

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

October 2008- September 2009

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	5	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	5	0
Curtiss Berry	A	4	1
Betty Shelley	P	3	1
John Verkey	P	3	2
Matthew Weiss	P	4	1
Robert Payne	P	4	1
Ed Angelbello (arr. 7:13)	P	3	2
Larry Mabson	P	4	1
Donna Guthrie	A	1	4
Mark McCormick	P	4	1
Jeffrey Cannon	P	5	0
Kenny Nail	P	4	1
Marilyn Markus	P	3	1

At this time there were 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant
Terry Rynard, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
Jenni Morejon, Planner III, Planning and Zoning Department
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

- Mr. McCormick noted that baseball and soccer groups in Coral Ridge have lobbied in the past to have lights installed in George English Park; he explained that he had seen minutes from a recent meeting of the Coral Ridge Civic Association at which members of this body discussed funds for this purpose with a City employee and stated that they did not want or need lights on the playing field in George English Park. Mr. McCormick's concern was that this group was not representative of all the interested parties in Coral Ridge, along with the fact that the Civic Association, not the Board, was used as a forum for a discussion about Park lighting.

Mr. McCormick felt that the Civic Association was attempting to have funds intended for lighting George English Park reallocated and used for a different purpose. He wished to know why any City employee would feel that the Civic Association and not the Parks & Recreation Department controlled use of these funds. Ms. Markus felt that the new City Commissioner from District 1 should be made aware of the Coral Ridge situation, as this area is included in that District.

- **Motion** made by Mr. Cannon, seconded by Mr. Weiss, in support of the Public Realm Plan, and a recommendation that the City Commission accept the Plan. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.
- **Motion** made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to recommend to the City Commission that Civic Peoples Park be renamed "Dr. Elizabeth Hays Civic Park." In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.
- **Motion** made by Mr. Nail, seconded by Mr. McCormick, to allow the North Side School to use Warfield Park to temporarily house its portable units during an upcoming construction phase, with upgrades offered to the Park when the construction is complete. In a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously.
- Chair Hartman requested that the issue of Holiday Park's use for overflow parking from the convention center be highlighted to the City Commission.
- Mr. Angelbello asked that this Board be recognized as having played a critical role in having Old Fire Station 46 designated as a prospective park area.

Roll Call

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll was called and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Assistant Director Rynard noted a correction to the minutes of the February 25, 2009 meeting: on p.11, the first paragraph should read "...will mean the loss of one of the seven lots, with the north portion of the lost lot acting as the alley exit onto 4th Avenue and the south half of that lot acting as a buffer between the site and the existing businesses."

Mr. Angelbello joined the meeting at this time (7:13 p.m.).

Motion made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2009 minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard requested to defer the Department Report until after the Riverwalk Public Realm Plan and North Side School Presentation had been completed. Chair Hartman agreed that this Item may be taken out of order on the Agenda.

2. Renaming of Civic Peoples Park – Assistant Director Rynard

It was requested that this Item be deferred as well. Chair Hartman agreed that this item may be taken out of order on the Agenda.

3. Riverwalk Public Realm Plan – Assistant Director Rynard, Jenni Morejon

Assistant Director Rynard introduced Jenni Morejon, Planner, who would present the Plan and address any comments.

Ms. Morejon stated that the presentation will cover the Riverwalk District and Public Realm Master Plan. She noted that there has been a significant investment in Fort Lauderdale's downtown area for several years, a great deal of which was shaped by the Downtown Master Plan. Developed in 2002, this Plan set design guidelines for new buildings and public spaces.

Additional planning efforts have been made since this Plan was first developed, including the Downtown New River Master Plan. While the Downtown Master Plan focused on the regional activity center, the Downtown New River Master Plan considers the Riverwalk District in particular. Ms. Morejon defined this District as the blocks north and south of the New River. She explained that this District has its own Master Plan because it is primarily viewed as "one large park," including the public streets leading to and from the area and public spaces in the District.

Inside this area, the City has identified separate "character areas," with the intent that each of these offers a different experience as you approach the river. Starting in the northwest corner is the Cultural Arts District, anchored by the Performing Arts Center, which will act as a "gateway to Downtown" in the Plan. This area brings some of the Downtown cultural activities closer to the river's edge through Esplanade Park. Ms. Morejon noted that re-shaping the edges of this Park is being considered.

