

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Oct 2009- Sept 2010	
		Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	6	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	4	2
Curtiss Berry	P	6	0
Betty Shelley	P	5	1
John Verkey	A	4	2
Matthew Weiss	A	5	1
Robert Payne (7:01)	P	5	1
Ed Angelbello	A	3	3
Larry Mabson	P	4	2
Mark McCormick (7:13)	P	3	3
Jeffrey Cannon	P	4	2
Marilyn Markus	P	4	2
Bruce Quailey	P	6	0
Cindy Bucher	A	3	2
Joe Bellavance	P	6	0
R.L. Landers	P	5	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
Jim Koeth, Planning and Zoning Department
Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises
Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Roll Call

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

Mr. Payne arrived at this time (7:01 p.m.).

Mr. Quailey noted pp.2 and 8 of the March 24, 2010 minutes regarding departmental budget cuts. He stated he had abstained from this vote. It was noted for future reference that members may not abstain from voting.

It was also pointed out that Mr. McCormick had requested a correction via email: on p.2, first paragraph: "used sports facility" should be "youth sports facility."

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Bellavance, to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2010 meeting as corrected. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

It was noted that Agenda Item 2 had been deferred until a later date.

The following Item was taken out of order on the Agenda at the request of Assistant Director Rynard.

3. City of Fort Lauderdale / Executive Airport / Stadium(s) Vicinity Land Use Amendment – Cate McCaffrey

Chair Hartman welcomed Cate McCaffrey, Director of Business Enterprises, to speak to the Board on this subject.

Director McCaffrey explained the issue involves the stadium property as well as Lockhart Stadium itself. The site was given to the City by the U.S. Government as surplus property after World War II by way of a quick claim deed. This deed came with specific restrictions, one of which states that the property was to be used "for public airport purposes."

In 1958, the City was granted permission to build a stadium on this property, although it was considered an interim use. Director McCaffrey explained that in the 1960s, in an attempt to make this a conforming use, the property's zoning was changed to that era's equivalent of Parks. The County land use was also changed to be in accord with this designation.

The FAA has "made it abundantly clear" that the current zoning and land use of this property are not in accord with the quick claim deed restriction, which requires the property to be used for a public airport. Neither the current zoning nor land use are in accord with this stipulation. The City is proposing a land use amendment to Transportation, which will not only satisfy the FAA's concerns, but will allow the present use as a stadium "and any park and open space recreational use as well."

Mr. Mabson asked if there are any pros and cons associated with the proposed change of which the Board should be aware. Director McCaffrey replied that the "biggest pro" would be the ability of Transportation land use to accommodate

both the FAA requirements and the property's present use, as well as any future park or recreational use. She was not aware of any specific "cons," although she noted that it will be necessary to "help people understand why this [change] is happening."

Jim Koeth of Planning and Zoning explained that the Transportation land use designation allows parks and recreational uses as long as they do not preclude aviation uses. In addition, the change may affect the table of how much acreage the City has per person for parks. The plan requires three acres for 1000 residents; the City is currently "well in excess" of this, but Mr. Koeth pointed out that the 60 acres in question will come out of this total.

Mr. Mabson asked if the Board can anticipate any of the airport's actions, such as modifying their portion of the property, which might affect parks and recreation. Director McCaffrey advised that there is no plan for the airport at present, although this use is not precluded in the future. She asserted that runways would not be expanded, although she could not guarantee that hangars would not be constructed.

She advised that the airport is required to put together a Master Plan every five years, in which it must be shown that enough land is available "to accommodate future aeronautical needs." These future needs would be difficult to predict, and there is the potential that recreational land could be used for this purpose.

Mr. McCormick arrived at this time (7:13 p.m.).

Vice Chair Fee asked if the "grassy parking lot areas" abutting Commercial Boulevard were included in the property. Mr. Koeth offered to show the members a map clarifying the areas that would be affected.

He explained that if the City Commission approves the amendment, it would be a transmittal application from the City. The City's Land Use and Comprehensive Plans must be consistent with the same plans at the County level. The transmittal will go before the Planning and Zoning Board as well as the Parks, Recreation and Beaches Board before the matter can proceed to the City Commission.

If the transmittal is approved, it will then go to the Broward County Planning Council, as the transmittal would affect the County's map as well. From that point, the matter must be moved on to the State. Mr. Koeth concluded that this process "could potentially take years."

Assistant Director Rynard advised that at present, when the land is used for any purpose, it must be cleared by the FAA. She noted that with the land use amendment, these uses might be "more palatable" to the FAA. Director McCaffrey clarified that the FAA "just approves the use" and ensures that the

City's Master Plan reflects appropriate space that could be used for aviation, as a function of the deed restriction.

