

**PARKS, RECREATION, & BEACHES BOARD MINUTES  
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE  
100 NORTH ANDREWS AVENUE  
CITY HALL, 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.**

**Cumulative Attendance**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Oct 2010- Sept 2011</b>	
		<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Matthew Weiss, Chair	P	2	0
Sean Fee, Vice Chair	P	2	0
Joseph Bellavance	P	2	0
Curtiss Berry	P	2	0
Cindy Bucher	A	1	1
Tommy Knapp	P	2	0
R. L. Landers	A	1	1
Larry Mabson (7:02)	P	2	0
Marilyn Markus	A	0	2
Robert Payne (7:03)	P	2	0
Bruce Quailey	P	2	0
Betty Shelley	A	1	1
John Verkey	A	0	2
Richard Zaden	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

Brigitte Chiappetta, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

**Communications to City Commission**

None.

**Roll Call**

Chair Weiss 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.

**Approval of Minutes – November 3, 2010**

Mr. Mabson requested clarification regarding whether or not an individual may abstain from voting. It was confirmed that a member may not abstain in absence of a voting conflict.

**Motion** made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Mr. Berry, to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2010 meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

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

Assistant Director Rynard advised that all holiday events are posted on the City's website. Some major upcoming events include:

- Wednesday, December 8, 6:00 p.m. – Tree Lighting Ceremony at Carter Park
- Monday, December 20, 12:00 p.m. – Santa on the Beach
- Friday, December 31, 3:00 p.m.-3:00 a.m. – Fort Lauderdale Orange Bowl Downtown Countdown

She added that the New Year's Eve event will take place on 2 Street between the railroad tracks and 7 Avenue. It will include a ball drop, fireworks at midnight, and entertainment including a DJ and two bands. Assistant Director Rynard noted that this is the City's first year partnering with the Orange Bowl for this event.

She welcomed new member Richard Zaden to the Board. Mr. Zaden is a lifetime resident of Fort Lauderdale and was appointed to the Board by Mayor Seiler. He is an attorney and a member of the Board of the Pace Center for Girls. This is his first time serving on a City Board.

## **2. Goals and Objectives: 2010 / 2011 – Assistant Director Rynard**

Assistant Director Rynard explained that the Board is not officially an advisory board, although it acts in an advisory capacity. Its main purpose is to advise the City Commission on items the Commission will address.

With regard to goals and objectives, she asked the members what they would like to see the Board work on over the next year. These could include issues the Department or the membership could bring to meetings, as well as what they feel is the best use of meeting time to have the greatest impact in these areas.

Vice Chair Fee recalled that a previous focus of the Board had been "the broader picture for the Department." He noted that a focus on smaller details is also very important to members, and felt there should be a balance between addressing day-to-day issues in the parks and working with the City's future vision for them.

Assistant Director Rynard recalled that presentations had been brought to the Board in the past, and noted that the membership had been divided on whether

this was the best use of their time. She said she would like to hear the kind of issues they would like to address in the future. While the Board cannot give direction to the Department, they can raise concerns that need to be addressed. Chair Weiss stated the Board also wishes to advocate for the Department, and if there is an issue the Department would like to see passed on to the City Commission, they would like to help in this capacity.

Mr. Berry noted the phrase “none of the City Parks shall be used exclusively by any person or set of persons,” and asked how this applied to Floyd Hall Stadium. He pointed out that he had seen as few as two individuals using the field and its lights. Assistant Director Rynard advised that the interpretation of the phrase should be that individuals could not exclude other persons from a park without the Department’s permission. She noted that if a group has a permit through the Department, it allows “some exclusive uses.”

In addition, she advised the City Commission has approved \$75,000 in this year’s budget toward “on-demand lighting.” While it will not be implemented at every facility, she said it will begin on tennis and basketball courts, as lighting on most athletic fields is turned on or off depending on permits.

Chair Weiss asked if codes were installed to control the lights at Holiday Park. Assistant Director Rynard said this was part of an automated system that matches the lighting schedule with permit times; however, if a game runs late, or there is inclement weather, the system would still require a manual override. She advised that this system is “a lot better than it was,” but is not yet perfect.

Mr. Quailey said he felt two large park-zoned parcels would be critical to the City’s future and should be considered by the Board. These are the Fort Lauderdale Stadium and the American Golf Course. He noted the Stadium consists of over 60 acres of land zoned for parks, which could help alleviate the shortage of athletic fields for youth sports. He felt the Board could advise the City Commission with regard to the best use of this parcel, noting that he had “serious concerns” with the viability of this space as a potential water park. He continued that while the American Golf Course is privately owned, it could become available to the City in the future.