The second area is the Retail & Entertainment Destination area, which was originally envisioned as a destination to be the "Times Square of Fort Lauderdale." This area focuses a good deal of energy into a specific location along the river.

The next area, which runs the longest length along the river, is the River Park Promenade, where natural landscaping will be encouraged. This area includes DDA Park, Smoker Park, and others. She suggested that there are opportunities in this area to establish small food kiosks or vendors to encourage a sense of liveliness along the river.

Just south of the river is the Downtown Tarpon River area, which is considered to be the “waterfront urban neighborhood” of Downtown, and provides a transition, through mixed use, to other areas. Finally, there is the Las Olas Gateway, which ties into the existing resources along Las Olas Boulevard and draws people back toward the river.

This is the framework of the Downtown New River Master Plan, which was developed over two years, with input from residents and property owners, as well as various City advisory boards and other stakeholders. The Plan can be achieved through street design and landscaping, or potentially with new designs and programs for parks and open spaces along the river.

Ms. Morejon explained that RFPs were sent out in fall 2008, and a consultant will be recommended to the City Commission in April to carry out the Plan. Its main objectives will be to look at new or improved designs of the current parks along the river, creating construction documents that will be funded and maintained through a Capital Improvement Program, and looking into public/private partnerships that will result in a better management strategy for the Riverwalk District.

Another major component will be programming these public spaces and planning activities, from major events to small kiosks along the river. An “Economic Development Arts and Entertainment Strategy” will be considered for the entire Riverwalk District.

Ms. Morejon offered to answer any questions the Board might have.

Chair Hartman recalled that one image from the PowerPoint presentation had depicted a walkway across the river, and asked if Ms. Morejon could elaborate on this. She explained that there are challenges in getting pedestrians across the river “in an easy fashion,” and added that since fixed bridges can have an impact on the City’s marine industry, lower-technology options such as ferries have been considered as a “quick fix.”

Mr. Angelbello noted that with more people drawn to this area, parking issues would have to be considered, and asked if this was addressed in the Plan. Ms. Morejon responded that in the longer term, mass transit will be available, such as

the Downtown circulator. There are also opportunities for offsite parking, such as the existing government-owned parking garages, as well as shuttles.

In the meantime, however, many recently developed projects provide sufficient parking, particularly offices that are unoccupied on weekends, when many events will occur, she added.

Chair Hartman asked if funding for some components of this Master Plan depend upon the Parks & Recreation Department's capital budget. Ms. Morejon replied that these expenses could be "folded into" the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP), although this will ultimately depend upon how this list is prioritized, among other considerations.

Chair Hartman suggested that this could be "optimistic" in light of the current economy, pointing out that it has been difficult to obtain funds for existing facilities and upgrades. He asked if the Master Plan's timeline is commensurate with economic conditions and the restraints they place on the City's budget.

Ms. Morejon stated that there may be opportunities for infrastructure-based economic stimulus funds, as well as the possibility of obtaining grants. When the project is awarded, she noted that a goal is for it to be carried out within nine months so it can be considered a "shovel-ready" project.

She continued that the City believes in order to present Fort Lauderdale as an attractive location for major corporate headquarters, as well as a world tourist destination, they must have "extraordinary public places" and a welcoming and attractive Downtown area. They feel that this is the best time to make an investment of this nature in the City's infrastructure and public spaces, in order to reap benefits when the economy begins to improve.

Chair Hartman asked if there were plans for the existing Riverfront Business Center and what impact that this Master Plan might have on this location. Ms. Morejon explained that this project, a private development, is "entirely on hold." The City would like to see short-term solutions for bringing activity to this site once again, such as on the public right-of-way in front of the development or in cooperation with the property owner.

Mr. Verkey asked how far along the Master Plan has progressed. Ms. Morejon responded that the City feels the New River Master Plan and its vision of five character areas will help set the foundation for the Public Realm Plan, and help arrive at some "actionable, implementable designs" to transform the area and make the entire District more active.

Mr. Nail asked how much the project is expected to cost. Ms. Morejon replied that the Public Realm Plan's budget is over \$300,000, including the cost of

developing an “arts and entertainment strategy” and designs of the three major public parks and streets leading to the river.

