

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2007 7:30 a.m. — T. Y. Park — Hollywood

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Terry Danger
Dianne Johnson
Sharon Kent
Gerald Knight
Alanna Mersinger
Quentin Morgan, Chair
Hazelle Rogers
Guy Roper
Sheila Rose
Steven Sampier
Bill Spute
Milette Thurston

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ronald Goff
Steve Person
Ed Portner

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Harbin, Parks & Rec.
Mike Harlan, Parks & Rec.
Jaime Plana, Parks & Rec.
Gayle Preston, Parks & Rec.
Sarah Perkins, Parks & Rec.
Bill Gilmartin, Parks & Rec.
Charlene Scarfone, Parks & Rec.
Meoshi Jackson, Parks & Rec.

The meeting was called to order by Quentin Morgan at 7:34 a.m., after which all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Morgan then presented Bill Spute with a plaque in appreciation of his past service as Chair of the Advisory Board.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2006. Bill Spute made the motion, which was seconded by Sheila Rose and passed unanimously.

Employee of the Month for January and February 2007

Gayle Preston was present on behalf of Patty Mahoney to accept her award for Employee of the Month for January. Charlene Scarfone was congratulated as Employee of the Month for February. Both employees were applauded for their accomplishments and work ethics and were awarded framed certificates of appreciation and gift certificates for area restaurants.

Park Manager's Report

Bill Gilmartin, Park Manager III for T.Y. Park, gave the Board an update on the park. There is a ten million dollar facelift underway. Renovation of the campgrounds is underway and will include: an upgrade to 50 amps, a new air conditioned restroom facility, Wi-Fi capability, cable television hookups, etc. There will be a new district maintenance building on the east end of the park; the swimming lagoon has been demolished and will be renovated soon; the basketball courts will be moved to the center of the park, enabling easier access for children; the entire entrance to the park will be revamped; the walking path will be widened to ten feet; and the office and meeting room will be renovated as well.

Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) Update

Bob Harbin informed the Board that Parks' 2007-2008 budget is in the process of being prepared. County government is taking a different approach toward the budget process. There will be public hearings held on this subject in September.

Mr. Harbin will go to Washington, D.C. this month to answer any questions from the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

The campgrounds at T.Y. Park are closed for renovations; the Quiet Waters Park campgrounds will open by the end of this month; Markham Park's campgrounds have been renovated and re-opened; Easterlin Park's campgrounds are open, but there are still about 13 FEMA trailers onsite.

The County Commission has asked that County staff find improved boat ramp access for salt water. There are limited parking spaces and boat ramps available in Broward County. Parks staff met with various cities last December and came up with some ideas. They explored things like expanding existing boat ramps; looking into a parking garage that would house boats and cars, etc. This is a long range project that may not come into fruition for some time.

Parks will hold its annual public meeting for input on Wednesday, February 21, 2007, 6:00 p.m. at the Fern Forest Nature Center. Staff will remind the Board of this meeting at a later date.

When Bill Spute asked if Deerfield Island Park was open to the public, Mr. Harbin responded that it is not. However, on February 6, 2007, the County Commission approved a contract with a vendor to clean up the debris left in some natural areas after Hurricane Wilma. Deerfield Island is included.

Bond Construction Update

Jaime Plana informed the Board of the following: the prototype bids for basketball roofs, corporate shelters, and maintenance facilities came in at \$3.5 million over budget; the bids for Roosevelt Gardens Park came in within budget. Central Broward Regional Park (CBRP) was negotiated in December at about \$7.5 million over budget; the contractor is proceeding and the progress is beginning to show. T.Y. Park has a lot of renovation taking place; a public meeting will be held tonight to discuss Vista View Park; public meetings for Everglades Holiday Park will be held toward the end of the month. Some of the members were concerned as to whether the public, homeowners' associations for example, are being properly noticed for these meetings. Dianne Johnson asked that the Board be notified of all public meetings being held.

Mr. Plana informed Board that the Bond Issue funded an Art in Public Places program. This produced master plans for art pieces to be displayed parks. One piece will be on display in an art garden in the Long Key Natural Area, and a sculpture will also be housed in a rotunda in CBRP, near the State Road 7/441 entrance. Ms. Johnson asked that staff provide the Board with a master plan for Vista View Park. When Bill Spute asked for the status of West Pompano Beach Highlands, Mr. Plana responded that the project is over budget and will be re-bid. Mr. Plana informed that the reforestation of Quiet Waters Park is progressing very well, with at least 1,000 trees having been planted and over \$3.2 million spent. Trees are still being planted in Markham Park also. Hazelle Rogers asked if staff could provide the Board with a list of pending construction projects.

Old Business

Restrictive Covenants for Park Development Protection

Bob Harbin informed the Board that the standard form for the restrictive covenants for both park properties and properties designated as urban wilderness were approved by the County Commission. Mr. Harbin thanked the Board for their efforts in this respect.

Sheila Rose reminded the Board that there was some discussion, at the County Commission level, about discontinuing the tree trimming licensure program maintained by the Broward County Extension Education Division (in conjunction with the University of Florida/IFAS). Ms. Rose prepared a draft resolution for the Board's review that could be submitted to the County Commission in support of this program. Terry Danger moved the motion to adopt the draft resolution, and it was seconded by Alanna Mersinger.

Land Preservation and Acquisition Advisory Board (LPAB) Update

Hazelle Rogers informed that the LPAB now has a budget with a balance of around \$7 million due to the elimination of projects that were unencumbered and had not moved forward.

New Business

Quentin Morgan introduced Steven Sampier, a previous member, who was appointed to the Board in January 2007. Mr. Morgan and the other Board members welcomed him back.

Meeting Time – Letter from Commissioner Ritter

The Board members received letters from Commissioner Stacy Ritter asking that the members consider changing the meeting time of the Parks Advisory Board; making it more convenient, and allowing improved community input. The Commissioner also made reference to the meeting being held at 7:30 a.m. in downtown Fort Lauderdale.

There was some discussion as to the interpretation of the letter. The public participation concerns could be related to meeting attendance by the public or serving as a Board member. Addressing either would necessitate taking into consideration other obligations such as the transportation of children to school.

Before the Board takes a stand, Bob Harbin and Quentin Morgan will communicate with Commissioner Ritter. They will explore her concerns and make it known that the Board rotates its monthly meetings to cover different areas of Broward County. Dianne Johnson suggested that, in addition to the Parks and Recreation Division's annual public meeting, the Board hold one or two annual meetings during evening hours to allow for greater community input. Hazelle Rogers suggested using the Budget Workshop as one of those forums.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on March 7, 2007, at Sunview Park.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:43 a.m.