Mr. Bellavance asked if the prospective water park is still an option for the City, pointing out that a new water park is being built in Dade County and would “be in direct competition” with a new water park in Fort Lauderdale. Assistant Director Rynard said the City Commission asked for “more homework” and financial studies by the group that proposed the water park. She added there has still not been “complete approval” of this potential use by the FAA, and there will be more opportunities for the Board to advise the City Commission on this prospective use. She said monthly updates on this project could be provided at meetings.

Mr. Mabson asked if there would be a fee to use the proposed water park, or if it would be free to the public. Assistant Director Rynard said it would be a private enterprise on City land and there would be a fee. She noted that the infrastructure for the park would belong to the City, and said a concern of many individuals is what might happen if the park did not make enough money to support the maintenance of the infrastructure. She advised that this is another topic on which the City Commission had asked the potential operator to do further research.

Mr. Quailey observed that the proposed park might prevent the best use for that property.

Mr. Knapp said Broward County Schools “run Lockhart Stadium,” and if they are not approved to continue doing so, they would take the stands, trailers, and other equipment with them, leaving “a shell of a stadium” at which the proposed park would be run.

He asked if next year’s budget would allow for the City to continue to take care of the grounds at Fort Lauderdale Stadium. Assistant Director Rynard said the City Commission has funded the City to maintain the area until June 2011. At that time the City would need to make a decision on what to do with the property. The School Board’s agreement is through June 2011 as well.

Mr. Berry recalled that at the last meeting, Vice Chair Fee had requested an update on the status of the lights at George English Park. Assistant Director Rynard reported that the transformers are “on and working.”

Vice Chair Fee said he would like occasional updates on projects such as the Master Plan for Hardy Park and the entryway at Holiday Park. He explained that other individuals ask Board members for updates on these plans, which they may or may not know.

Assistant Director Rynard agreed that conceptual plans for park development are presented to the Board, but are not followed up on. She noted that four to five parks will be in the process of development in the next few months, and said the Board would be updated on their progress.

Mr. Berry recalled that at one time, baseball rules did not allow an inning to begin after a specific hour, such as 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. He asked if this rule was still in effect. Chair Fee said parents often state they do not wish to stay later than a certain time. It was noted that the rule may vary from league to league.

Mr. Berry requested an update on Rock Island Park. Assistant Director Rynard said the first “water sprayground” is about to be installed. This will be a

playground with interactive water features. In addition, Peter Feldman Park is on schedule to be complete by December 24.

Mr. Mabson asked if the Board might discuss alternatives for “how to best use the parks and resources” during a difficult economy. He felt the plans of recent years had been made based on a better economic outlook, which was not the case, and asked if there are alternative activities that could be offered to the community, including increased activities for adult and elderly residents, such as indoor activities.

Mr. Knapp left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Assistant Director Rynard said the Department’s budget only allows them to bring forward new programs and events if they can be paid for, either through sponsorship or through Department funds. She noted that there can be “creative ways” to pay for new programs, such as working out a program service agreement with an individual to run a program. This allows the Department to provide a service to the community at an affordable price without using City funds.

Another option is illustrated by the Riverside Community Center, which is a small, underused community center. The Department is working with that neighborhood to develop program service agreements, which would provide a service and use the building. She pointed out that the space has to be maintained whether or not it is regularly used.

She concluded that the Board might want to dedicate a meeting to discussing creative ways to reach the most people in the community with limited resources.

Mr. Mabson said he was aware of organizations in the community that are “always seeking venues,” but often cannot find venues of appropriate size or type. He suggested if there is future construction of venues, the City might take this into account. Chair Weiss agreed, noting that renting such a facility could help bring in funds for the City.

Assistant Director Rynard suggested the Board might revisit the Parks Master Plan as well. While the document does not offer a good deal of specific direction, it provides “conceptual ideas,” such as whether or not to create very large recreational facilities that “[have] everything.”

Mr. Qualey asked if the gym at Holiday Park had gotten air conditioning. Assistant Director Rynard said it had.

**Motion** made by Mr. Mabson, seconded by Mr. Berry, that we set aside a specific time to discuss alternatives with programming with Parks and Recreation. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Quailey asked for an update on the pool at the Swimming Hall of Fame, and asked if the Board would have input on this issue. Assistant Director Rynard said this effort is “currently under Business Enterprises,” which had presented the Department with a proposal. She said they could be invited to give the Board an update.

Vice Chair Fee noted that Red Bull is putting on an event at the Swimming Hall of Fame on Friday, December 3.

### **3. Board Comments – Chair Weiss**

Mr. Bellavance asked if anything was happening at Snyder Park. Assistant Director Rynard said they are currently removing exotic and invasive plant species from three areas within the park. She advised this project “still had a long way to go.”

### **4. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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