

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
CITY HALL, 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.**

**October 2008- September 2009**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	9	1
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	9	1
Curtiss Berry	P	9	1
Betty Shelley	P	7	2
John Verkey	A	6	4
Matthew Weiss	P	9	1
Robert Payne	A	7	3
Ed Angelbello	A	6	4
Larry Mabson	P	9	1
Mark McCormick	A	7	3
Jeffrey Cannon	A	9	1
Marilyn Markus	P	7	2
Bruce Quailey	P	4	0

Currently there are 13 appointed members to the Board, which means 7 would constitute a quorum.

**Staff**

Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant  
Bobby DuBose, City Commissioner  
Terry Rynard, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department  
Gerald Roberts, Recreation Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Department  
Sewdat Sukhu, Municipal Maintenance Worker  
Abraham Irving, Municipal Maintenance Worker  
Cedrick Jones, Municipal Maintenance Worker  
Slim Alexander, Municipal Maintenance Worker (Ret.)  
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

None at this time.

**Roll Call**

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Roll was called and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Assistant Director Rynard noted the following correction to the August 26, 2009 minutes: the reference on p.4, paragraph 4 should state that the City is studying a new wayfinding system, rather than stating that this system is a budgeted item.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2009 meeting as corrected. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

At the request of Assistant Director Rynard, the following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda.

### **2. Employee Recognition: J.C. Carter Park Maintenance Staff – Assistant Director Rynard**

Assistant Director Rynard stated that J.C. Carter Park will soon celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and recognized that many members of its staff have worked with the Park since its inception.

She advised that its staff members do an outstanding job, and the Park often hosts 200-300 children each night of the week. Chair Hartman stated his appreciation as well.

City Commissioner Bobby DuBose agreed that J.C. Carter Park is “a big park with a big heart,” and thanked its staff, adding that he holds District meetings at the Park.

The Board recognized the J.C. Carter Park staff for all its hard work with a round of applause.

### **1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard**

Assistant Director Rynard noted that the Board currently has 13 members, and those due for reappointment have been reappointed. The quorum is presently 7, but will increase in October when new members Dr. R.L. Landers and Mr. Joseph Bellavance join the Board.

Regarding Communications to the City Commission, she explained that if there is something the Board would like to see “highlighted” by inclusion on the front page of the meeting minutes, members should ask that this information or Item be listed as a communication to the City Commission. She clarified that all motions are not automatically included in this section, nor does included information have to be in motion form.

It was clarified that City Commissioners still see copies of meeting minutes, even if there are no specific communications listed on the front page.

She added that the final public budget hearing is being held this evening, and reminded the Board that the City is one of a few that is not expected to lose jobs. Assistant Director Rynard observed that no programs will be affected by budget cuts.

The budget cut for the Parks and Recreation Department is approximately \$2.1 million, or 8%. Most of this came "from vacant positions," as well as cutbacks in contract mowing, new plants, fertilizer, and similar considerations. She advised that one major investment is the Bermuda turf in specific parks, and it will not be allowed to suffer due to its expense. No cuts will affect safety.

Ms. Markus asked if money was budgeted for lightning predictors. Assistant Director Rynard responded that funds were budgeted for lightning predictors 13 sites, and it is hoped another 10-12 sites will have these devices next year. The cost of 13 predictors will be roughly \$120,000. It was explained the devices are mounted high on buildings.

Mr. Weiss asked if people without permits will be asked not to use the Bermuda turf. Assistant Director Rynard confirmed this, and added there will be a list of alternate sites these groups could use. She advised that this may be controversial, and that Board members may "get some calls" regarding the policy. She pointed out that maintenance staff and other park employees have stated that non-permitted use is wearing out the turf.

Assistant Director Rynard concluded that there has been no increase in funds for Park staff members, and urged the Board to continue their appreciation of all staff members' work.

Mr. Berry advised that there is a park bench at Floyd Hall Stadium that could be moved to an area shaded by a tree.