Mr. Nail followed up by asking if a study has been done to determine how much greater the visitation to the area will be, and how many tourism dollars might be generated by this plan. While this specific study has not been performed, Ms. Morejon pointed out that consultants involved with the plan may be able to identify the revenue streams and funding that would come into the area as a result of greater development.

Ms. Markus asked if greater details could be provided regarding the consultants who will be recommended to the City Commission, and how the \$300,000 will be used. Ms. Morejon stated that the lead consultant, Beyer Blinder Belle, was also the consultant responsible for the New River Master Plan, which gave them some “background” on the project. In addition, consultants in performing arts, engineering, landscape architecture, and other necessary components of the project have been engaged.

She added that as part of the RFP process, the maximum amount that can be paid to the consultants has already been set at \$300,000, and may not exceed this without a change order authorized by the City Commission. The scope of services in the RFP is believed to address “every need.”

Mr. Mabson inquired about any projected costs above the \$300,000 in consulting fees, as well as their feasibility. Ms. Morejon stated that a part of this project is to arrive at cost estimates and carry out feasibility studies relating to the work that will need to happen. She described these as “additional capital costs,” and replied that they have not yet been estimated, nor has a schedule been developed for the phasing of the necessary work. These plans and costs will be put into the City’s CIP list to be considered for funding.

Chair Hartman opened the meeting to the public at this time for additional questions and comments.

Scott Strawbridge, Vice Chair of the Riverwalk Trust, identified himself as a former member of the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board, and noted that his service on this Board was at one point concurrent with his service for the Riverwalk Trust as well. He explained that he is also Chairman of the Trust’s Master Plan and Projects Committee, and has worked with Ms. Morejon and Deputy Planning and Zoning Director Wayne Jessup in crafting the scope of work for the RFP discussed earlier. He stated that he wished to provide some context for how the Master Plan fits into a bigger picture for the Riverwalk area.

He emphasized that “80% of a public space is in its management” rather than its design, which means while a park can be a greater success and benefit to the

community when it is programmed with activities, both large and small in size. Mr. Strawbridge observed that at one time, monthly events had been scheduled for the Downtown area's public spaces; however, he recalled City Staff as having "pull[ed] back" on planning these events and leaving the Downtown parks inactive by comparison.

He continued that the Riverwalk Trust has partnered with the City in bringing back some activities to the parks, such as yoga classes. The Trust has hired a marketing expert to assist in developing more programming for the parks. The goal is to create a "vibrant urban environment."

Mr. Strawbridge added that the Plan had been included in the City's budget for 2009, but had faced objections due to its expense. He felt the more appropriate term for the Public Realm Plan was "investment" rather than "expense," and that the best time to plan for the next wave of economic development is the present, while the market is down. He pointed out that this means consultants' fees are lower as well.

He concluded that he hoped the Board would "send a message" to the new City Commission that the Plan is an important investment in the City.

Chair Hartman asked if the Board wished to make a motion at this time. Assistant Director Rynard noted that Roger Bond has resigned his Board membership, but the required number for a quorum remains eight members.

She added that the new City Commission has asked that all Advisory Boards note "highlights," or items of particular interest to the City Commission. Assistant Director Rynard advised that she will ask from time to time if specific items discussed during the meeting will be "highlight items." These will include motions or other votes, she explained.

Chair Hartman identified the current discussion as a highlight item of the meeting, and repeated his request for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cannon, seconded by Mr. Weiss, in support of the Public Realm Plan.

Mr. McCormick pointed out that the Board does not know the content of the City's capital improvement recommendations, and he did not feel they could single out any particular item that might be on this list without comparing it to others. He felt they should understand what is included on the list before moving in support of any specific item.

Chair Hartman noted that he felt this Plan is in a "fairly conceptual stage" at the moment, and asked Ms. Morejon to elaborate. She advised that the funding that

has been designated and encumbered for the Public Realm Plan is not from the CIP list, but from the Planning Department's consulting services budget. She reiterated that part of the project will allow costs to be estimated and considered on the CIP list; however, there are presently no items that may be compared to others on that list, so nothing already on the list would be affected or reprioritized. When the plan is complete, she explained, the Board would have the opportunity to see projects before they are added to or prioritized on the CIP list.

