

**PARKS, RECREATION & BEACHES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES**

**City of Fort Lauderdale**

**100 North Andrews Avenue**

**8<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006 -7:00 p.m.**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative 1/06-12/06</b>	
		<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Curtiss Berry	<b>P</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	<b>A</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>
Sean Fee	<b>P</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Mark E. Hartman	<b>P</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>
Rudy Herman	<b>A</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Robert Hoysgaard	<b>A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
James LaBate	<b>P</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>
Michael Natale	<b>P</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
Robert Payne	<b>A</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>
Victoria Revier	<b>A</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
Betty Shelley	<b>P</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Shirley Small	<b>A</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>
Matthew L. Weiss	<b>P</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Staff**

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director  
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
David Miller, Recreation Superintendent  
Mary Ann Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Debbie Bylica, Special Events Coordinator  
Stacey Daley, Administrative Liaison  
Mona Laventure, Recording Secretary

**Guests**

Bill Ciani, Coral Ridge Neighborhood  
Raymond Novak, Coral Ridge Neighborhood  
Dr. Elizabeth Hays, CFLCA Liaison  
John Rude  
Jim Dunmire

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Thornburg called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of September 2006 Minutes**

As no quorum was present, Mr. Thornburg dispensed with the approval of minutes.

**III. Coral Ridge Country Club Project**

Bill Ciani  
Raymond Novak

Mr. Ciani reported that the zoning for the American Golf Course is in jeopardy of being changed from park to residential. Mr. Ciani presented to the Board the ordinances regarding the vote to change the zoning along with DRC's opinion of this change. Mr. Ciani stated that the residents of Coral Ridge Country Club are voicing their concerns regarding this zoning change. He also stated that the park has been instrumental in providing recreational uses to hotels, schools, and residents. Mr. Ciani urged the Board to keep in mind the importance of having this property zoned for parks.

Mr. Raymond Novak presented to the Board the map of Fort Lauderdale, indicating the location of American Golf Course, which is the largest green space in the City. Mr. Novak stated that currently there is no green space left and he urged the Board to consider the importance of keeping this area as an open green space. Mr. Novak stated that the law is currently on the side of green space; therefore, homes cannot lawfully be built in the area without changing the zoning.

Mr. James Labate asked that if the property is privately owned, what its proposed future use could be. Mr. Novak commented that although he would prefer the park stay a golf course, he at least would like it to retain public access.

Mr. Novak pointed out that some of the land is part of Coral Ridge Country Club. The developers are requesting to develop 39.9 acres, building 61 homes.

Mr. Curtis Berry asked Mr. Novak to point out the part of the park he would like the Board to keep as park space. Mr. Novak explained that all of the area is park space.

Dr. Hays reminded the new Board members to keep in mind the importance of not losing any more park space. Dr. Hays stated that since the Commissioners are the ones to make zoning changes, the Board would need to speak to them on behalf of keeping this land as park space.

**IV. Recreation Program of the Month**  
(“Nightmare in the Park”)

Vince Gizzi  
Debbie Bylica

Mr. Vince Gizzi introduced Ms. Debbie Bylica, Special Events Coordinator. Ms. Bylica is organizing the “Nightmare in the Park” event to be held on Halloween night at Stranahan Park. Ms. Bylica stated that this event is geared towards the age group of 18 to 35 plus, however, all are welcome to attend. Ms. Bylica handed out a list of the event sponsors. Ms. Bylica stated that they are hoping for a large turnout, but will be happy if they get 1,000 people for this first-time event.

Mr. Thornburg expressed his appreciation to Ms. Bylica for overseeing this event, expressing the hope that her efforts will be successful.

**V. Background Checks**

David Miller

Mr. Miller presented to the Board highlights regarding the process of the Background Check program. Mr. Miller informed the Board of the City's decision to develop a policy that will require background checks on all City volunteers. They will include fingerprinting, social security checks and a criminal background investigation. This check will be done every two years for all City volunteers and instructors. An ID badge will be issued as a way to make them immediately identifiable to patrons and staff. Mr. Miller acknowledged that this will be a large investment, but feels it is an important one. The program has not begun, but he is hoping to have it implemented in November 2006.

