

PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES (revised)
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 1ST FLOOR CHAMBERS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.

October 2008- September 2009

Board Members	Attendance	Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	7	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Curtiss Berry	P	6	1
Betty Shelley (7:18)	P	5	1
John Verkey	A	4	3
Matthew Weiss	P	6	1
Robert Payne	P	6	1
Ed Angelbello	A	4	3
Larry Mabson	P	6	1
Donna Guthrie	A	1	6
Mark McCormick (7:18)	P	6	1
Jeffrey Cannon	P	7	0
Kenny Nail (7:06)	P	5	2
Marilyn Markus (7:55)	P	5	1
Bruce Quailey	P	1	0

At this time there were 15 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant
Terry Rynard, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation
Alan Brown, Park Ranger II
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

- **Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Payne, to name the property (located at 1611 SW 9th Ave) Gore Betz Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried 13-2 (Mr. Weiss, Vice Chair Fee dissenting).
- **Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Cannon, to schedule the matter of lighting the baseball field at George English Park as an Agenda Item in June 2009, and make a recommendation to the City Commission on the issue at that time. In a show of hands, the **motion** carried 6-5 (Mr. Quailey, Mr. Fee, Mr. Weiss, Mr. McCormick and Mr. Nail dissenting).

- **Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Quailey, to re-name Melrose Park “Shirley Small Community Park.” In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Roll Call

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Roll was called, and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hartman noted the following corrections to the April 22, 2009 minutes:

- P. 8, paragraph 1: should read “...better serve the Parks Department”
- P. 9, paragraph 6: change “Little River Terrace” to “Middle River Terrace”

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Mabson, to approve the April 22, 2009 minutes as corrected.

Mr. Nail joined the meeting at this time (7:06 p.m.).

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard introduced new member Bruce Quailey and welcomed him to the Board. Chair Hartman noted that Mr. Quailey had attended the most recent Better Meetings Academy.

She also introduced Alan Brown, Park Ranger II and evening Supervisor.

Regarding the minutes of the March 2009, Assistant Director Rynard identified an error on the header and asked that it be corrected for clarification.

She continued that the Department has been working on several green initiatives, one of which is the use of recycled items for crafts in the summer camp programs. She distributed a handout to this effect, and asked that anyone with the household items listed on the sheet donate them at the Department’s main Office or at Holiday Park.

2. Drowning Prevention Month – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman stated that he had attended the most recent City Commission meeting, at which the Mayor and City Commission had proclaimed May to be Drowning Prevention Month. He distributed copies of the proclamation to the Parks & Recreation Department, and pointed out that the City carries out several proactive events toward drowning prevention:

- a partnership with the American Red Cross;

- water safety and learn-to-swim programs;
- lifeguard training;
- partnership with the Swim Central program, which buses students to area pools for swimming lessons;
- partnership with the Fire Department;
- swimming lessons at the City's five community pools, located at Bass Park, Carter Park, Croissant Park, Riverland Park, Lauderdale Manors Park, and the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex.

Chair Hartman continued that there are also special events, such as the April Water Safety Program at Carter Park and April Pools Day at the Aquatics Complex, among others. He encouraged the Department to keep up its good work.

Mr. Payne asked if there are no programs at the Sunrise and Fort Lauderdale pools. Assistant Director Rynard advised that Fort Lauderdale is contracted out under an RFP and offers swimming lessons, open swimming, and competitive swimming. Sunrise is still giving lessons "in-house."

Mr. Nail observed that swimming lessons are also offered at Stranahan High School.

Chair Hartman congratulated Assistant Director Rynard on the City's proclamation.

3. Osswald Park Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard distributed handouts depicting the conceptual plan, advising that Osswald Park was acquired from the County during the annexation. There are currently basketball and tennis courts, a new library, a rec facility, an old multi-purpose building, a playground, baseball and football fields, and a three-hole golf course contained within the Park. The driveway circling the park is commonly used as a fitness trail, and there is a small workout area by the tennis courts.

