

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

**City of Fort Lauderdale**

**100 North Andrews Avenue**

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

**Wednesday, November 29, 2006 -7:00 p.m.**

**Cumulative 1/06-12/06**

<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
Ed Angelbello	A	0	1
Curtiss Berry	P	2	0
Sean Fee	P	2	0
Mark E. Hartman, Chair	P	9	1
Robert Hoysgaard	A	7	3
James LaBate	P	7	3
Michael Natale, Vice Chair	P	8	2
Robert Payne	P	8	2
Victoria Revier	A	4	6
Betty Shelley	P	2	0
Shirley Small	P	4	6
Matthew L. Weiss	P	2	0

**Staff**

Phil Thornburg, Parks and Recreation Director  
Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director  
David Miller, Recreation Superintendent  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
Stephanie Brady, Recreation Programmer  
Rodrigo Canaval, Recreation Programmer  
Jonathan Liles, Recreation Programmer  
Earnest Jones, Park Ranger Supervisor  
Gladys Pentilla, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Stacey Daley, Administrative Liaison  
Mona Laventure, Recording Secretary

**Guests**

Dr. Elizabeth Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations  
John Rude, Broward Urban River Trails  
Nancy Thompson, Fort Lauderdale Jaguars  
John V. Purkey, Fort Lauderdale Jaguars  
Kenny Nail, Fort Lauderdale Jaguars

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Thornburg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call was taken and all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. Approval of October 2006 Minutes**

Mr. Natale noted that the grant referred to in the Director's report was the FIND grant.

**Motion** made by Mr. Hartman, seconded by Mr. Natale, to approve the minutes of the Board's October 2006 meeting as amended.

**III. Election of Officers**

Phil Thornburg

**Motion** made by Mr. Natale, seconded by Mr. Fee, to elect Mr. Hartman as Chair. Board approved unanimously.

**Motion** made by Ms. Small, seconded by Mr. Fee, to elect Mr. Natale as Vice Chair. Board approved unanimously.

**IV. Recreation Program of the Month**

David Miller

("Fitness Fundamentals")

Mr. Miller introduced Rodrigo Canaval and Jonathan Liles to give a presentation and discuss the program. Mr. Liles distributed copies of the manual given to staff regarding the program.

Mr. Liles explained that he and Mr. Canaval had designed this program to be used in summer camps to help combat childhood obesity. Mr. Canaval said they discovered that kids responded best to individualized attention and interaction. Mr. Liles outlined the program as follows:

- 7 – Week program
  - Week 1 – Training/Orientation/Pre-evaluation
  - Weeks 2 through Week 6 - Education
    - Fitness
    - Nutrition
    - Circuit training, Races
  - Week 7 – Final Evaluation
- 800 kids participated in 11 summer camps
- Training targets
  - Abdominal strength and endurance
  - Flexibility
  - Upper body strength and endurance
  - Agility and speed
  - Endurance

Mr. Liles pointed out that the real goal was to educate the kids about how they could implement their own fitness regimen. He stated that next year they wanted to provide intense training for staff and designate a fitness director for each summer camp. They also wanted to collect more feedback from parents.

Dr. Hays, Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations, felt that determining how the kids' achievements compared to the National Challenge Tables would be valuable information, especially for parents; Mr. Canaval explained that the kids were encouraged to compete against themselves and track their own progress. Dr. Hays felt this feedback could be used by parents to help their kids continue to progress.

Mr. Kenny Nail, resident, introduced his daughter, Marissa, who had been involved in this program over the summer, and said he was very pleased with it. He noted it had helped her to lose 15 pounds.

**V. Site Plan, Northfork Park**

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi informed the Board that Northfork was one of eleven purchases made through the Broward County 2000 Land Preservation Bond. He described the park as a two-acre site on the North side of Broward Boulevard, mostly mangrove wetlands, with a 500-foot frontage on the New River. During Phase 1, with funding from the South Florida Water Management District, they had removed the exotics, fenced the site and added signage. In Phase 2, they would restore the flushing channel to restore the wetland area. In Phase 3, the amenities would be introduced which would include a boardwalk, parking area, picnic area, native plantings, bike racks and a canoe/kayak launching area. The estimated completion date was 18 months from now.

Chair Hartman thought that the homeless would be of special concern here because of the park's proximity to a homeless shelter and the Salvation Army. Mr. Thornburg said that when they purchased the site, it had been basically a homeless camp, but with the Police Department and Ranger Supervisor Jones' help, they had assisted the homeless in relocating, and the fence had provided security. He did agree they would need to keep an eye on the property.

Mr. John Rude, Broward Urban River Trails, informed the Board that this site had been an environmentally sensitive site for many years and his organization wanted this project to move forward as it had been so long in process.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Weiss, to approve the project as presented. Board unanimously approved.

**VI. County Park Bond Application List**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg referred to the Application List spreadsheet he distributed to the Board and described the locations of the properties.

Regarding Riverland Isles, Mr. Thornburg said this property had been on the City's list to buy for several years, and they were interested in it for preserving open space and preventing further development. Dr. Hays noted that they had not decided to develop this as a park. Mr. Thornburg stated this would go through the neighborhood process to determine how it would be used.