Mr. Hartman expressed the concern of duplication and of the expenses involved, stating that there are volunteers working as lifeguards, camp counselors, coaches, etc. who have had background checks already performed.

Mr. Miller stated that it is a possibility; however, the Volunteer Employee Criminal History System (VECHS) will be used to perform the background check. This system is used nationwide. Any individual who has volunteered with the County or City will be listed in the VECHS system.

Mr. Thornburg added that the background checks would be done every two years. So, no matter how many programs an individual is volunteering for, the background check will only performed once during that two year period.

Mr. Miller stated that the equipment for this project is in place and they are only waiting for a printer, which is on order. Mr. Miller also stated that training will commence in 10 days and, as soon as they received the green light, they will begin the process.

Mr. Sean Fee asked if the City would pay this expense for the coaches in the leagues leasing space from the City.

Mr. Miller answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the City has budgeted for this project.

Mr. Weiss asked how the volunteers will be notified if they are denied. Mr. Miller responded by saying that any volunteers denied entrance into the program will receive a denial letter. If the individual wishes to appeal the decision, he or she will have the opportunity.

**VI. Site Plan-Northfork Park**

Vince Gizzi

As there was no quorum for a motion, Mr. Thornburg deferred the Site Plan-Northfork Park project until next month's meeting.

**VII. Election of Officers**

Phil Thornburg

As there was no quorum for a motion, Mr. Thornburg deferred the election of Officers until next month's meeting.

**VIII. Naming of Shady Banks Park (GS-125)-Bill Keith Preserve**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg stated that Shady Bank Park is located in the Shady Banks neighborhood. The park was purchased by the City as a conservation green space area on the water. He stated that Mr. Keith, who had been instrumental in helping the City acquire the property from the County, passed away last month, and Commissioner Hutchinson has requested to have the park named after Mr. Keith. The Commission requested this be brought to the Board since it is they typical naming process for parks. Mr. Thornburg asked to have this brought to the next Commission meeting. Since there was not a quorum and a formal motion could not be made to approve the request, he asked for the Board's thoughts on the matter.

Mr. Berry asked what the Shady Banks Civic Association or any members from the Shady Banks neighborhood have to say regarding this name change.

Mr. Thornburg stated that from what he understands, the Shady Bank Civic Association and neighborhood are supportive of the name change.

Mr. Rude commented on Mr. Keith's accomplishments and his involvement in the community. He explained that the naming of the park would be an honor to the Keith family.

Mr. Berry recommended that naming of the park be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

**IX. Directors Report**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg stated that the November and December meetings will be combined due to the holidays. The next meeting will be held on November 29, 2006.

Mr. Thornburg stated that the Land Preservation Bond and the County Parks Bond are in the application process for the next phase of land acquisition set for December 11, 2006. Any Board members with ideas regarding properties in the City that they would like to see become green space/park land will need to send them to Mr. Thornburg. Mr. Thornburg is in the process of compiling a list to be submitted to the Commission prior to sending the application to the County.

Mr. Natale requested to see the compiled list prior to it being sent to the Commission.

Mr. Thornburg stated that he could probably send the list out for review and it will need to be completed by the 29<sup>th</sup> of November.

Mr. Weiss asked how many properties are now listed. Mr. Thornburg stated there are currently five properties listed.

Mr. Fee asked how much the County will receive per property and how much did Fort Lauderdale receive last time. Mr. Thornburg stated the City can receive up to \$2 million per site. He estimated that Fort Lauderdale has received approximately \$18 million of the \$200 million total bond dollars for land.

Mr. Natale requested an update on Riverland Woods Park. Ms. Rynard stated they have extended the fence located in the park at the water and will continue to monitor as it is still being pulled back on a regular basis. Ms. Rynard also stated that the FIND Grant had been researched. She explained that the criteria had not been completed yet, but once it is if the project still qualifies we planned to apply for the grant.

Mr. Rude mentioned the idea of having the new Board members take a tour around the area to familiarize themselves with City parks. Mr. Thornburg stated that the Parks and Recreation Department would be happy to do that.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

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