

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

**City of Fort Lauderdale  
100 North Andrews Avenue  
8th Floor Conference Room  
Wednesday, April 26, 2006 – 7:00 p.m.**

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<b><u>Board Members</u></b>	<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	<b>Cumulative 1/06 – 12/06</b>	
		<b><u>P</u></b>	<b><u>A</u></b>
Andrew DeGraffenreidt, Sr.	P	1	3
Mark Hartman	P	4	0
Elizabeth Hays	P	4	0
Robert Hoysgaard	P	4	0
Jim LaBate	P	2	2
David McNulty	P	2	2
Joann Medalie, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Timothy Nast	P	4	0
Michael Natale	P	4	0
Robert Payne	P	3	1
Ronald Perkins	A	1	3
Victoria Revier	P	2	2
John Rude, Chair	P	4	0
Joe Shover	P	3	1
Shirley Small	A	1	3

**City Staff**

Phil Thornburg, Parks & Recreation Director  
Terry Rynart, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director  
Vince Gizzi, Special Facilities Superintendent  
MaryAnn Slough, Recreation Program Coordinator  
Maybeth Irizarry-Binon, Administrative Assistant  
Stephanie Brady, Special Events  
Lavya Vassor, Recording Secretary

**Guests**

Mayor Naugle  
Sandy Casteel  
Margery Anderson

## **Call to Order**

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

## **Approval of Minutes of March, 2006 meeting**

**Motion** made by Dr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Shover, to approve the minutes of the March 2006 meeting. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **1. Recognition of Middle River Neighborhood Association** Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg explained that the Middle River Neighborhood Association had received certification as a National Wildlife Federation Backyard Wildlife Habitat. He presented a plaque to Mr. Hartman as their representative, and to Ms. Margery Anderson, who had taken on the project and completed the application.

Mr. Hartman and Ms. Anderson thanked the Board for the plaque. Ms. Anderson explained the application process and how they had designed the park. Mr. Hartman described the park's boundaries. Dr. Hays noted that this park was sometimes in good condition, but was sometimes plagued by drug dealing. Dr. Hays informed Ms. Anderson of the Board's wish to obtain additional Park Rangers to patrol the parks; she felt the safety issues prevented more people from enjoying the park.

### **2. Naming of Portion of Riverwalk after Laura Ward** Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg referred to a letter he had received from the Stranahan House Board and a letter of support from the Riverwalk Trust recommending that the easternmost Riverwalk Plaza be designated the Laura Ward Riverwalk Plaza in honor of Laura Ward, who had died in January.

Ms. Sandy Casteel said she and Connie Hoffman had worked on this idea and had received very positive response from the Mayor and City Commission. Ms. Casteel remarked that Ms. Ward had been a "dynamic community leader" who had spearheaded local projects and brought funding money into the City.

**Motion** made by Mr. Shover, seconded by Ms. Medalie, to approve the designation of the easternmost Riverwalk Plaza as Laura Ward Riverwalk Plaza. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

### **3. Special Events Update**

Vince Gizzi

Mr. Gizzi introduced Stephanie Brady, who worked in Special Events. Dr. Hays asked Stephanie to send a flyer to the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations for the Big Toy and Truck Extravaganza so they could help promote it.

The Board gave Ms. Brady several suggestions for City events:

- ❖ Grand Prix Fort Lauderdale
- ❖ A kite flying event at the beach
- ❖ Big League World Series [17-18 year-olds]
- ❖ Dragon Boat festival
- ❖ Skateboard tournament
- ❖ Universal Picnic in the Park Day
- ❖ Sandcastle competition
- ❖ Chili Cook-off
- ❖ Talent/singing competition
- ❖ Box-cart competition

Mr. Hartman had created a list of event categories:

- ❖ Senior citizens
- ❖ Athletic/competitive
- ❖ Historic/cultural
- ❖ Kids
- ❖ Dogs
- ❖ Military
- ❖ Nature
- ❖ Swimming/Pool/lifeguard

Mr. Gizzi reminded the Board that many outside groups, such as the Humane Society, used the parks for events. Some of these events were co-produced by the City. Mr. Hartman noted the tremendous economic impact of these events on the City and County.

Mr. Natale wanted to consider which events they had lost and might want to get back, such as the Octoberfest and the Cajun Fest.

Mr. Shover recommended that staff evaluate the Board's suggestions and return with their ideas.

