

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE
CITY HALL, 8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.**

Cumulative Attendance

Board Members	Attendance	Oct 2010- Sept 2011	
		Present	Absent
Mark Hartman, Chair	P	1	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	1	0
Joseph Bellavance	P	1	0
Curtiss Berry	P	1	0
Cindy Bucher	P	1	0
Tommy Knapp	P	1	0
R. L. Landers	P	1	0
Larry Mabson	P	1	0
Marilyn Markus	A	0	1
Robert Payne	P	1	0
Bruce Quailey	P	1	0
Betty Shelley	P	1	0
John Verkey	A	0	1
Matthew Weiss	P	1	0

Currently there are 14 appointed members to the Board, which means 8 would constitute a quorum.

Staff

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

Communications to City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Hartman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He reminded the Board that this meeting is actually intended as the October 2010 meeting; the November and December 2010 meetings are combined and will be held on December 1.

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes – September 22, 2010

Vice Chair Fee noted a correction on p.4, paragraph 5: his comment was that Holiday Park should not have a blanket permit for recreational soccer.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Ms. Shelley, to accept the September 22, 2010 minutes as corrected. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Department Report – Assistant Director Rynard

Assistant Director Rynard introduced new Board member Tommy Knapp. The returning members welcomed him to the Board.

Cinema by the Sea, a free film series, will continue on Saturday, November 6. The series runs through November 27, 2010 and begins at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday evenings. The program is underwritten by PNC Bank and there is no cost to the City. The series is intended to attract young adults, and the Department has reached out to area hotels to share information with their guests.

The City Commission has selected a private firm, Murray & Associates, to recruit a new City Manager. The firm is based in Tallahassee. The City Commission has also appointed representatives from civic councils, the business community, and former elected officials to comprise the local team that will help with this selection process.

The following Items were taken out of order on the Agenda.

4. Coontie Hatchee Landing Presentation – Patsy West

Chair Hartman introduced Ms. West and encouraged the Board members to visit Coontie Hatchee Park in the Riverside neighborhood. He characterized this as “an urban passive park” that allows visitors to connect with nature even though they remain in the City. He stated that Ms. West’s presentation was a highlight of the park opening, and he had invited her to tonight’s meeting to present to the Board.

Ms. West explained she is the main historian with the Seminole and Miccosukee Indian tribes. Her family has lived on the New River for nearly a century. She is also working with the Centennial Celebration Committee and its historian to develop presentations and talks on Fort Lauderdale history for schools and civic organizations.

She showed a PowerPoint presentation of how Fort Lauderdale developed along the river. Seminoles called the river Coontie Hatchee. Ms. West noted that coontie plants, which are common in the area, would grow back quickly after wildfires. They are a very old variety of plant and are commonly used in landscaping. The Seminoles used the plant to make flour, and it is still used to make starch.

She noted the location of the Annie Tommie Seminole Camp, which was located where North Fork Elementary presently stands. The Centennial Celebration Committee has requested that a historical marker be placed at this site.

Ms. West identified several other locations throughout the City before it was settled, and showed historical and family photos, including photos of her own family. She concluded that she has written three books published by the University of Florida Press, and is a longtime scholar of Seminole and Miccosukee Indians.

Chair Hartman and the Board thanked Ms. West for her presentation. He noted that one main function of the park system is the conservation of the environment, which comes with "history and responsibility."

5. Proposed 2010/2011 Meeting Dates – Chair Hartman

Assistant Director Rynard advised that the meetings will continue on the fourth Wednesday of each month, and the 2011 November and December meetings will be combined as well. She recalled there has been discussion in prior years regarding changing the start time of the meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and noted that the room and Staff are available at 6:00 p.m. if this is the Board's desire.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Mabson, to leave [the start time] like it is [7:00 p.m.].

Mr. Weiss suggested 6:30 p.m. as an alternative.