She added that "the airport is self-sufficient" and receives grant funding from the FAA and FDOT. It is part of their purpose to ensure that the City maintains this land for airport purposes.

Mr. Quailey observed that in the future, the use for airport purposes could be in conflict with the land use currently for parks and recreation. He asked if the FAA could rescind the deed if the City fails to be in compliance. Director McCaffrey explained that the deed has an "inverter clause," which is "a very extreme measure;" should the City be out of compliance, grant funding would be stopped. For the airport to be taken from the City would only happen after every other measure has been exhausted.

Motion made by Ms. Markus, seconded by Mr. Bellavance, to recommend to the City Commission the transmittal of the land use amendment.

Mr. Mabson noted that he did not feel the Board had "any choice but to do the recommendation." He felt the Board should let other people know that the land use will change, and that there may be limits on future uses.

The **motion** was restated by Chair Hartman as follows: the Parks, Recreation, and Beaches Advisory Board recommends transmittal of the land use amendment being required by the FAA and is being brought forward by the City by amending the existing Park Open Space land use designation to Transportation designation. The **amendment** was accepted.

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

4. Land Use Preservation – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman explained that the Broward County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board has supported a change to the Broward County Charter that would require a County referendum to change the use of, or sell, park land. He did not feel the City Board should necessarily take this same step by asking for a similar referendum with regard to City parks; however, he asserted he did feel the City should take action to "safeguard our parks," as a change could potentially be made at the City Commission level. Assistant Director Rynard advised that a supermajority is currently required for the sale of park property.

Chair Hartman stated he wished to bring the issue forward because it is his understanding that there is a "park-friendly Commission in place," which provides an opportunity to strengthen the standards used in letting go of park land. He

cautioned that future City Commissions might be less interested in holding onto park land.

Mr. Bellavance advised that standards could also be strengthened with regard to the lease of park land. Chair Hartman agreed, and added that changing the use of this land could be restricted as well. Assistant Director Rynard pointed out, however, that the Board should “be careful with ‘lease,’” as there are currently properties being leased that might not be best served by the possibility of a referendum, such as ArtServe. Mr. Bellavance stated these lands were leased for recreational use, while the leases to which he had referred would involve “park land... [leased] for other purposes.”

Mr. Bellavance suggested that Chair Hartman “write up” his recommendation and give a copy to the City Attorney for a legal opinion. Chair Hartman agreed that he would approach the City Attorney with this suggestion, and reiterated that he would like the Board to seek action that would make it more difficult for the City to sell its park land.

Mr. Landers stated he was in agreement with Chair Hartman’s proposal, and did not feel any park land should be sold or leased. Chair Hartman pointed out that in some situations, leases could be “favorable to parks” and there may be good reasons to lease properties.

Mr. Mabson felt if the Board makes a recommendation that is “too specific,” it could prevent them from taking necessary or wanted actions in the future. He agreed that Chair Hartman should talk with the City Attorney regarding the intent of the recommendation, so the City Attorney could help the Board arrive at appropriate language for their intent.

It was agreed that once a conclusion and final language have been finalized, this recommendation would be sent as a communication to the City Commission.

Ms. Markus suggested consulting a land use attorney for advice, as use of park land is an issue that could affect generations. Chair Hartman stated he and Assistant Director Rynard would determine how best to proceed, and the issue will appear on a future Agenda for further discussion. He added that the Parks and Recreation Department could consult the City Attorney for this advice.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Payne, to table the issue until the next meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** carried unanimously.

Chair Hartman thanked the Board members for their support.

5. 2010-2011 Budget Calendar – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard distributed copies of the budget calendar, calling the Board's attention to a change: the Parks and Recreation Department, rather than the Public Information Department, will make a presentation to the Budget Advisory Board on May 19, 2010.

She advised that the Department has submitted its budget request. This request then goes to the Budget Office and the City Manager's Office, where the information is assimilated into the eventual budget presentation to the City Commission. It is not yet known how severe the "property tax hit" will be, which means the Department does not know what will become of the budget they have submitted. Typically, if there is a need to make City-wide reductions, these reductions are requested "in the Departments that have the ability to make those changes."

She continued that the City Commission has requested an additional public hearing early in the budget process. This hearing will take place on May 11. On Wednesday, May 19, at 6:00 p.m., she and Director Phil Thornburg will make the Parks and Recreation Department presentation to the Budget Advisory Board. This meeting is open to the public. Assistant Director Rynard noted that the overview they will present to the Budget Advisory Board will give a good understanding of how much money the Parks and Recreation Department uses, how it is used, and their overall philosophy on how much revenue they bring in.