The City applied for a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant from the State, and was awarded this grant in 2007. They are now ready to go out for bid later this summer on the Osswald Park project. The plans are almost finalized, and Assistant Director Rynard pointed out that a large area will be turned into multi-purpose space, eliminating one baseball field and adding a small gazebo. Shelters, which are heavily used, will be preserved. The playground and its sand surfacing will be replaced due to age. She added that they hope to include some interactive "spray features," while remaining conscious of water restrictions, although the area will not be a water park. It is

hoped that the water from spray features can be used toward irrigation if a method for this can be developed.

The Department has spoken to the neighborhood near Osswald Park, Assistant Director Rynard noted, and it is "very supportive."

She continued that the old lighting was used for the ball fields, and "chopped up" the multi-purpose space. The Department will attempt to relocate these lights to the sides, creating one large multi-purpose field.

Ms. Shelley and Mr. McCormick joined the meeting at this time (7:18 p.m.).

The FRDAP grant is for \$200,000, she stated, and there is roughly an additional \$700,000 left from the County, which came to the City with the acquisition of the Park in 2006. Vice Chair Fee asked if grants had been written for Croissant Park, which, he noted, had "not had anything done in 30 years." Assistant Director Rynard replied she did not have grants at that time, but the first Park to apply for FRDAP in her tenure was Ann Herman Park, which was recently completed. She added that Ann Herman Park will have its grand opening, tentatively, in July 2009.

She noted that Flagler Park, along with Osswald Park, had also received FRDAP funding, which is due by the end of 2010. A City is allowed three such grants at a time, she explained, and some of the grants are based upon a City's ability to leverage money. The \$700,000 from the County had been helpful to this end in the case of Osswald Park.

Roger Suarez, from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, asked if there are skateboard facilities at Osswald Park. Assistant Director Rynard stated there are no such facilities, nor are they in the plan for the Park.

Mr. Berry recalled that when the County allowed the annexation of the Park, they maintained it for one year; the City took over maintenance in 2007. He asked how many acres the Park contains; Assistant Director Rynard stated there are 34 acres in Osswald Park.

Vice Chair Fee noted that there had been a mention of field turf, and noted that this cost might be "way too much." Assistant Director Rynard responded that the estimate for providing field turf in the areas in question would be nearly \$2 million.

Mr. Nail stated that he had received calls from people in the Osswald Park community who expressed concern about how the Park's lighting would be done, and he was pleased to hear they would be rearranged and would not be an issue. He asked if the City ever received all the funds allocated toward the Park

from the County. Assistant Director Rynard confirmed that the City had received all such funds, and had used them to buy the “start-up” equipment, such as groundskeeping and maintenance equipment. She reiterated Mr. Berry’s earlier recollection, stating that the County had paid the City for the first year of the Park’s maintenance.

Rudy Herman, Co-Chair of the Southwest Coalition, asked where the money to maintain the park now comes from. City money allocated toward the Park’s upkeep comes from the General Fund, Assistant Director Rynard clarified; all leagues pay fees to the General Fund. The output from the General Fund greatly exceeds any money the Department brings in during a given year.

Roger Suarez, private citizen, noted that there is a dog park in Heritage Park that generates a good deal of revenue; considering the size of Osswald Park, he asked if this might be a future consideration for that site. Assistant Director Rynard stated she would take the suggestion under advisement, but noted that the Park contains several amenities already, and its Long-Range Plan has cited a need for more field space, adult fitness, and nature programs.

4. Sailboat Pond Preserve Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard distributed copies of the conceptual plan for the Sailboat Bend area, located at 1401 SW 2nd Court, noting that the Department owns the “top corner of the park”; they have recently acquired, with County conservation funds, an additional area.

She described the proposed development as “simple” and “native,” pointing out a canoe launch area along the canal, a required parking lot, and a nature trail. The area is currently clear of all invasive plant species, although it will need maintenance to return it to a “natural Florida forest setting.” The Park is less than two acres in size.

5. Naming of Gore Nursery Site – Assistant Director Rynard

Chair Hartman recalled that there had been discussion of this issue at the April 2009 meeting; Assistant Director Rynard stated that the Department had been asked to consult with the Croissant Park Neighborhood Association and the River Oaks Neighborhood Association in order to hear their input.

After hearing “several combinations of names,” the choice was now between two of these:

- River Oaks Common
- Gore Orchid Place.