Mr. McCormick asked what the Board would be endorsing by a motion of support. Ms. Morejon felt she should let the Board determine this, as she had only presented the overall program that would go before the City Commission.

Mr. Cannon described the intent of his motion as "giving our blessing as a Board" to go forward on the plan to improve the Riverwalk. He felt the area is a "huge asset" to the City that is underused.

Chair Hartman felt that the development stage was some time away, but also that the Riverwalk needed a comprehensive strategy, rather than making small incremental improvements. He added that he felt it would be important for the Board to send a message to the City Commission that the area needs a strategic plan of this nature. A motion in favor would be instructing the City Commission to give the Plan further consideration.

Mr. McCormick stated that if that was the intent of the motion, he felt it was a "no-brainer."

Mr. Strawbridge advised that the Plan had been deferred by the former City Commission and would appear before the new one on April 7, 2009. He added that if the Board's recommendation was included only in its minutes, however, the City Commission would not be aware of it until after their vote, and recommended that a statement of support be given to that body in writing.

Chair Hartman thanked Ms. Morejon for her presentation, and called for a vote on Mr. Cannon's motion.

Mr. Nail stated that he wished to go on record in favor of the Plan, which he felt would improve the Riverwalk area and the City in general. He noted, however, that the Board should also see the other priorities under consideration.

Assistant Director Rynard reminded the Board that, as it is an advisory body, the motion could be worded to state that it advises the City Commission to accept or deny the Plan.

To this end, Chair Hartman offered the **amendment** that along with a vote in support of the Public Realm Plan, the Board advises the City Commission to accept the Plan. Vice Chair Fee seconded this amendment.

In a voice vote, the **amended motion** carried unanimously.

Chair Hartman thanked Ms. Morejon for her presentation.

2. Renaming of Civic Peoples Park – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard stated that Dr. Elizabeth Hays, who was an avid supporter of Parks & Recreation, had tirelessly worked on behalf of the Department, and asked that the Board consider changing the name of Civic Peoples Park to “Dr. Elizabeth Hays Park.”

Mr. Nail introduced Roger Suarez, President of the Sunset Civic Association, which is the neighborhood in which Civic Peoples Park is located.

Mr. Suarez praised the work Dr. Hays had done with the City in conjunction with many of its various advisory boards, and as an individual as well. He recommended “wholeheartedly” the renaming of the Park, pointing out that its idea and design was to recognize people who have worked with the City in a civic capacity; to this end, he recommended that the new name be “Dr. Betty Hays Peoples Park,” in order to continue this recognition of those who give their time and effort to the City.

Dennis Ulmer, private citizen, stated that he had originally planned to ask that this Item be deferred, as the name of the Park had been “very controversial” and had come before the District 3 Commissioner more than once. As the Sunset Civic Association had spoken in favor of changing the name, however, he advised that he now “heartily endorsed” the proposed change.

Mr. Nail asked if there were objections to the name “Dr. Elizabeth Hays Peoples Park.” Chair Hartman pointed out, however, that this particular suggestion is not the name with which the Board was originally approached as an Agenda Item.

Gina Ellis, representing the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, recalled that the Council had initially approached the Board with the request of a plaque in honor of Dr. Hays. Since that time, the City Commission itself raised the issue of renaming the Park, and some discussion of the new name has followed, with the determination at one time that “Dr. Elizabeth Hays Park” would be proposed. There has not been public discussion of adding to the suggested name, although Ms. Ellis did not feel anyone would object.

She continued that the Park recognizes a number of civic activists, which began with the naming of 10 palm trees after individuals; a suggested method of continuing this recognition is the construction of a wall with bronze plaques in honor of additional civic contributors. Ms. Ellis concluded that it is the Council's hope that the Board will support the City Commission's recommendation to give the Park a new name in honor of Dr. Hays.

She suggested instead of adding "Peoples," the term "Civic" might be substituted, which would result in "Dr. Elizabeth Hays Civic Park." Ms. Markus agreed with this, as she felt it would call attention to the hours of civic contributions that Dr. Hays made to the community. Mr. Suarez and Chair Hartman were comfortable with this alternative as well.

Motion made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to recommend to the City Commission that Civic Peoples Park be renamed "Dr. Elizabeth Hays Civic Park." In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Chair Hartman thanked the individuals who had attended the meeting to speak on this issue.

