**Minutes**

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting of October 5, 2018, 8:00 a.m.**

**Anne Kolb Nature Center, 751 Sheridan St. Hollywood, Florida**

**Board Members Present**

Howard Garson Tyson Jones Daniel Mulieri

Bill Gilmartin Steven Lawson

Larry Goehrig Jack Mathison

Barry Harris Arthur McNeil

**Board Members Absent**

Patrick Brochu Terry Danger Kristen Reineke

Christina Clifford Dana MacDonald

**County Staff in Attendance**

Cyndy Baker Cathy Hagen Gary Remillet

Linda Thompson Meoshi Jackson-Graves Dan West

Mike Fayyaz Lou Metz

**Guests/Members of the Public**

None

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Daniel Mulieri at 8:10 a.m., after which all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll was called; a quorum present.

Bert Mahecha opened discussion on the problems facing the South Florida Football Club program held at Brian Piccolo Park. He shared concerns about the overlapping of the shared field space and the need for a field use schedule while field improvements are being made. It was requested that a reasonable compromise be made for field use while repairs are being made to prevent any additional impact to the local soccer community. Jack Mathison inquired about the soccer participants, program costs, and the possibility of alternative field space being used by the club. Mr. Mahecha noted that the local participants pay $86.00 per month and the travel team members pay approximately $125.00 per month. Discussion proceeded about costs, fundraising for an artificial field and field repair. Dan West, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, gave an update on the field renovations at Brian Piccolo and noted that there is a high demand for soccer field space in South Florida. Mr. West stated that the renovations are necessary, but an alternative solution can be achieved.

**Approval of Minutes:** A MOTION was made by Jack Mathison to approve the minutes of the August 3, 2018, meeting. The motion was seconded by Larry Goehrig and was passed unanimously.

**Park Manager’s Update:** Steven Woytko, new Senior Parks Manager at the West Lake Park/Anne Kolb Nature Center, welcomed the Board. Mr. Woytko also oversees Hollywood North Beach Park, Secret Woods Nature Center, and the Carpenter House, where the Marine Environmental Education Center is located. West Lake Park was opened in June 1982 and now includes 88 acres that consist of racquetball, a tennis court, a basketball court, picnic shelters and a fishing pier. In 1974, suggestions were made to develop the West Lake area but, with the encouragement and perseverance of then Commissioner Anne Kolb, the area was preserved as a natural area. With help from public officials, the Audubon Society, the Sierra Club and the Friends of West Lake group the park is currently home to the largest ecosystem in Broward County. To honor Ms. Kolb’s efforts, the Anne Kolb Nature Center was opened in February 1996, providing recreational spaces, preservation, and education to the general public.

Mr. Woytko went on to discuss the amenities at Hollywood North Beach Park, which houses five pocket parks. He mentioned that the exhibit hall, nature program, and related events served around 30,000 patrons during fiscal year 2018. Recent improvements include a new ornamental entrance gate at West Lake Park, a donated library at the Carpenter House, and the reopening of the Blue Kayak Trail with new signage. Upcoming renovations include the observation tower at Anne Kolb, replacement of the playground and splash pad at West Lake Park, and replacing displays in the exhibit hall. Mr. Woytko closed his presentation by acknowledging the Friends of Anne Kolb for their passion, education, and support of the park.

Tyson Jones noted that prior to the development of the Anne Kolb Nature Center, the Parks Division replanted much of the mangroves due to previous interruption of the ecology. Discussion proceeded about historical events at the nature center. Mr. Woytko also acknowledged the hard work of the Parks Maintenance Group.