Mr. Berry advised that he had researched some of the property's history, and learned that Gore Nursery was opened in 1939, primarily to raise orchids. He would like the name "Gore Betz Park," as the Betz family had taken over the property several years ago and have been "outstanding members" of the community. He felt the property, and the Gore name, had been part of the City for 70 years and deserved recognition.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Payne, to name the property Gore Betz Park.

Chair Rynard clarified that the City had purchased the property from the Betz brothers.

Mr. Berry affirmed that there are many Parks named after prominent City residents, and emphasized that the Gore and Betz names should be similarly considered.

Mr. Weiss asked if the Board is "obligated" to choose one of the names collected by the Department. Assistant Director Rynard replied that there is no obligation, as there were several suggestions without a consensus.

Ms. Shelley felt people who have been part of the community for "a long time" should be recognized.

Chair Hartman asked if any members of the public wished to speak on this issue.

Betsy Dow, private citizen, noted that there are many members of the Gore family who remain in Broward County.

In a voice vote, the **motion** carried 13-2 (Mr. Weiss, Vice Chair Fee dissenting).

Vice Chair Fee commented that his reservations on the issue stemmed from the fact that he felt more research should be done into individuals' background before City property is named for them.

Chair Hartman felt the Park will be "a tremendous asset."

6. George English Park Ballfield Lighting Update – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard briefly introduced the issue, explaining that her understanding is that mitigation in this Park will include renovation of the ballfield and \$150,000 toward that field's lighting. Since that time, the design for lighting was completed; however, when this went out to bid, the bids came in high and the money was not used for some time. There has been renewed interest, she

noted, in carrying out this project and making changes to how this money would be spent. The project has gone out to bid a second time, as there has been an indication that the project may be done for less than \$150,000. The Department is currently waiting for these bids to come back and plan to proceed with the original intent.

Since that time, she continued, there have been meetings and “interested parties” representing Bayview Elementary, the baseball and soccer leagues, and other groups hoping to reach an agreement on how to move forward.

Chair Hartman asked Mr. McCormick, who had originally brought the issue to the Board’s attention, if he could add anything to Assistant Director Rynard’s summary.

Mr. McCormick explained that the Broward County School Board had offered to put \$150,000 toward the renovation and lighting of the baseball field. It had originally been planned that the organization would lose the use of the field for 20 months while portable classroom units from Bayview Elementary were housed there; however, this time frame extended to over three years, and the money “sat there” after a delay. Four years have passed in which the funds have not been spent on the baseball field; the issue has now come up in relation to various ideas of how these funds may be reallocated. Mr. McCormick asserted that Coral Ridge Little League, the organization who did not have use of the field, is “adamantly against [the funds being spent on uses other than lighting].”

He stated that the Coral Ridge Civic Association, which he described as “very well intentioned,” came up with alternative ideas for how the money might be spent, while Coral Ridge Little League and other sports organizations affected by the relative shortage of fields in the City wish the funds to be put to their originally intended use. He added that Coral Ridge Little League has the contractual right to the funds, as opposed to fences, landscaping, or other sports’ needs, as the baseball fields were specifically affected by the portable classroom units.

Mr. McCormick pointed out that when Coral Ridge Little League is unable to use this field, it affects field usage at Holiday Park. He added that most of the houses close to the field at George English Park have hedges in place that would help block the lights. He noted that the tennis and basketball courts in the Park are lighted as well.

Mr. Qualey asked if there is a height restriction on lights at the Park. Mr. McCormick explained that the Park is zoned for lights at 60 ft., which is the height of the proposed lights on the baseball field.

Mr. Cannon asked how much detail is included in the Little League’s contractual agreement regarding the lights. Assistant Director Rynard replied that it is the

City Attorney's opinion that the issue would have to come before the City Commission in order to change the intent, and the School Board would have to agree as well, as they supplied the funding.

She confirmed that the Department is "not asking for action" from the Board, but was presenting an update on the issue.

Mr. McCormick agreed that the Board did not need to take any action, adding that he has been "very involved" and has studied the issue from various different angles, including that of the Civic Association. He noted that people living close to the Park do not want "expanded activity" in that facility.

Chair Hartman asked if members of the public would like to address the issue as well.