4. Presentation on North Side School – Assistant Director Rynard

Frank Alferi, project manager for the Broward County School Board, stated that he would present the plan for building expansion and renovation at North Side Elementary School. He introduced Principal Camille Lachance, Assistant Principal Amy Winder, in addition to associates from Cubellis Architects, who would give a PowerPoint presentation on the renovations.

Jorge Gutierrez of Cubellis Architects described the project as part of a plan to improve schools on the eastern side of the School District, which had received fewer improvements to date than schools on the western side. These improvements would include sustainable and "green" technologies.

North Side Elementary is located at the corner of NE 11th Avenue and NE 2nd Avenue, adjacent to Warfield Park. The building, constructed in 1927, has been designated a historic landmark by the City.

Some of the planned improvements include removing a "dilapidated" building from the 1950s, which, it was noted, was not part of the historic facility. It will be demolished and replaced with an area of open green space within the campus, and 15 classrooms will be constructed to replace those formerly housed in the building. Additionally, a second floor will be created that will "wrap around" an existing building.

Mr. Gutierrez showed a rendering of a landscape plan for the campus, which will increase the area's tree canopy and overall green space. New buildings will be constructed with the intent of duplicating the historic character of the older building.

Among the green technologies planned for the building are rainwater harvesting for use in irrigation, as well as in lavatories. Solar panels will heat this collected water, and classrooms will have reduced electrical lighting when "day lighting" is sufficient.

In 2002, he explained, an addition to North Side Elementary was built on its east side; this had resulted in a request to the Board that portions of Warfield Park be used temporarily during the construction phase of this project. Mr. Gutierrez pointed out that when this phase was complete, after approximately two years, the Park had been restored entirely to the City, and the School Board had contributed new playground equipment to the Park. Students currently use Warfield Park as the school's playground area, he added.

Mr. Gutierrez stated that the temporary use of Park space was again being requested while the new building is being constructed. He explained that this phase is not expected to take more than 24 months, and will house those classrooms that are being demolished with the old building.

He noted that this will save taxpayer and School District money, as no extra funds will be spent on a contractor. As this temporary use will take up play space in the Park, it has been proposed that when the Park is restored, a lighted soccer field will be added to it.

Mr. Hartfield asked if the soccer field's turf and lighting would also be "green-friendly." Mr. Gutierrez replied that the lighting will use green technology; they have not yet considered the turf. Assistant Director Rynard stated that the Department's preference would be for artificial or Bermuda turf.

It was noted that Warfield Park occupies 2.4 acres. Vice Chair Fee asked what proportion of park space would be used for temporary space. It was noted that approximately 1/3 would be encumbered during construction, and "the most active portion of the park" would remain available for the public. Ms. Lachance added that the school uses a portion during the day for physical education and recess.

Assistant Director Rynard confirmed that no sports teams would be affected by this use, and that the addition of turf space would help alleviate "overflow" of sports use in the future.

Manny Synalovski of Cubellis Architects advised that while they could commit to Bermuda turf, they were unable to provide artificial turf.

Ms. Shelley asked if the plan involved placing portable classrooms on park space. Mr. Gutierrez confirmed this. Ms. Shelley also wished to know if the planners had met with neighborhood residents, and he stated that a presentation was recently made to the local civic association. He asserted that they “endorsed [the project] 100%.”

Mr. Mabson asked if a partition would be constructed for the students’ safety, and how Park Staff would be affected by the project. Assistant Director Rynard advised that both the School Board and the consultants had approached the Department “early on” to discuss any impact to the facilities.

Mr. Gutierrez added that a temporary chain-link fence or a plywood wall would be provided by the contractor to separate students from the construction spaces. To separate the fields, he felt the chain-link fence with additional screening would most likely be used.

Assistant Director Rynard confirmed that there is a fence around the Park as well, and that restroom facilities are not available when the Community Center on the grounds is not open. This means there will not be restrooms on the grounds at this location during weekends. While the playground does not presently have a shaded area, Assistant Director Rynard noted that as the playground is replaced, this would be an appropriate addition.

Motion made by Mr. Nail, seconded by Mr. McCormick, to allow the North Side School to use Warfield Park to temporarily house its portable units during an upcoming construction phase, with upgrades offered to the Park when the construction is complete.

