

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.**

Board Members	Attendance	Cumulative Attendance Oct 2009- Sept 2010	
		Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	4	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	A	3	1
Curtiss Berry	P	4	0
Betty Shelley	P	4	0
John Verkey	A	3	1
Matthew Weiss	P	4	0
Robert Payne	P	3	1
Ed Angelbello	P	3	1
Larry Mabson	P	3	1
Mark McCormick	A	1	3
Jeffrey Cannon	P	3	1
Marilyn Markus	A	3	1
Bruce Quailey	P	4	0
Cindy Bucher (7:02)	P	3	0
Joe Bellavance	P	4	0
R.L. Landers	A	3	1

Currently there are 16 appointed members to the Board, which means 9 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

Stacey Daley, Administrative Assistant
Terry Rynard, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Department
Gerry Roberts, Park Ranger Supervisor
Jennifer Picinich, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communications to City Commission

None at this time.

Roll Call

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was taken and it was noted a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Hartman thanked Staff for emailing the minutes to Board members in an effort to keep the City green.

Motion made by Ms. Shelley, seconded by Mr. Payne, to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2010 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard recognized Park Ranger Ray Fedolphi, who rescued an individual who had fallen into the lake at George English Park. Ranger Fedolphi will be recognized at the upcoming City Commission meeting as well.

She continued that the Holiday Park maintenance building was approved by the City Commission, and thanked the Board members who had expressed their interest in this matter to the City Commission. Construction should begin in the next six weeks.

The City Commission gave the Department \$100,000 to build a football field at Croissant Park, including a change of turf. The Department is determining whether they can do a change order with an existing contractor, or if they must send this item out to bid. By the end of the month, they will know if an NFL grant will give the Department another \$100,000 in matching funds.

Osswald Park received a FRDAP grant for renovations, which will give “about four acres” of field space designed for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and other sports. The fields will have Bermuda turf. Lights are being installed and are expected to be complete by the end of April.

The Department offers Spring Break Camps during the public schools’ scheduled spring break. This is an option for parents seeking day care at that time.

The St. Patrick’s Day Parade and Festival are scheduled for March 13, 2010. The City is partnering with the Downtown Development Authority for this event. There are 85 entrants in the parade. The festival will be held from 11:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. at Huizenga Plaza, and the parade begins at 2 p.m. on Las Olas between SE 8th and SE 1st Streets.

Mr. Berry asked if the turf will be built up at Croissant Park. Assistant Director Rynard explained that roughly eight inches of fill must be added to the pitch to give proper drainage.

Mr. Weiss asked if the existing light fixture at Croissant Park's football field will be moved. Assistant Director Rynard stated this would be part of the next phase of improvements, and clarified that the new turf would cover approximately two acres of field space.

Chair Hartman asked in which budget year the City had received the FRDAP grant for Osswald Park. Assistant Director Rynard replied it was in 2007. Chair Hartman explained that this grant, the Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program, comes from the State legislature, and was not funded the previous year due to budget constraints. He encouraged members to show their support for this program to their State legislators.

2. Coral Ridge Park Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard explained that Coral Ridge Park is located on 24th and Bayview. The Department has met with the neighborhood several times, and there are Partners for Parks grants that may be used toward this Park. One is for \$45,000 and one is for \$75,000. These grants may be used for "green" lighting, recycling components, native planting, low-volume irrigation, or other environmental items.

The original concept presented to the neighborhood introduced the concept of a playground, but the neighborhood was "hesitant" to do this, as they did not want to encroach on the green space. "Climbing boulders" will be placed in a play space, with a path running to this area. As private properties abut the Park on two sides, a wall would normally be required; the Department has received a variance and will place a recycled vinyl fence between these properties instead.

Ms. Bucher asked for clarification of the grant money. Assistant Director Rynard explained that "most of the money" for this project will come from Broward County, and some funds will come from the City as well. The County has "two years' worth of grants" that the City can apply for to develop parks purchased with land preservation money. The only stipulation is that the parks are developed with green components.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Bellavance, to approve the conceptual plan for Coral Ridge Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

3. Gore Betz Park Conceptual Plan – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard pointed out that this was formerly the Gore Nursery on 9th Avenue. It has a similar concept to Coral Ridge: there will be a small playground in a corner, a gazebo, a fitness trail, and exercise stations along the trail. Parking is off-street parallel parking. She added that she had met with the

neighborhood the previous week, and they were “very pleased” with the design. This Park is planned to be built in 2013.

Mr. Bellavance asked how many properties were acquired to make this Park. Assistant Director Rynard answered there were 16 properties. Mr. Bellavance complimented the Department on making these purchases.

Mr. Qualey asked if the Park is ADA-compliant. Assistant Director Rynard confirmed this, noting that playgrounds, for instance, must contain an accessible route and surfacing; a certain percentage of play elements must also be accessible. She pointed out that there are ground-level interactive elements, and elevated platforms with ramps. “Everything we build going forward” will be ADA-compliant, she concluded.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Bellavance, to approve the conceptual plan for Gore Betz Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Assistant Director Rynard added that EDSA did some pro bono work in the landscape and architectural design phase of the plan.