Daniel Ehmke, Treasurer and Executive Board Member, of Coral Ridge Little League, offered some additional details. The contract was originally drawn up in 2000, when construction was begun on Bayview Elementary School. He affirmed that the \$150,000 in compensation funds was to be used specifically for "ballfield improvements." The contract identifies the specific City fund for the project, and states that its intent is "to improve the baseball field at George English Park." In response to a question regarding what he would like to see happen, Mr. Ehmke stated that Coral Ridge Little League would like to have lighting for the baseball field.

Mr. McCormick asked how the current lack of lighting affects the Little League. Mr. Ehmke stated that play must cease "as soon as it gets dark."

Chair Hartman asked if anyone was present in opposition to lighting the field, as no one of that opinion had yet been heard.

Betsy Dow, President of the Coral Ridge Homeowners' Association, stated that she was responsible for raising the issue of alternate uses for the \$150,000. She explained that she knew the funds would be available since the signing of the contractual agreement in 2000, and also knew there had been an estimate of the cost of lighting that was between \$250,000 and \$300,000. She pointed out that if the funds available were insufficient for lighting the field, there were other needs that could be served inside the Park. Other Association members had come up with suggestions for the use of funds, such as water fountains, playground equipment, fence repairs, and landscaping.

Ms. Dow asserted that her position, as President of the Homeowners' Association, was in favor of "[using] the money for the Park." She pointed out that she is not against lighting the baseball field, but had felt if the funds were insufficient for that use, other potential uses could be found.

She added that there would be “a hue and cry” from residents of the “eight or ten houses” along NE 12th Street, which borders the Park, should the field be lighted. Ms. Dow also felt any interested parties on the Board should recuse themselves from a prospective vote.

John Aurelius, also of the Coral Ridge Homeowners’ Association, stated that he had been one of a few individuals appointed by Ms. Dow to determine why the Parks & Recreation Department was “sitting on” the money. He added that the Association would also like to know how the lighting issue came to be on the Board’s Agenda. He pointed out that lighting is not specifically mentioned in the contract.

Mr. Aurelius noted that the Homeowners’ Association scheduled a meeting, which was “quite small,” in which they determined that the funds were insufficient to meet the cost quoted for lighting the field. With this in mind, they had listed other possible improvements the Department could consider. When the issue had reached the public, Mr. Aurelius stated that he had been appointed Chairman by the Mayor and his City Commissioner, and a larger, open meeting on the issue had been held, with an attempt to bring all interested parties together. Along with residents and representatives of the Soccer and Little Leagues, representatives of Bayview Elementary were also present. The school has a “lifetime use” of the Park and is in fact its biggest user, although they do not use the Park at night. While Mr. Aurelius stated that the school wishes to see the Park improved, he also affirmed that they “don’t want to get involved” in the issue.

He continued that the Park’s neighbors currently complain of noise, an “overused” basketball facility, lack of parking, and heavy Little League use before dark. They did not wish to see lights, even for two or three hours’ use in the winter.

Chair Hartman asked what action Mr. Aurelius would like the Board to take. Mr. Aurelius replied that the Homeowners’ Association, “with City Commission backing,” could not bring all the parties to consensus, and “there has to be a methodology put in place” to resolve the issue somehow. He added that the Homeowners’ Association was under the impression that the Board would make a recommendation to the City Commission.

Chair Hartman stated that he felt the Board should make a recommendation, as it seems the issue needs resolution. Mr. Aurelius asked if it was possible for the Board to make a recommendation “without the Parks Department telling you that it’s feasible to do lights.”

Ms. Markus joined the meeting at this time (7:55 p.m.).

Assistant Director Rynard responded that not all improvements are considered to have an advisory component, although she believed “this one easily qualifies.” She explained that the Board advises the City Commission rather than directs Park Staff, and reiterated that the Department is not asking for action. The Board may advise the City Commission that they have heard the issue and “don’t have a problem with it,” or that they wish to advise for a specific resolution to occur or not.

Chair Hartman requested Mr. McCormick’s opinion as to whether the Board should advise the City Commission on the issue. Mr. McCormick responded that the point is well taken that “the money needs to get spent” – which, he felt, should be used for lighting the baseball field.

Vice Chair Fee recalled that Ms. Dow had suggested Board members with an interest in the issue should recuse themselves from a vote. He, however, did not agree this was appropriate, as “half the Board is involved in sports” at different locations. Assistant Director Rynard pointed out that if any of the members were contractors, for example, it would be a different situation. Chair Hartman agreed with this assertion.

