

PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

**City of Fort Lauderdale
100 North Andrews Avenue
8th Floor Conference Room
Wednesday, March 22, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	Cumulative 1/06 – 12/06	
		<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	A	0	3
Mark Hartman	P	3	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	3	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	3	0
Jim LaBate	A	1	2
David McNulty	A	1	2
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	3	0
Timothy Nast	P	3	0
Michael Natale	P	3	0
Robert Payne	A	2	1
Ronald Perkins	A	1	2
Victoria Revier	A	1	2
John Rude, Chair	P	3	0
Joe Shover	P	2	1
Shirley Small	P	1	2

City Staff

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director
Terry Rynard, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor
Mary Ann Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant
Sandra Goldberg, Recording Secretary

Guests

Ann Herman
Rudy Herman
Mayor Naugle

Call to Order

Chair Rude called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes of February 22, 2006 meeting

Dr. Hays stated that on page 4, paragraph 5, sentence 5, the word "helping" should be "hoping." Mr. Natale said on page 2, in the paragraph following the motion to approve the minutes, the minutes should state that Commissioner Teel refused to "meet" with him, not to "speak" with him.

Motion made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to approve the minutes of the February 2006 meeting as amended. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

1. Hurricane Debris sites

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that he had spoken with Public Works, who informed him that they would make a recommendation to the City Commission in April or May on hurricane preparation, including debris sites and cleanup operations.

Mr. Shover asked who controlled the site at the southeast corner of 441 and SR 84 from which the last bits of debris were just now being removed. Mr. Thornburg said that this was the landfill site, part of which was owned by the County and part by the City. Mr. Thornburg said if the City wanted to keep control of the site, they must pay the Federal Government the fair market value of the property. Mr. Thornburg pointed out that the site was not desirable because it was too far away and the location presented traffic problems.

Mr. Thornburg informed Dr. Hays that the parks and the Executive Airport were the only places in the City with enough space for hurricane debris. There had already been discussion with the FAA regarding the land around FXE. Dr. Hays admitted that because of the lack of space, they might need to use the parks.

Mr. Nast thought there must be County land available in Southwest Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Thornburg thought there were not that many County sites available, and these were not very large. Mr. Nast felt the cleanup this year was very fast, and said he would have been willing to wait a bit longer for cleanup if it meant there would be less impact on the parks. Mr. Thornburg agreed that speed was a major focus last year.

Mr. Natale asked if leasing private property was an option and Chair Rude felt the Tri-Rail parking lot might be an option. He asked that they be kept informed about which parks would be used for debris, and in what order.

Motion made by Mr. Nast, seconded by Mr. Shover, to commend the efforts put forth by Parks and Recreation staff at Floyd Hull Park after the hurricane season. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to convey to the City Commission that they would like to see the following regarding hurricane debris: a plan of priorities of utilization: the exploration of alternative sites, such as private land, and communication of these options, discussions and decisions with the public. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

2. Ann Herman Park Master Plan

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi informed the Board that Rudy and Ann Herman had worked with City on the plan and described the features of the park plan:

- ❖ .94 acres, purchased one year ago for \$360,000
- ❖ Parking area
- ❖ Flag pole
- ❖ Walking/jogging path with fitness stations
- ❖ Fenced-in tot play area
- ❖ Landscaping/butterfly gardens
- ❖ Two pavilions – a large one near the playground and a small gazebo near the water
- ❖ Benches, water fountains, etc.

Ms. Herman said she was thrilled with the progress of park, and noted that City staff was doing an excellent job. Mr. Gizzi said they had the potential for future development for kayak use. Mr. Natale wished to thank County Commission Rodstrom for allocating the discretionary funds for the park and then deeding it over to the City.

Ms. Herman explained that the property had been her family's home since 1960. Her mother, Ann Herman, had loved kids, and Rudy and Ann felt all the neighborhood kids should have space to play. Mr. Shover paraphrased Chris Wren, stating that every neighborhood should have Bryant Peney Park.

Dr. Hays compared this to Civic Peoples Park and felt that parking might become a problem. Chair Rude noted that parking was available on the swale area of 29th Street. Dr. Hays felt the park would make a very nice addition to the neighborhood.

Mr. Gizzi explained to Ms. Medalie that they were in the process of installing a shade structure in Bayview Park. Mr. Thornburg said these shade structures were very nice, but they were concerned about what would happen in a hurricane.

Mr. Gizzi noted that this was the second of a few land purchases the City had accomplished using County funds; Hardy Park and Southside School were two more. Mr. Gizzi remarked that they would see several more of these over the next year or two.

Mr. Hartman thanked the Hermans for attending the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Hoysgaard, to approve the concept plan for Ann Herman Park. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

3. Director's Report

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that they were making progress getting the park lights repaired and re-aimed. They had fixed approximately half of the 15 sites on the list. Mr. Thornburg hoped they would be finished by next month.

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that the City Commission had held a conference regarding the Park impact fee yesterday and the presentation had been favorably received. The Commission decided to bring the presentation to Planning and Zoning next month, then to the City Commission in May for 1st and 2nd hearing.

Mr. Thornburg announced that there would be a barbeque at the Southside School on April 1 from noon to 4 p.m. Dr. Hays reminded everyone that neighborhood association points for NCIP money were available for helping at the event.