Mr. Thornburg explained to Mr. Weiss that the County hired consultants to perform appraisals and negotiate purchases with the owners. Mr. Thornburg explained that this list was provided to keep the Board informed, but they were not required to approve it. The County Land Preservation Board would evaluate the applications, rank them, and start disbursing funds. Mr. Thornburg informed Mr. Berry that the County was funding the purchases.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Natale, to approve the purchases of the sites. Board unanimously approved

**VII. Holiday Happenings**

Phil Thornburg

Ms. Brady advised the Board that the website contained a complete list of the City's holiday events. She then listed several events:

- Santa's Helpers' Day Out at Croissant Park December 16, 8 a.m.
- Candy Cane Hunt at Riverside Park, December 16, 5 p.m.
- Holiday Beach Ball at the Beach Community Center, December 12, 6:30 p.m.
- Tree Lighting Ceremony at Carter Park, December 5, 6:30 p.m.
- Winterfest Boat Parade, December 16
- Santa on the Beach, December 22, 12:45 p.m.
- Light Up Lauderdale – Holiday light contest – judging on December 12
- Downtown Countdown for New Year's Eve
  - 5K Resolution Run at Esplanade Park 3 p.m.
  - Family Activities 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.
  - Early Family Countdown - 6:00 p.m.
  - Live bands from 8:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m.
  - Ball Drop and Fireworks – Midnight

**VIII. Federal Little League Contract**

Kenny Nail

Mr. Thornburg explained that there was a conflict between the football and baseball teams' use of Floyd Hull Stadium. The baseball program had recently requested to use the facility year-round, which would force the football program to find a new location. Mr. Thornburg said the City Attorney's office was reviewing the situation, and Mr. Nail from the Fort Lauderdale Jaguars Football was present to address the Board.

Mr. Kenny Nail, Fort Lauderdale Jaguars Football, introduced himself and other representatives from the Jaguars. He explained that the football program had existed for 40 years. Mr. Nail said nobody in the football program had been aware that their contract must be renewed and it had therefore expired. Mr. Nail said he was "appalled as a citizen of Fort Lauderdale, knowing that I'm being told that my children cannot play in a City of Fort Lauderdale park." He noted that if the football league could not play in that park, it would be forced to disband. Mr. Nail distributed photos of the football league to the Board.

Mr. Nail asked the Board to either ask the City Commission to "kill" the contract with the Federal Little League or to renew a contract with the Jaguars to allow them to share the facility. Mr. Nail distributed copies of a letter from Paul Guerrero, president of the Federal Little League, sent to Mr. Thornburg, in July, stating that the Little League intended to exercise its right to reserve all of Floyd Hull Park's fields for their own activities, and effectively evict the Jaguars.

Mr. Berry said he was one of the oldest members of the Federal Little League, and stated how great it was that the kids in the football league could enjoy themselves. He felt it was "rotten" for the Little League to evict them.

**Motion** made by Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Payne, to postpone this item to the Board's next meeting in anticipation of a determination from the City Attorney regarding how the situation could be handled. Through a show of hands, the motion failed.

Mr. Thornburg said the matter was in the hands of the City Attorney, and neither he nor staff knew when or how it would be settled. He reminded the Board that they served to advise the City Commission and could make a recommendation to the City Commission on this issue, if they wished to do so.

**Motion** made by Mr. LaBate, seconded by Mr. Natale, to recommend to the City Commission that the City find a way for both organizations to coexist at Floyd Hull Stadium. The Board unanimously approved.

Mr. Weiss wanted to add that if the Board was "appalled about what the Little League is doing over there to the football program then we would like them to step in and act." Mr. Nail thought that only the City Commission could change the Little League's contract or "make us coexist."

Dr. Hays wondered if there was some other park space that could host the football league. Mr. Thornburg said it was a matter of available facilities, plus, this particular park was part of the football league's history. Mr. Nail added that the football league volunteers had constructed the building for football. He said the football league also had \$50,000 worth of equipment there.

Mr. Nail wanted the Parks and Recreation Department to send a letter to the Little League informing them that this matter was in dispute. He feared that the Little League would take the football league's equipment if they were not made aware that the football league was disputing this. Mr. Thornburg said he hoped the City Attorney would make a decision by the end of December to inform him how to deal with the matter.

Dr. Hays advised Mr. Nail to get this matter before the City Commission at a conference meeting and to be sure they brought along as many of the kids from the football league as possible. Mr. Nail asked Board members to attend that meeting to lend their support. Mr. Thornburg reiterated that the best course for the Board was to address the matter through the City Commission.

Mr. Natale asked that Board members phone their commissioners about this, and reminded them that this was "all about the kids."

**IX. Directors Report**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg stated he did not have anything to report.

**X. Other Items of Interest**

Ranger Supervisor Jones extended an invitation to Board members to contact him if they desired a tour of the City's parks.

Chair Hartman reminded the Board that they would not meet in December, noting that they still were responsible to attend activities and provide staff with feedback. Chair Hartman stated he would like to conduct a Board orientation in January outlining what the City's expectations were of the Board and discussing some ideas he had.

Mr. Weiss had noticed that adults were often "pushed off" of athletic fields in favor of the organized leagues and wanted to find a facility that adults could use. Mr. Thornburg said these were adult "pick-up" games and remarked that participants had already been informed that they could reserve fields in advance, if they wished.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.