Mr. Quailey asked if there were any estimates on rebidding the lights. Assistant Director Rynard stated that these would come in two weeks; the contractor responsible for the lights at Bayview Park had put together a proposal at the request of the Little League, which was included in the Board’s information packets. The proposal was for \$85,000, and Assistant Director Rynard reiterated that this was not an official bid, nor was it requested by the City. Once City procedures are involved in a formal RFP, the bid could come in at a different estimate, and the company in question might not qualify, or might not choose to bid.

Chair Hartman clarified that one issue is whether or not the lighting can be done for the amount available; other issues, however, have been raised regarding noise and placement of lighting.

Mr. Mabson felt the issue was not only one of funding, but of who would benefit from its use. He believed the funding should remain with the baseball program, as it was the catalyst of the issue, and the Board would set an inappropriate precedent by making any decision to the contrary. He felt if these funds, supplied by the School Board, were used for another project, it could lead to the second-guessing of uses for other funds dedicated by the School Board.

Mr. Aurelius disagreed with the manner in which the Board was handling the issue, which he characterized as “listen to the public, cut us off, and talk among [yourselves].” He did not feel the Board had all the information or participants at

hand, and did not have Staff to give input as well. He felt all parties should have been notified and invited to the meeting, which he did not feel had been done tonight.

Mr. McCormick asked if the most recent meeting of the Homeowners' Association had informed its participants of tonight's meeting. Mr. Aurelius replied that "we told some people...that the meeting is the last Wednesday of the month."

Assistant Director Rynard advised that some residents of the street facing the Park had called to confirm that the issue was on tonight's Agenda, and she had confirmed this fact. She added that the Agenda is a matter of public record.

Chair Hartman thanked Mr. Aurelius for his input, and asked that Mr. Ehmke speak in closing as well.

Mr. Ehmke stated that Coral Ridge Little League is presently operating at Bayview Park, which is significantly smaller than George English Park, although it is lighted. Beyond that, its games and practices are held at another Park and at a local high school, and younger children play at George English Park. He added that nearby Bayview, Northeast, and Floranada Parks are all lighted, while George English Park is not.

He continued that the money in question was specifically allocated into a contract, which raised some question of the propriety of taking the issue to the public. The contractual obligation is for "ballpark improvements." Should the funds be insufficient for lighting once bids are in, they might be put to other uses.

In addition, he noted that money was placed in the fund in 2000, and "nothing had been done" from that time until 2006. At that time, he asserted that City Commissioner Christine Teel had raised the issue with the Coral Ridge Homeowners' Association, who approved the use of funds; at that time, City Commissioner Teel had submitted the request to the Parks & Recreation Director to put in the lights. Since that time, different proposals had been received regarding the cost of lighting, which ranged from \$85,000 to \$300,000.

Mr. Ehmke provided graphics of the ballpark area, which also showed the nearby homes that may have issues with their placement. He identified where the four lights in question would be placed, and noted that they are pointing down and "toward the diamond." The lights would be on 60 ft. poles. He noted that there are already several lights on the hockey rink and tennis courts; in addition, the homes are partially screened by trees and high hedges.

He concluded that it is the position of Coral Ridge Little League that "we need the lighting and the money is there," and they wish to move ahead with the project.

Ms. Dow asserted that the Coral Ridge Homeowners' Association "has not approved the lights."

Chair Hartman felt while the Board should take action by way of a formal recommendation to the City Commission, that it could not be accomplished at tonight's meeting: it had been placed on the Agenda as an update Item only, and while information has been gathered from various sources, it had not been placed on the Agenda with the intent of making a formal recommendation. He felt the Board should revisit the issue for that purpose.

Mr. McCormick felt this would lead to all sides of the issue bringing as many people as they could to speak on it, but without new information being presented. He added that this could also set the precedent that whenever funds were allocated for a particular area, a referendum must be held with that location's Civic Association.

Chair Hartman pointed out, however, that should a recommendation be made at tonight's meeting, it would lead to a great many people taking issue with the Board's "matter of form," which he did not would be correct if action was taken tonight. He reiterated that the Item should be placed on the Agenda again for consideration of a recommendation.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Cannon, to postpone a recommendation on the issue until a subsequent meeting, when all interested parties have been notified.