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

6. Board Comments / Communications to the City Commission – Chair Hartman

Chair Hartman distributed some news articles of interest to the Board members, including a feature in the October 18, 2010 *Newsweek*, which discusses the control of water by private enterprise. Other articles include one from the October 25 *Newsweek*, which covers water issues and conservation in New Mexico. Additional articles came from the *Sun-Sentinel* and other publications.

Chair Hartman emphasized the need for volunteerism, and noted that parks are related to public health, prevention of juvenile delinquency, conservation, and several other issues. He noted that the current edition of *U.S. News and World Report* is dedicated to volunteerism, philanthropy, and “getting involved” in general.

Mr. Mabson asked if there is an official position on abstaining from a vote. Ms. Daley said in absence of a voting conflict, members may not abstain. Mr. Mabson explained he felt it can be important to record an abstention in case a Board’s voting record is questioned. Assistant Director Rynard advised that Florida Statute states “all members must vote unless there is a legal conflict.”

Vice Chair Fee asked if the field usage policy had gone before the City Commission. Assistant Director Rynard said this policy does not go before the Commission.

Mr. Payne asked why the City has not sent individuals to attend FRPA and other meetings in recent years, stating that it is important to keep abreast of the issues discussed at these conferences. Assistant Director Rynard said this is “a City-wide decision on travel,” and reflected an area in which the City’s budget was cut. She hoped this policy will be lessened over the next few years, and agreed there is a great deal of value in the conferences.

Chair Hartman said the FRPA foundation has grants for which professionals can apply, which could cover some or all of the costs of attending conferences. The southeast region and the state have similar grants available as well, and forms are available online. He noted that the City would need to sign off on these grants.

Assistant Director Rynard added that there is now a good deal of online training available as an alternative to attending conferences. She noted that the City recognizes the importance of training but has difficulty justifying the coverage of travel expenses.

Mr. Berry asked how the Halloween festivities at Snyder Park had gone. Assistant Director Rynard replied that attendance was poor. There was discussion that the \$25 price of admission may have been too high. Vice Chair Fee noted that there had been little promotion of the event.

Mr. Bellavance requested an update on where groups may feed homeless individuals. Assistant Director Rynard said a committee is still working to resolve this issue, but there has been no solution thus far.

Mr. Weiss asked what has happened with the Fire Station located near Mills Pond. Assistant Director Rynard replied it is not yet under construction, but is "still on the agenda." She did not know if a start date for construction has been set at this time.

Ms. Shelley praised the Parks and Recreation Department's employees, stating that she had recently attended a picnic and found the park to be "in beautiful condition." The Staff had been very attentive during the picnic.

She added that the Parks Department had donated 40 palm trees through their tree giveaway program.

Vice Chair Fee requested an update on the lights at George English Park. Assistant Director Rynard said transformer wires are supposed to be tested later this week.

Vice Chair Fee continued that he wished to thank Chair Hartman for all his efforts over the past few years with the Board, and noted that he had only missed a single meeting in two years. He said the outgoing Chair had been very thorough and timely in his preparation for meetings, and has brought a great deal of enthusiasm to his office.

3. Elect Chairman and Vice Chairman

Motion made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Mr. Quailey, to nominate Mr. Fee as Chair. Mr. Fee declined to accept the nomination.

Motion made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Mabson, to nominate Mr. Weiss as Chair. Nominations were closed. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously and Mr. Weiss was elected as Chair.

Motion made by Chair Weiss to nominate Mr. Mabson as Vice Chair. Mr. Mabson declined to accept the nomination.

Motion made by Mr. Berry to nominate Mr. Quailey as Vice Chair. Mr. Quailey declined to accept the nomination.

Motion made by Chair Weiss to nominate Mr. Fee as Vice Chair. Nominations were closed. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously and Mr. Fee was reelected as Vice Chair.

The Board gave a round of applause to its new officers.

2. Plaque Presentation in Recognition of Retiring Chairman

Assistant Director Rynard said she had enjoyed working with outgoing Chair Hartman, and said she appreciated the professionalism and leadership he had demonstrated to the Board. She presented him with a plaque in recognition of his years of service.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

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