Vice Chair Fee requested an update on the status of the field at Croissant Park. Assistant Director Rynard stated she had spoken to the foreman at the location and he had assured her the field "will recover."

She added that the trailer at Croissant Park has a 15-day permit.

With respect to the field in question, she continued that there is \$100,000 included in the CIP budget for Croissant Park. The City also has the opportunity to apply for an NFL grant, although Assistant Director Rynard noted this may be used to apply for artificial turf at another City park.

Vice Chair Fee pointed out that there has been “no money” planned for parks in the City’s southwest section, which includes two of the older parks in the system.

Assistant Director Rynard explained that Mills Pond Park is one area under consideration for the NFL grant because an endorsement is necessary, and there may be support available from former NFL players.

She added that the Department is attempting to redo Floyd Hall Park’s playground from the operating budget.

She explained that each playground at a City park is checked for safety every month, and an audit is performed annually to rank these playgrounds for replacement. The first two ranked parks from 2009 were Warfield and J.C. Carter Parks, which were replaced; with the money remaining in the operating budget, the Department hopes to replace Melrose and Floyd Hall Parks’ playgrounds. George English Park, for which Vice Chair Fee expressed concern, was “not very far down” on the ranking list.

### **3. Twin Lakes Park Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard**

Assistant Director Rynard stated Twin Lakes Park is located at Twin Lakes Boulevard and 44<sup>th</sup> Street in the Twin Lakes North neighborhood. The property is “very small” and was purchased for \$200,000, with another \$180,000 dedicated to its development. The Department plans to install picnic tables, benches, a “tot lot,” trash cans, a drinking fountain, “low-level” lighting, and shade trees.

Mr. Weiss asked if there is parking in the area. Assistant Director Rynard stated there is no parking in the lot, due to its size and intended use as a neighborhood park.

She continued that there are private homes located behind the planned park; both properties have fences, and some screening has been done with plants to alleviate any concerns about noise. Most of the neighborhood has been supportive, and the planned trail will be “accessible mulch.” There has also been discussion of adding “fitness pieces” around the tot lot area for parents whose children are playing in the park. There will be a split-rail fence around the park, and Assistant Director Rynard noted it is a non-dog park.

She noted that no County funds were used for this park, as the funds were requested from the previous City Commission by a previous Commissioner.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Weiss, in support of Twin Lakes Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

#### **4. Board Comments/Communications to the City Commission – Chair Hartman**

Chair Hartman stated he had attended the opening of Anne Herman Park, and felt it was “a great project.” He had also attended the renaming of Shirley Small Park.

The next Chair and Vice Chair will be elected at the Board’s scheduled October meeting, he continued. The position of Chair will be effective immediately upon election. He urged all members to attend so a quorum would be present.

Chair Hartman asked that all members remain conscious of the Department’s and the City’s “budget crunch,” and advised that everyone keep an optimistic outlook. He praised the Department’s job in “keeping...projects afloat,” particularly since so many commitments had been made before the budget was decreased, and emphasized the need for the Board to be vocal in their support of the Department’s work by writing letters, sending emails, and speaking to their respective City Commissioners in support of the Parks and Recreation Department.

He distributed copies of various news articles regarding City events, emails to Board members, the final budget hearing, and the condition of the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Chair Hartman continued that the FRPA Journal for Fall 2009 features a website called [getoutdoorsflorida.com](http://getoutdoorsflorida.com), which features a “Florida Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights.” He also distributed lists of the largest, most visited, and oldest city parks in the United States.

He noted that President Obama has named Jonathan Jarvis as Director of the National Parks Service. Mr. Jarvis has a 30-year history with the Service and an interest in parks.

He concluded that the NRPA Journal features an article on the upcoming Ken Burns documentary, “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.” The six-part series begins Sunday, September 27, 2009, at 8:00 on PBS.

The National Recreation and Park Association will hold its national conference in Salt Lake City from October 13-16, 2009, and the Athletic Business Conference and Expo will take place in Orlando from December 3-5, 2009.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.