Mr. Weiss felt the Board should take no action and let the Parks & Recreation Department accept bids on the project and continue to do their job. He did not believe it was the Board's job to become involved in a "neighborhood fight." He stated he did not wish to see another meeting on this issue.

Vice Chair Fee concurred, stating that it was not the Board's place to validate or uphold a contract already in place. He added that their responsibility is to the Parks, and not to the neighborhoods or streets that adjoin them. With regard to residents' wishes to have no more activity in the Park, he pointed out that "parks are meant to be programmed."

Assistant Director Rynard advised that any construction contract for ballfield lighting must be approved by the City Commission, and, once placed on their Agenda, is sent out to residents within a particular distance. Even if the Board takes no action, there is the opportunity for those in favor of or opposed to the contract to speak on that issue at the City Commission meeting.

She added that it is not always possible to achieve consensus on an issue, and thanked Mr. Aurelius for attempting to do so at the meeting he had described.

Mr. McCormick agreed with Vice Chair Fee and Mr. Weiss, and also did not feel a consensus from the neighborhood could be reached.

Chair Hartman asked if, should no consensus occur, the City Commission might request the Board's input on the issue. Assistant Chair Rynard felt this might occur with a new contract.

Mr. Cannon felt a recommendation should be given, but this would not be possible until all bids had been received. He added that he had "had some sympathy" for using the \$150,000 for other purposes until he had learned that a contractual agreement was in place; with that knowledge, he felt little could be done, as the money had been allocated for ballpark improvements.

Mr. Berry wished to **amend** his **motion** to postpone the issue until the next meeting as an Agenda Item. Mr. Mabson **seconded** the **amendment**.

In a show of hands, the **motion** carried 6-5 (Quailey, Fee, Weiss, McCormick and Nail dissenting).

Chair Hartman clarified he felt the Board should make a recommendation on the issue to the City Commission at the next meeting.

7. Renaming of Melrose Park: Shirley Small Community Park – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard stated that Ms. Shirley Small had served two terms as a member of the Parks, Recreation, & Beaches Board, and was instrumental in the Melrose Park neighborhood during its annexation. Ms. Small had played an important role in improving the neighborhood and its Park.

She clarified that the renaming affected the Park itself, and not a community known as Melrose Park.

Chair Hartman invited members of the public to speak on this issue at this time.

Mr. Aurelius stated that naming a Park should be taken very seriously, and the background of anyone for whom a Park might be named should be investigated thoroughly.

Rudy Herman, President of the Chula Vista Homeowners' Association and Co-Chair of the Southwest Coalition, advised that Shirley Small was a longtime resident of the Melrose Park community, and was active in working to better that

neighborhood. He felt she was deserving of having a Park named for her, and the community would approve of this step.

Roger Suarez, private citizen, agreed that Ms. Small had been instrumental in all the communities within the Southwest Coalition, not just the Melrose Park area. He felt naming the Park for her would be an appropriate way to honor all she had done for her community and others as well.

Genia Ellis, President of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, stated that Ms. Small participated in making the entire City a better place, not just her own neighborhood. In addition, she was instrumental in obtaining Melrose Park; she was also active in working with many other parks, and spent six years on the Parks, Recreation, & Beaches Board. Ms. Ellis described Ms. Small's community work as "global, not local," and felt the City could honor her work by "giving back" and renaming the Park for her.

Frank Lipson, President of the Riverbend Homeowners' Association, described naming the Park for Ms. Small as "one of the few chances you have to honor yourselves."

Mr. Weiss expressed concern with the recent re-naming of Parks, stating that at some point, there would be no places left to be able to honor other individuals in the future.

Mr. Suarez advised that Dr. Elizabeth Hays Civic Park has a memorial section in which people who have worked for their communities may be honored with a plaque. Assistant Director Rynard agreed, noting that it is unfortunate to have lost Dr. Hays and Ms. Small in such a short period of time, and that renaming Parks after individuals was not a regular occurrence.

Mr. Herman added that the Melrose Park community loved and appreciated Ms. Small and desires having the Park renamed in her honor.