Mr. Angelbello observed that this was “a great idea” but expressed concern about the lack of restroom facilities at the location. He asked if the inclusion of these facilities might be considered, as he felt there would be complaints from visiting patrons if this issue was not addressed.

Assistant Director Rynard suggested that when play is permitted on the prospective soccer field, arrangements could be made for the Community Center to be open so its facilities would be available. During pickup play, however, the facilities would not be available.

Vice Chair Fee asked if there are any known Code issues with lights at the Park. Assistant Director Rynard stated that any lights installed must be in accordance with Code, or a variance must be approved.

In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard noted again that Roger Bond had resigned from the Board, and that member Donna Guthrie is ill.

Beach cleaning operations are under a one-year trial provision which allows the Department to clean the entire width of the Beach, provided that turtle nests are monitored and avoided. She added that this is a great opportunity to keep the Beach clean, particularly during Spring Break.

Survey Monkey, which is a service the Department uses to survey Park program users, has just sent out a survey related to maintenance and activities on the Riverwalk. It is available on the Department's website.

The Old Fire Station 46 on Powerline Road will be designated as a Park. Assistant Director Rynard praised the Board for keeping up to date on this issue and helping it to happen. The next step in this process is for the project to go before the County Planning Commission. Chair Hartman suggested that this might be placed on the Board's Agenda, if Staff or the City Commission felt this was warranted.

Mr. Weiss asked if the parking issue related to this project had been solved. Assistant Director Rynard reported that the most recent plan she had seen added 30 spaces, and that all concerns raised by the Board in the past had been addressed.

5. Board Comments / Commission Highlights – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman reminded the Board that several magazines are available to them, including the *NRPA Journal* and the *Parks & Rec Trades*, among others.

He continued that there are several events and activities going on throughout the City, and referred the members to the website for further details.

Chair Hartman added that he had attended Pridefest in Holiday Park with the City's new Mayor and several other local dignitaries. He described the City Staff present at this event as "outstanding."

He encouraged the Board members to attend events that take place in the City's parks, and to provide Staff with feedback. He also emphasized that the members should make every effort to meet with their new City Commissioners and bring the Board's issues to their attention.

Chair Hartman opened the floor to Board comments at this time.

Mr. McCormick reported that when large events take place in Holiday Park, the overflow falls into the baseball parking lot. He described this area as “being used as a convention center” when overflow occurs from the War Memorial building.

Vice Chair Fee agreed, noting that when cars leave these events they often do not know where to go and drive down the walkway in an attempt to exit the Park. In addition, no one from War Memorial is present to direct this traffic. He felt that it is a mistake “philosophically” to schedule youth recreational events and have the convention center in the same Park.

Assistant Director Rynard advised that she had received input on these activities, and pointed out that an action plan is usually created when the Department knows large events are scheduled for the convention center. It was agreed internally that it was a mistake not to have made an action plan for Pridefest, as traffic should be directed; furthermore, the convention center has been informed in the past that they should not charge for parking in the lot in question.

There have been discussions about putting in “pickup game field space” and doing away with this parking, moving it to another location. Assistant Director Rynard agreed that the Department should “do a better job” of coordinating traffic when these events occur.

Mr. McCormick noted that baseball and soccer groups in Coral Ridge have lobbied in the past to have lights installed in George English Park; he explained that he had seen minutes from a recent meeting of the Coral Ridge Civic Association at which members of this body discussed funds for this purpose with a City employee and stated that they did not want or need lights on the playing field in George English Park. Mr. McCormick’s concern was that this group was not representative of all the interested parties in Coral Ridge, along with the fact that the Civic Association, not the Board, was used as a forum for a discussion about Park lighting.

Mr. McCormick felt that the Civic Association was attempting to have funds intended for lighting George English Park reallocated and used for a different purpose. He wished to know why any City employee would feel that the Civic Association and not the Parks & Recreation Department controlled use of these funds.

Chair Hartman requested that this issue be included in the Items highlighted for the City Commission, along with the three motions made following presentations and the issue of Holiday Park’s use for overflow parking from the convention center. Mr. Angelbello asked that the recognition of the Board as having played a

critical role in having Old Fire Station 46 designated as a prospective park area be included as well.

Ms. Markus felt that the new City Commissioner from District 1 should be made aware of the Coral Ridge situation, as this area is included in that District.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

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