### **4. Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program Update**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg referred to a memo regarding the Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond

Program. He noted that a portion of the Harbordale Park property had been purchased, but they were still working on a few other properties in the Harbordale neighborhood. The Pinecrest property was a section off of Cypress Creek, which they are trying to acquire. Coral Ridge Isles Park is a new property off of Bayview near 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Negotiations are currently in progress with the owner of that property.

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board they had met with the County and he felt some open space money would still be available. He asked Board members to advise him of any properties they felt would be a nice place for a park. Dr. Hays wanted the Riverland/441 site considered.

### **5. Hurricane Debris Sites**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that the Public Works Department had been unable to find private or County property for debris sites and referred to a memo indicating the four debris sites recommended to the City Commission: Mills Pond Park, Snyder Park, Holiday Park and Lockhart Stadium. Mr. Thornburg noted that there had been no discussion on the Public Works Department's recommendation at the conference meeting. Dr. Hays was disturbed that the City Commission did not offer an opportunity to bring the subject up for public discussion at the conference meeting. Dr. Hays and Chair Rude wondered if it would be possible to offer the post-hurricane food, ice and water distribution services in the parks if they were used as debris sites.

Dr. Hays asked if the City had determined if Holiday Park would be a distribution center in the City's new emergency preparedness plan. Mr. Thornburg did not know yet. He informed the Board that the City had recently hired a new Emergency Operations Center manager, and she was making progress with the City's new emergency response plan.

### **6. Parks, Recreation and Beaches Advisory Board Scheduled Meeting Time**

Phil Thornburg

The Board discussed the possibility of changing their meeting time. Board members agreed that in order to keep their meetings as accessible to the public as possible, they would keep their current time.

### **7. Director's Report**

Phil Thornburg

Mr. Thornburg distributed copies of the main duties and responsibilities of the Board. Ms. Irizarry-Binon clarified that if a Board member was automatically removed from the Board for absences, appeals were now made to Board members' appointing Commissioners instead of the Board Chair.

### **Other Items of Interest**

Mr. Hoysgaard remembered when Board members were offered VIP seating for the Air and Sea Show. Mr. Hoysgaard had read that the producer was now mandated to provide the City with a certain number of tickets. Mr. Hoysgaard felt the City Commission would be offered the tickets first, and next they should be offered to the Parks and Recreation Board. Mr. Thornburg stated that no tickets had been distributed as yet and the contract stipulated that 50 tickets per day would be provided to the City for the preferred seating area. These tickets were delivered to Mr. Thornburg's office today and would be sent to the City Manager's office. Mr. Thornburg agreed to inform the City Manager that the Board was interested in some of the tickets.

Mr. Shover informed the Board that Croissant Park Civic Association had their Easter Egg Hunt the Saturday before Easter at Croissant Park Pool. Mr. Shover felt it was a fabulous event and congratulated Ronnie Lakatos for a job well done.

Dr. Hays asked if they could see a presentation on the Parks' After school programs in the near future and if that presentation could be made available to the Education Advisory Board as well. Mr. Thornburg informed the Board that this was in the works and he would bring it to the Board on the next agenda.

Dr. Hays referred to City Manager Gretsas's statement that he did not want the City Commission to address "minutiae" on their agenda. Dr. Hays wondered what the City Manager considered minutiae, whether this should concern the citizens, and where minutiae was addressed.

Ms. Medalie wanted to know what impact fees the American Volleyball Players and Ocean Fest were charged. She noted that the volleyball competition entrance fee are high and a large section of beach was taken over for approximately two weeks. She had asked a few people, including City Manager Gretsas, who had not answered her. She wondered if they could generate more revenue by charging the events more. Mr. Thornburg said he could find out the amount charged, which included a permit fee, a rental fee for the park and revenue from the parking.

Ms. Rynart informed the Board that the State had decided not to remove or mark turtle nests any longer, so all beach cleaning above the rack line [the high water mark] must be done manually. Mr. Hartman felt they should let the public know about the impact the turtle nesting would have on beach cleanup; it might encourage people to be more conscious of their beach litter and to perform volunteer cleanup. Mr. Nast noted that all high school students needed community service hours and he felt they could earn hours cleaning the beach.

Dr. Hays noted an article she had read regarding a park volunteers program that included people who were usually not included, such as handicapped individuals. She promised to bring this article to their next meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Handouts:

1. Guide to Fort Lauderdale parks' summer programs
2. Outline of PRAB duties and requirements
3. Safe Parks and Land Preservation Bond Program Annual Report
4. Article Excerpt: Top Ten Reasons Parks are Important