are aware of the lightning in the area.
- Mr. Hoysgaard referenced a letter from Mr. John Rude regarding the A1A Scenic Corridor. The letter advised that there is a large effort to make A1A a scenic highway by the State Road A1A Scenic Highway Corridor Advisory Group. The Group intends to produce a brochure regarding the project to encourage Broward County residents to voice their support for the program.
- Dr. Hays asked the date the PRBAB would receive the presentation of the Parks Strategic Plan previously presented to the City Commission in July of this year. Mr. Thornburg stated that Commissioner Moore had requested a meeting with the children in the camp programs to discuss their ideas. The Parks Department's consultants had taken the results of that meeting along with the comparables requested by Mayor Naugle, from other cities with regard to population, acreage, cost per acre, etc. Those updates are scheduled to be presented to the City Commission in September of 2008 and will subsequently be presented to the PRBAB.

5. Adjournment

Mark Hartman

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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