**Bond Construction Update:** Mike Fayyaz, Construction Management Supervisor, Highway Construction & Engineer

* Hillsboro Pineland – The park improvement project of the boardwalk extension is completed.
* Quiet Waters Park – The dog park project is completed.
* Hollywood North Beach/West Lake Park Project – Additional paperwork for a building permit request was submitted by the contractor and the County. Construction is anticipated to begin later in the year.
* Herman & Dorothy Shooster Preserve – The fence and signage work are complete. The project contractor (ENCO) has received a purchase order. The project plan is with the City of Margate and the City of North Lauderdale; awaiting permit approval from the building department.
* Quiet Waters Camper Cabins Project – The architectural plans for the cabin have been completed and permit review is in progress.
* Deerfield Island Park Boardwalk – The Broward County Purchasing Division is in the process of awarding the construction contract to the low bidder. The construction is anticipated to commence in January 2019.
* Everglades Holiday Park – Construction plans have been submitted to federal, state, and local agencies for permitting review. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ mandated dike restoration design is complete. Awaiting permit approval from appropriate agencies for bid advertisement.
* Miramar Pineland – The project consultant, SRS Architects, has submitted the initial design of the new park office and nature center for review. The project will be sent for bid in early 2019.
* Snake Warrior’s Island Natural Area – The work authorization for the welcome center, restrooms, and small office space has been issued. The consultant, Thompson & Associates, is currently working on the preliminary design.
* Secret Woods Nature Center – The observation boardwalk is currently in the design stage. The consultant is preparing the project rendering and will be sent out for bid thereafter. There was discussion on the various types of materials that could be used for the deck. The contractor will, ultimately, make the determination based on performance and cost.
* Tradewinds Park North – Negotiations for a new multi-use park services center, improvements to the parking lot, and re-development of the farm area reached a second impasse. A multi-phased contingency plan has been developed to move the project forward.
* West Lake Park/Anne Kolb Nature Center – The construction plans on the exhibit hall and aquarium are 80% complete. The park’s staff are working with the consultant to update the work authorization with additional design services. The project plan will go out for bid upon the completion of the design.

When Mr. Mahecha inquired about the completion date for the irrigation project at Brian Piccolo, Mr. Fayyaz stated that the permitting processing time has been lengthy. Mr. Lawson inquired about the bridge project at Everglades Holiday Park and Mr. Fayyaz stated that it is halfway completed. Mr. West noted that the permitting process for the bridge was extensive and was reviewed by national, state, and local offices.

**Parks Foundation Update:** Cyndy Baker**,** Manager, Public Communications Outreach Group, stated that the Parks Foundation was recently awarded an $8,000 grant that will be used to assist in the construction of a veterans’ memorial reflection at Plantation Heritage Park. The reflection area is described as a “veteran window to our natural world” to be used by veterans and the general public. In addition, the gazebo at the south shore of the lake is being remodeled to include ADA accessible viewers to observe the wildlife. Lectures on sustainability will be provided, as well as awards for citizen scientists, and a volunteer program for veterans will be organized.

A proposal was sent out to Florida Power & Light and the Foundation was awarded $5,100 for a habitat restoration project at Deerfield Island Park. Three new members will be voted in as Parks Foundation members. Ms. Baker stated that Terri Goldsmith, Chair of the Parks Foundation, is tentatively scheduled to attend the next Board meeting for introductory purposes. Parks staff members Linda Thompson and Michael Mills submitted an application for the National Associations of Counties Achievement Award, which was received for the Marine Environmental Education Center at the Carpenter House at Hollywood North Beach Park. Ms. Baker stated that the opening ceremony for the Woofing Waters at Quiet Waters Park will be on October 12, 2018, at 2:30 p.m. Vice-Mayor Bogen will be attendance and the public is invited to attend with their dogs. Mr. West invited the Board to attend the event

**Parks and Recreation Division Update:** Mr. West informed the Board that he will e-mail a copy of the capital and operating budget reports, which were recently approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. West then recognized Mr. Mathison for serving on the Board and noted that it was his last meeting.

**Old Business:** Vice Chair Mulieri opened discussion on the Board’s consideration of changing the meeting time from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. The two previous meetings were held at 8:00 a.m. as part of a trial period. However, Board attendance was not affected by the change. A motion was made by Jack Mathison to return to the 7:30 a.m. start time, was seconded by Arthur McNeil and approved by all.

Cathy Hagen, Senior Administrative Officer, Parks Director’s Office, requested a review of the tentative Board meeting schedule for 2019 and noted that the March meeting needed to be updated to March 7, 2019. Ms. Hagen stated a vote to confirm the schedule will be made in December and Mr. West suggest that the Board review and notify Ms. Hagen of any requested updates.

Ms. Hagen also encouraged the Board to complete the Parks Quality Survey and passed out extra copies to the members.

**New Business:** There was none.

**Public Comment:** Vice Chair Mulieri inquired if there were any members of the public who wished to speak on any Parks-related topic. There were none.

**Adjournment:** MOTION was made to adjourn the meeting by Vice Chair Mulieri, was seconded by Arthur McNeil and approved by all. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be at the Everglades Holiday Park in Ft. Lauderdale on December 7, 2018, at 7:30 a.m.