

## MINUTES

### PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of December 5, 2007

7:30 a.m. — Fern Forest Nature Center — Coconut Creek

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Terry Danger  
Sharon Kent  
Marc Kiar  
Alanna Mersinger  
Quentin Morgan, Chair  
Stephen Oyer-Owens  
Ed Portner  
Hazelle Rogers  
Guy Roper  
Sheila Rose  
Bill Spute  
Jack Talabisco  
Milette Thurston

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Steven Sampier  
Gretchen Menk Tindle

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Bob Harbin, Parks & Rec.  
Mike Harlan, Parks & Rec.  
Gayle Preston, Parks & Rec.  
Jim Davis, Parks & Rec.  
Nikki Hochberg, Parks & Rec.  
Lou Metz, Parks & Rec.  
Neil Allen, Parks & Rec.  
Meoshi Jackson, Parks & Rec.

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The meeting was called to order by Quentin Morgan at 7:46 a.m., after which all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Morgan asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of November 7, 2007. Bill Spute made the motion, which was seconded by Stephen Oyer-Owens and passed unanimously.

#### **Employee of the Month for December 2007**

Neil Allen was congratulated as Employee of the Month for December. 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**

Nikki Hochberg, Parks Naturalist II, welcomed the Board and gave them an update on the Fern Forest Nature Center. Some upcoming events include an astronomy lecture series beginning at 7:00 p.m. on December 20, 2007; beginning on December 18, 2007, monthly lectures on Native American Medicinal Plants will be held in conjunction with the Florida Public Archeology Network; the free Jamming program will take place every second Sunday of the month from 2:00-4:00 p.m.; Girl Scout and Boy Scout programs will continue; and ECOAction days will take place the first Saturday of the month. The Nature Center offers educational programs, in conjunction with the School Board, targeted at educating children about Florida's natural resources. Ms. Hochberg then mentioned that a large amount of the canopy has been replanted at Fern Forest since the damage caused by Hurricane Wilma. She is also looking forward to the upcoming renovations to the restrooms and boardwalks.

### **Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) Update**

Bob Harbin informed the Board that staff would begin working on the budget for next year. They will explore benchmarking other park and recreation agencies statewide and, possibly, nationwide. The County will hold a budget workshop on December 15, 2007. Though any decisions made by the State Legislature in January will greatly affect this process. In the end, the goal is to keep parks open, safe, and clean while causing the least amount of impact on the public's use of the parks. Mr. Harbin stated that he would like to adhere to this theme and not lose any employees in the process.

Mr. Harbin thanked the members that attended Central Broward Regional Park's (CBRP) opening. It is estimated that 700-900 attendees were at the ceremony. He also reminded the members that they could let him know if they would like a tour of this impressive facility.

Five new park openings will have taken place within a six month period. This includes Roosevelt Gardens, a five acre neighborhood park that opened on November 26, 2007; the Helene Klein Pineland Preserve Natural Area in Coconut Creek will open in January 2008; and a new nature center will be opened in Davie in February.

The Parks and Recreation Division will hold its Annual Employee Meeting on January 16, 2008.

The Division is in the process of negotiating their first food and beverage concession operation which will primarily be used at CBRP.

Staff held a public meeting recently regarding Everglades Holiday Park. There were approximately 100 people in attendance. The public was informed that operating the park on a 24-hour basis is feasible. Mr. Harbin explained that this seemed to be one of the residents' greatest concerns.

Sharon Kent asked if the Division had a Friends of the Park Trust Fund. Mr. Harbin responded that there are two accounts specifically designated for the Parks and Recreation Division, both of which have been untouched. They are the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and the Natural Area Trust Fund. The Board can recommend the allocation of the Parks Trust Funds for supplementing capital projects so that staff can avoid using operating funds. The interest earned on the Natural Area Trust Fund can be used to help maintain the natural areas.

Ms. Kent asked if there was any instrument that the Board could create for day to day operations. She used trust fund or contributions fund as examples. Specifying one park could be considered. Alanna Mersinger suggested that the contributions be non-recurring as these funding sources can be erratic. Mr. Oyer-Owens asked that staff research the option of having contributors with large estates include the Division in their wills.

Mr. Harbin will gather information for the Board's review. Ms. Kent also suggested forming a subcommittee with naturalists that can recommend ways to allocate the funds.

### **Bond Construction Update**

Jaime Plana informed the Board that there are various prototype projects that are in the permitting phase right now. These prototypes are for corporate shelters, basketball covers, and maintenance facilities. There are also various projects that are in the bidding phase that Mr.

Plana's office has been given approval to move forward on, after having been put on hold in June.

Staff has been finishing up five major design builds that include CBRP, Brian Piccolo, and Markham Parks.

Staff obtained a temporary Certificate of Occupancy (CO) for Tree Tops Parks.

The Long Key Nature Center will obtain a CO before the end of the year, and is anticipated to be opened by February 2008.

Miramar Pinelands is slated for replatting and site plan approval, and it is progressing.

Shelia Rose asked for the status of the proposed family aquatics center for Tradewinds Park North. Lou Metz gave the Board an update on this project, which is still in negotiations.

### **Old Business**

At a previous meeting, a question was raised as to whether or not park buildings were green (designed to be energy efficient and environmentally friendly). Mr. Harbin informed the Board that in order to be LEED Program compliant, the Division will need to obtain certification that costs \$2.50 per square foot. As an example, the new field house at CBRP alone could cost around \$50,000 to certify. Mr. Plana, however, explained that the buildings are being well planned out and are following many of the LEED Program guidelines anyway.

Ed Portner asked for an update on the Holiday Fantasy of Lights. Mr. Harbin explained that the timing was not favorable enough to hold the event this year considering the budget climate, the short planning window, and the vendor's want for display sponsors. However, the Division plans to contract the event out next year.

### **New Business**

#### **2008 Meeting Locations**

A motion was made to cancel the January 2, 2008 meeting and approve the 2008 Meeting Locations list, as amended, and passed unanimously.

Hazelle Rogers explained to the Board that serving as a member of the Charter Review Commission, as well as other commitments, has caused her schedule to become too hectic. Although she has enjoyed her tenure as a Parks Advisory Board member, Ms. Rogers will not be able to serve on the Board any longer. Ms. Kent thanked Ms. Rogers for her contributions to this Board, as well as to the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Ms. Kent made a motion to nominate Bill Spute to serve on the Land Preservation Advisory Board, which was seconded by Guy Roper and passed unanimously.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on February 6, 2008, 6:00 p.m., at Roosevelt Gardens Park.

### **Adjournment**

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