4. Naming of Park: Satori Apartments – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard recalled she had informed the Board of the Zen garden at Satori Apartments, which the developer had designed in lieu of paying impact fees. She described the park as “very passive,” situated in a small space with a fountain. It is surrounded by Satori’s property, but there will be public access during normal park hours. When a name has been selected for the park, there will be a “regular park sign.”

She noted that the Department has suggested the name “Tranquility Park.” Other suggestions included “Lost Squadron,” which had been proposed at the previous meeting; “Hidden Park,” which was recommended as the Park cannot be seen from the street; and “Zen Park.”

Motion made by Mr. Payne, seconded by Mr. Berry, to accept the name “Tranquility Park.” In a vote, the **motion** carried 9-2 (Ms. Bucher, Mr. Bellavance dissenting).

5. Board Comments / Communications to the Commission – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman advised he had recently spent some time at playgrounds with his two young nieces, and asserted that the playgrounds were “awesome.” These included the playgrounds at New Fort Lauderdale Beach and at Holiday Park. He

stated the playgrounds were very clean, even on the crowded President's Day weekend.

He also praised Park Ranger Ray Fedolphi for his "save" at George English Park, and noted that this was possible even though there are fewer Park Rangers at present due to budget cuts. He hoped the City Commission would take note that Park Rangers do not just perform daily responsibilities, but heroic actions when called upon. The Board agreed that Park Rangers deserve more than "just credit."

Mr. Bellavance felt the locomotive at Holiday Park should be painted so it isn't "a big black hulk." He suggested it could be made more colorful and attractive so it is "more appealing to children." Assistant Director Rynard noted that the locomotive is not part of the actual Park.

Mr. Quailey stated that *Parks and Recreation* magazine contains an article discussing how some municipal golf courses around the country are performing much better than country clubs. As he expects there will be ongoing discussions by the Board regarding American Golf Course, he felt this is something all members should review.

He asked Assistant Director Rynard if the Board looks at line items for the income and expenses related to "various activities within the City," such as sports at the parks. Assistant Director Rynard replied the Department performs an analysis called a program fee proposal: this is done for all the Department's programs, and includes target and minimum enrollments and direct costs, recovery of funds, and a pricing pyramid for programs offered by the City.

She continued that there are certain programs that the City understands will not recover 100% of their expenses, such as swimming lessons and summer camp. These have a strong community benefit and are subsidized by the City.

Mr. Quailey asked if the Board is privy to this information. Assistant Director Rynard confirmed this, and explained that the Department internally reviews its expenses on a spreadsheet to monitor efficiency. This goes not only for programs but for mowing, trash removal, tree trimming, seaweed cleanup, and other aspects.

Mr. Quailey asked if the income side "breaks out" how much money is brought in by a particular sports program at a particular field, for example. Assistant Director Rynard confirmed this as well, noting that it seeks to determine the cost per participant in a program, as well as how much of that cost was subsidized by the City. Mr. Quailey felt these figures would be relevant to the Board's discussions of a potential golf course, as they could measure whether it was "more or less profitable" than other activities.

Mr. Berry asked to know the cost of the concession trailer at Croissant Park. Assistant Director Rynard estimated it was \$27,000, with all the equipment intact. Mr. Berry suggested an alarm system for the trailer to prevent vandalism. Supervisor Roberts explained a wooden frame was pulled off the trailer's window.

Mr. Payne asked if there is news regarding the restrooms at Carter Park's social center. Assistant Director Rynard reported that a contractor has not yet been retained to finish this work. She pointed out that it is a legal issue at this point with regard to the performance bond, and did not feel it would be possible to speed up this process.

He asked if the Zen garden, Tranquility Park, is part of a gated community or if it will have public access. Assistant Director Rynard stated the Park is to be left open to the public during park hours, and the apartments are not gated.

Mr. Mabson asked if there has been consideration given to having local youth work with Park Rangers in an "explorers" program. Assistant Director Rynard recalled that this has been tried in the past, and suggested it could be attempted again. Supervisor Roberts noted that there are 13 Park Rangers, nine of which are full-time.

Mr. Mabson asked to know the status of the "fire station park on northwest 9th Avenue. Assistant Director Rynard stated there will be no developments until the new station is built, at which time a decision will be made.

Mr. Weiss asked if there is further information on feeding the homeless, which had been discussed at the January 2010 meeting. Assistant Director Rynard advised the City's Homeless Task Force gave a presentation at a recent Conference Agenda meeting; nothing was decided by consensus, although the task force recommended a site for food distribution. She reiterated until a site is established, groups feeding the homeless may not be prohibited.

Mr. Berry recalled his suggestion of using an old fire station, and also proposed that the activity could rotate between churches. Chair Hartman noted this is how food distribution is carried out in Seattle.

Assistant Director Rynard advised there is no "easy solution" to this issue, and stated the City Commission "has it very high on their radar" and continues to consult the task force.

She explained that the impetus behind the task force is the Park rule that states social services cannot be administered in a Park; however, this rule cannot be applied to feeding. A ruling in favor of the ACLU states the City must designate a

site with water, restrooms, proximity to mass transportation, and other criteria before it may enforce the Park rule.

Mr. Mabson asked if consideration has been given to asking food industries to provide food for these efforts. Assistant Director Rynard explained that the main difficulty is in deciding where this will be done rather than procuring the food. Mr. Bellavance stated that the difficulty lies in having homeless individuals congregate in a particular area.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

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