Ed Parke, longtime resident of Melrose Park, added that renaming the Park will not only honor Ms. Small, but will eliminate future confusion between the Melrose Park community and Melrose Park itself. He stated that Ms. Small was well-deserving of the honor of having a Park named for her.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Qualey, to re-name Melrose Park "Shirley Small Community Park." In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Chair Hartman thanked all the members of the public who had attended tonight's meeting.

8. Board Comments / Communications to City Commission – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman asked that all motions from tonight's meeting be included in the "Communications to City Commission" section at the beginning of the minutes.

He informed the Board that he and Mr. Quaily had attended the recent Better Meetings Academy, and urged members to attend future meetings if possible, as information sometimes changes or new information is shared. For example, at the recent meeting, it was pointed out that when a member of a Board or Committee's term of service has expired, they must hand over all notes from those meetings to become the property of the City.

Mr. Berry stated that the new City Commission is "terrific."

Mr. Mabson advised that he had received a recent email from an individual who is concerned about the status of the jet at Holiday Park, and wished to know if there would be any discussion of this issue by the Board. Chair Hartman replied that the Board is receiving "periodic updates" on the progress of this project; Assistant Director Rynard added that the Public Works Department is handling this project, as the jet had been damaged in a hurricane. She recalled that a bid has been awarded, but no date has been set for reinstallation at this point.

Mr. Payne requested an update on the construction of shade structures for Parks that did not have them. Assistant Director Rynard reported that these are being added when the Department has sufficient funds to do so; she explained that some of the older playgrounds are due for replacement, and it is not cost-effective to add features, such as shade structures and new surfacing, when the entire area will be replaced within a few years. The Department is also seeking grants to cover some of the costs involved.

She added that the Department also attempts to plant shade trees in some areas to "buy some time" until shade structures can be added.

Mr. Nail recalled the recent issue of a lawsuit involving the Fort Lauderdale Jaguars, and advised the Board that this suit has been dropped.

He continued that Croissant Park needs a multi-use field for football and soccer, and he had asked for this to be an Agenda Item in the future. He hoped the Board could make a recommendation on this issue to the City Commission. Chair Hartman noted that the Board would address this at their June 2009 meeting.

Mr. Nail asked if lightning detectors remained on the CIP budget. Assistant Director Rynard replied that this is the case, and it is hoped that the Department

can fund these items for the “first 13 Parks” identified as in need. The cost is estimated at roughly \$130,000.

Mr. McCormick felt the Board should “fight for” its budget, as it appears to be a “terrible budget year” for the next three years. He added that the current City Commission is “pro-parks,” but will be under “tremendous budgeting pressure,” and Board members should consider meeting individually with their City Commissioners to advocate for their cause.

Assistant Director Rynard stated that the budget will be discussed at the first two City Commission meetings in September 2009, and she would provide the Board with further information on the budget as it becomes available. She noted that the items will be submitted to the City Commission as part of the budget, and their inclusion will not be known until the City Manager makes a presentation on the budget to the City Commission. This usually takes place in June or July, she noted; while it is not a true hearing on the budget, the City Commission does pay a good deal of attention at that meeting, as it is when they set the cap on the tax millage before making a final decision in September.

Chair Hartman advised that the Board has redesigned its calendar year to better accommodate its input to the City Commission: they take the month of July off but meet in August to keep themselves “more in the loop” on budget decisions.

Mr. Nail asked when the CIP would go before the City Commission. Assistant Director Rynard agreed to let the Board know.

Ms. Shelley suggested inviting the City Manager to give a presentation the Board with regard to the budget. Assistant Director Rynard did not know if the City Manager will be available in August, but advised that she would invite him to the Board’s meeting.

Vice Chair Fee returned to the issue of the Coral Ridge Little League, stating that all interested parties had been represented at tonight’s meeting and would return in June to address the issue again. Chair Hartman explained that appropriate notice must be given if the Board plans to take action on an issue.

Mr. Mabson asked if progress had been made regarding a map of the City’s Parks. Assistant Director Rynard agreed that this would be sent as soon as possible.

Mr. Parke asked if the Department has a plan to include cricket facilities at any of the City’s parks, noting that a County park includes these. Assistant Director Rynard replied that there has been discussion of including a cricket pitch in multi-purpose space at Osswald Park.

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There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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