The property appraisers' preliminary taxable values will be available "around the first of June." The City Commission will discuss the budget in June and July, and will take the second July meeting and the first August meeting dates off. Public hearings will take place at the two City Commission meetings in September.

Chair Hartman noted the Board does not meet in the month of July 2010, and asked if this is appropriately consistent with the budget calendar. Assistant Director Rynard agreed that July would remain the best date to be off.

Mr. McCormick asked if the Department is proposing a smaller budget than the previous year. Assistant Director Rynard explained they are proposing the same service level as this year, which is lower than in previous years.

Mr. McCormick also asked to know the turnover in the Department. Assistant Director Rynard replied that presently there is attrition rather than turnover; it has been "well over a year" since they have hired anyone new, other than seasonal staff. The Department is currently "down six positions on the beach."

The most critical part of the Department, she noted, is that its members are very diverse, and recent years have been spent cross-training Staff in different areas. If these functions were privatized, this flexibility and efficiency would be lost.

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard reported that the City Commission has approved the name of Lewis Landing Park. The property will be developed as a continuous park with the exception of the right-of-way.

Sod is expected to be laid at Croissant Park beginning this week. The restroom is now usable in the Carter Park gymnasium, although, as no partitions are up, it is presently a single “privacy restroom.”

Oswald Park is complete, and Assistant Director Rynard encouraged the Board to visit this location. She thanked the Board for their support on this project, and noted that it has been suggested that this property be fenced.

Mr. Mabson requested to know the timeline on the Carter Park Social Center. Assistant Director Rynard confirmed the goal is June 1, 2010.

Lightning predictors have been funded through the Parks and Recreation Department’s operating budget, so all 13 original sites are still on the list to receive these devices. They will go to the following sites: Bass, Bayview, Carter, Croissant, Floyd Hall, George English, Holiday, Lauderdale Manors, Mills Pond, Oswald, Riverland, Snyder, and Warfield Parks. All these locations have athletic fields and large numbers of visitors.

The lights at George English Park are expected to be installed “after baseball and before school.”

Mr. Payne asked if the fencing to be replaced at Mills Park on 15th Avenue could be replaced with wrought iron fencing. Assistant Director Rynard replied that this has been previously requested, and there is a “huge difference in price,” but agreed to make this request a second time. She added that it might be possible to make this a capital improvement request in the future, as the current fencing is easily cut and the Department is “constantly repairing that fence.”

Mr. Berry suggested that the Department might salvage the former fire station living quarters at Snyder Park and use the building for equipment storage.

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

Chair Hartman informed the Board that the Green Dog Day Festival will be held on Sunday, May 16 at the NE 13th Street corridor from the railroad tracks to Dixie Highway. This is a resource conservation event, with dog activities and contests, environmental displays, merchandise, food and beverages, and entertainment. Proceeds will benefit a pet rescue organization.

Jazz Brunch will celebrate its 20th anniversary season on the first Sunday in May.

Registration has begun for summer camp and swimming lessons, and swimming pools are now open in the City. Chair Hartman encouraged the Board members to access the City's website for information on these and other programs.

Vice Chair Fee commended the Parks and Recreation Staff for the St. Patrick's Day parade in March, and stated that participation was "remarkable."

Mr. Landers asked who is in charge of scheduling events at Huizenga Park, as recent street closures had barred access to the nearby First United Methodist Church. Assistant Director Rynard responded that the Downtown Development Authority has this responsibility; however, all outdoor events that are open to the public comes through the Parks and Recreation Department for organization. Any specific questions may be directed to the Department. She asserted that the issue to which Mr. Landers had referred "shouldn't happen" and she would bring it to the attention of the Police Department, which assists with road closures.

Assistant Director Rynard advised that Director Thornburg is negotiating with the Professional Soccer Association to take on some of the expense of maintaining Lockhart Stadium. In exchange they would receive "some use of the space." The request is expected to go to the City Commission at their first meeting in June. The City is also requesting that the Association honor City rates if the facility is leased to youth soccer programs. This was originally a short-term proposal, and will hopefully be extended through June 2011.

Mr. Quailey stated the use of Yankee/Baltimore Stadium is "tremendous" for the young people who have played at this facility. Assistant Director Rynard commended the City Commission on their commitment to maintaining the facility.

Ms. Shelley stated that the first Urban Market was held the previous Saturday at Esplanade Park. The event will continue every Saturday from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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