Mr. Thornburg reminded the Board that they were hiring a new recreation superintendent to replace Steve Person. They were in the process of interviewing the six candidates, and hoped to make a decision soon. Mr. Thornburg explained to Chair Rude that no one from within the department who applied had made it past the first cut.

4. Other Items of Interest

Mr. Natale commended Parks and Recreation staff for replacing the palm trees in time for the dedication ceremony of Jack Washburn's plaque in Civic Peoples Park.

Mr. Natale informed the Board that Riverland Woods Park was "too successful" and the boat ramp was being torn up from so much use. Mr. Natale was not sure if there was a warranty for

the ramp, or if they must find money to repair it. Due to the shortage of boat ramps and docks in the City, the ramp was being used for some fairly large boats.

Mr. Natale asked if and when the jet would return to Holiday Park. Mr. Gizzi explained that the jet was currently at FXE and Engineering staff was considering how to put it back on its pedestal.

Mr. Natale informed the Board that he, Chair Rude, Mr. Hartman and Mr. Hoysgaard had met with City Manager Gretsas regarding hiring more rangers and increasing rangers' enforcement abilities. Mr. Natale noted that they were in the early phases of the budget process and the City now knew of the Board's eagerness to find funding to accomplish this.

City Manager Gretsas also advised them to create a list of events they wanted the City to host. Mr. Natale wanted to add this to their April agenda. Mr. Hoysgaard remarked that someone else now sponsored the two major festivals. Mr. Hoysgaard noted that the City had developed these festivals but never copyrighted them, so now they must develop some new ideas.

Mr. Thornburg noted that they were reviving some old and creating some new events:

- ❖ The Big Truck/Equipment event
- ❖ New Years Eve celebration
- ❖ Fourth of July celebration
- ❖ Noon Tunes program
- ❖ 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament

Mr. Thornburg stated that the department's focus was to get the community-type events going; they could consider larger events later on. Mr. Hartman felt that hosting large events required a division of staff dedicated solely to that task. Mr. Thornburg reminded the Board of the substantial risk involved in hosting events if bad weather intervened. The Board agreed to consider events to discuss at the next meeting and Mr. Thornburg agreed to put this on the April agenda.

Chair Rude acknowledged that Mayor Naugle was present. Mayor Naugle suggested they try to coordinate their event recommendations with the times of year the City needed to encourage additional activities. He suggested that they check with Nicki Grossman regarding scheduling.

Chair Rude asked for any information the City had regarding the financial feasibility of past events to help them make their decisions as well. Mr. Thornburg remembered that most events broke even.

Mr. Thornburg confirmed for Dr. Hays that WaterWorks 2011 had constructed a shed on Purple Pickle Park property. He had already called Public Works to ask them to relocate it, and they had promised they would

Dr. Hays asked Mr. Thornburg about the County bond money. Mr. Thornburg said all the money had been allocated, but there was discussion regarding the need to free up some money for projects that had been pending for almost five years. He noted that most of the City's parcels were in good shape. He hoped that once the money was freed up, the County would begin accepting additional requests.

Dr. Hays wanted to find out what after school programs were offered to schools adjacent to parks. Mr. Thornburg said that every park next to a school had an after school program. At Bayview, there was a private program. Mr. Hartman wanted to know which programs were active and which were sedentary; he felt the Parks and Recreation Department should be promoting physical activity. Mr. Thornburg agreed to put a presentation regarding the after school activities on the Board's agenda.

Dr. Hays asked if the City Commission was scheduling a conference meeting to consider parks issues. Mr. Hartman remembered that Mr. Gretsas suggested they speak to their individual commissioners, rather than address a formal conference meeting. Dr. Hays said she had attended conference meetings with the City Commission with other boards; she did not see the value of talking to individual commissioners. Mr. Hartman felt they could do both. Chair Rude stated that according to Sunshine regulations, the conference meeting was the only way for the Board to address the City Commission as a group.

Chair Rude asked Mayor Naugle's opinion on their discussion. Mayor Naugle said the Commission would hold a session to discuss priorities, and the City Manager would use input from this meeting to formulate the budget this summer. He also advised individual Board members to address these issues with their individual commissioners. Dr. Hays felt that the public input at conference meetings was very helpful. Mayor Naugle added that City Manager Gretsas preferred that the City Commission not address "minutia" on their agenda.

Mr. Natale stated that this was the first time since he joined this Board that an issue came up that he and other Board members felt was of such importance that it required additional attention. But when they tried to engage the individual Commissioners on the issue, the Commissioners had refused to meet. Mayor Naugle explained that such a meeting would need to fully comply with Sunshine regulations regarding public notice, minutes, etc. The Board also needed permission from the City Commission to create a subcommittee for the purpose of meeting with Commission members.

Ms. Medalie remarked that the beach was pristine but the sidewalk was an absolute mess, and noted that she had not seen the pressure cleaner this year. She was also "not thrilled" with the

people in golf carts who were cleaning up at the beach. He informed the Board that he had visited the beach today and had not seen one cigarette butt on the sidewalk or in the curbs. In his opinion, this year was the best spring break clean up ever.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.