

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2007 7:30 a.m. — Sunview Park — Fort Lauderdale

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marc Kiar
Sharon Kent
Gerald Knight
Alanna Mersinger
Quentin Morgan, Chair
Ed Portner
Hazelle Rogers
Guy Roper
Sheila Rose
Bill Spute
Jack Talabisco
Milette Thurston

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Terry Danger
Ronald Goff
Dianne Johnson
Steve Person
Steven Sampier

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Harbin, Parks & Rec.
Mike Harlan, Parks & Rec.
Jaime Plana, Parks & Rec.
Chester Pruitt, Parks & Rec.
Gary Remillet, Parks & Rec.
Jai Autar, Parks & Rec.
Todd Legg, Parks & Rec.
Gloria Augustine, Parks & Rec.
Maud King, Parks & Rec.
Maggie Auguste, Parks & Rec.
Meoshi Jackson, Parks & Rec.

The meeting was called to order by Quentin Morgan at 7:44 a.m., after which all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2007. Sheila Rose made the motion, which was seconded by Sharon Kent and passed unanimously.

Employee of the Month for March 2007

Jai Autar was congratulated as Employee of the Month for March. He was applauded for his accomplishments and work ethics and was awarded a framed certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate for an area restaurant.

Park Manager's Report

Gloria Augustine, Parks & Recreation Manager II for Sunview Park, gave the Board an update on the park, which has been very busy. 110 children attend the summer camp program, 45 children participate in the afterschool program. The park offers a little league and football program, two soccer leagues, a softball league, and beginning in May, a cricket league. The park also offers dog obedience classes, low cost rabies vaccinations, and has Girl Scout troupe meetings.

Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) Update

Bob Harbin informed the Board that Parks met all 155 of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Accreditation standards. He mentioned that Tina Murto, Central District Assistant Superintendent, played a key role in helping Parks to meet these standards.

Parks held its annual public meeting for input on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at the Fern Forest Nature Center. Mr. Harbin thanked Milette Thurston for attending.

County Administration has asked that the Divisions hold staff meetings explaining the new budget process. Parks will hold approximately 16-18 meetings with employees so that they can have a preview of the new Zero Based Budgeting. Mr. Harbin said that he would like for staff to give the Board a presentation at the next meeting, allowing them an opportunity for input.

Mr. Harbin and Mr. Morgan attempted to meet with Commissioner Stacy Ritter to discuss her letter to the Board regarding changing the meeting time of the Parks Advisory Board. Although Commissioner Ritter was not available at the time, Mr. Harbin and Mr. Morgan spoke with her staff. Jack Talabisco suggested that staff follow up on the issue.

Ms. Kent asked that staff keep the Board informed, especially during the summer months, regarding the new budget process and how it will affect operations. Ms. Kent said that Parks, by meeting accreditation standards at 100%, is offering a certain level of service. Budget reductions may affect that.

Ms. Rose said that it may be appropriate, as the months develop, for this Board discuss the possibility of being speakers bureau regarding tax reform. Ms. Rose thought that the Board may be able to offer some valuable information to the public. Alanna Mersinger agreed that the educational process should begin now. Guy Roper also pointed out that there is a greater problem to get across, that is the affordability of insurance and taxes combined.

When Bill Spute asked if the campgrounds at Quiet Waters Park had been opened successfully, Mike Harlan responded that they should be opened within the next 30 days, pending electrical work.

Mr. Morgan asked the status of the advertising and naming rights for parks. Mr. Harbin replied that, at a Commission workshop on January 16, 2007, the County Commission discussed a number of issues with County staff. They included advertising/naming rights, an alcohol policy, the possibility of placing a cell tower in Central Broward Regional Park, etc. Parks staff plans to bring all of these before the Commission for approval by April 17, 2007. Meoshi Jackson will provide the Board with this information at a later date.

Mr. Spute asked if any additional salt water boat ramps have come about. Mr. Harbin responded that, although a couple of possibilities are being considered, this project will be a long range one.

Mr. Spute also asked the status of the Board's resolution supporting the Tree Trimmer Licensure Program. Mr. Harbin will give an update at the next meeting.

Ms. Kent asked if the state identified any other resources for land purchases. Mr. Harbin replied that there may be some grants available through the Florida Communities Trust Grant.

Bond Construction Update

Jaime Plana presented the Board with a list of pending projects for their review. He informed the Board that a list of active projects is also available for the Board's perusal.

Ms. Mersinger asked the status of the Everglades Holiday Park master plan. Jaime Plana explained that a series of public meetings will be held as part of the development process. Staff

will invite the Board to these meetings. Mr. Plana anticipates bringing the plan before the County Commission by the fall.

Ms. Kent asked if staff could share the most updated aerial photos of the Central Broward Regional Park (CBRP).

Ms. Kent asked about a County Commission discussion about combining construction for County Divisions. Mr. Plana explained that a study had been done on that subject and, as a result, a task force formed to look at the construction process as a whole. It has now been recommended that County construction management be unified into one section to serve operating agencies. This matter culminated into a Commission workshop where the Commission agreed. Mr. Plana's section will now fall under this Division, but will still serve the Parks and Recreation Division. Mr. Plana felt that this could encourage the sharing of resources and should not affect the timing of project completion dates.

Ms. Kent mentioned a Challenge Grant extension that recently went before the Commission regarding the YMCA – West Broward. She asked why this was the only one that has come up. Mr. Harbin explained that this extension is actually one of approximately seven or eight extensions that are beyond the Parks and Recreation Division's authority. However, this extension should be one of the last ones coming forward for Commission approval.

Old Business

Mr. Morgan recognized and thanked Mr. Spute for purchasing and donating gift cards for the Employees of the Month.

Revised Advisory Board Policy

Milette Thurston mentioned that there is an indication in the policy that every member should contact the Board coordinator to indicate that they will or will not attend meetings. Ms. Thurston asked if this is something that needs to be strictly enforced in order to determine if there will be a quorum. Otherwise, she suggested that the coordinator only be notified when members are not attending. The Board agreed. Ed Portner and Mr. Roper asked if there could be any other exceptions to the rule for members being terminated after three absences. Official business or hospitalization/illness of family members were some examples they gave. Staff will discuss this with the Board Liaison.

New Business

Mr. Talabisco informed the Board that the City of Tamarac recently had the grand opening of the Caporella Aquatic Center. He commented that it is a fabulous facility with different sized pools, slides, and a full gymnasium for the public to use.

Ms. Mersinger informed that the South Broward Drainage District will offer an Adopt-a-Canal program. Children can participate and obtain community service hours by helping to clean up around the canals.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2007, at the Secret Woods Nature Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned around 9:00 a.m.