

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 4, 2007

7:30 a.m. — Secret Woods Nature Center — Dania Beach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Terry Danger
Dianne Johnson
Sharon Kent
Marc Kiar
Gerald Knight
Alanna Mersinger
Quentin Morgan, Chair
Ed Portner
Hazelle Rogers
Guy Roper
Steven Sampier
Bill Spute
Jack Talabisco
Milette Thurston

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Steve Person
Sheila Rose

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Harbin, Parks & Rec.
Jaime Plana, Parks & Rec.
Chester Pruitt, Parks & Rec.
Gil MacAdam, Parks & Rec.
Gretel Porcaro, Parks & Rec.
Dick Martorelli, Parks & Rec.
Mary Noe, Parks & Rec.
J.C. Hernandez, Parks & Rec.
Meoshi Jackson, Parks & Rec.

The meeting was called to order by Bill Spute at 7:37 a.m., after which all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Spute asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2007. Ed Portner made the motion, which was seconded by Sharon Kent and passed unanimously.

Employee of the Month for April 2007

Mary Noe was congratulated as Employee of the Month for April. She was applauded for her accomplishments and work ethics and was awarded a framed certificate of appreciation and a gift certificate for an area restaurant.

Park Manager's Report

J.C. Hernandez, Park Naturalist I, welcomed the Board and gave them an update on the Secret Woods Nature Center. Secret Woods is comprised of 56 acres and opened in September 1978 as Broward County's first nature center. It is currently undergoing renovations which include the bathrooms and kitchen, and will include a new roof and updated lighting. A new 3,600 sq. ft. walk-through butterfly garden is now in place. It is a self-guided garden that exclusively houses native plants that are labeled for the public's information. Hikers can utilize a 3,600 foot boardwalk that leads to the south fork of the New River and is routed through two completely different eco-systems. Two nature trails are also available. The Center also offers programs such as Nature Tots, puppet shows, educational walks for high school and college students, and various cultural programs. There is an exhibit hall on hand and an animal display room should be opened to the public within a few months.

Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) Update

Bob Harbin informed the Board that the new budget process has been ongoing. County Administration has asked that the Divisions hold meetings explaining the new budget process. Dick Martorelli, Administrative and Finance Services Manager, was present to give the Board a presentation on the subject.

Although Parks is currently undergoing a hiring freeze, staff is working to get approval to fill critical positions.

To date, Deerfield Island and Woodmont Natural Areas have been reopened to the public.

Bond Construction Update

Jaime Plana passed around up-to-date aerial photos of the Central Broward Regional Park (CBRP) for the Board's perusal. Mr. Plana encouraged the Board to visit the site.

The Secret Woods Nature Center will be getting a long awaited new roof.

The Bond issue will be coming to an end by the end of this year. This will include the elimination of Bond positions in the Planning & Design Section.

It is anticipated that Parks' Planning & Design Section will be shifted to the Public Works & Transportation Department by the end of the year. It will not affect any of Parks' on-going construction projects, as the Division will still serve as a client to the Public Works Department. Mr. Plana said that this transition could relieve Parks from certain duties involving construction; it could offer Planning & Design more shared resources; and it may even allow them to complete projects earlier. Minor renovations will continue be handled by Parks' trade staff.

The Long Key Nature Center is under full construction and will be the County's fourth nature center.

Staff is working on obtaining site plan approval of the development of Miramar Pineland Park.

A Selection Committee meeting will be held to discuss Everglades Holiday Park on May 24, 2007, in room 302 of the Governmental Center.

Old Business

Meeting Time – Letter from Commissioner Ritter

Commissioner Stacy Ritter requested that the Board reconsider her concerns about the current meeting time. The Board's interpretation of the commissioner's letter was that a meeting time change could increase the amount of attendees. The commissioner may also have been concerned about potential appointees and whether they could meet at the current time. There was discussion about whether any meeting time chosen could be considered convenient. Members agreed that representation is currently at its best given the existing schedule. Dianne Johnson suggested that the Board consider a pilot program wherein one or two meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. instead of the morning. Jack Talabisco suggested that the Board consider alternating between various meeting times as a possible solution. Terry Danger reminded the Board that, at a previous meeting, it was decided to have one or two evening meetings to address Commissioner Ritter's concerns. Mr. Danger said that this information will need to be

relayed to the commissioner so that the Board can move forward. Mr. Talabisco volunteered to speak with Commissioner Ritter and give the Board an update at a later meeting.

Revised Advisory Board Policy

Ed Portner asked for an update on a previous discussion about the revised Advisory Board Policy. Meoshi Jackson explained that, per Patrice Eichen, the policy on indicating whether or not a member would or would not be attending prior to the meeting is a suggestion that could be followed. However, excused absences are determined as part of a County Commission approved ordinance that must be adhered to with no exceptions to the rule.

New Business

Budget Presentation

Mr. Martorelli gave the Board a presentation on the County's new budget process and answered questions.

Hazelle Rogers suggested that whenever the Board plans to discuss something specific to the public, such as this Budget Presentation, it should be included in any public notices so that more public input can be generated.

Presentation and Approval of the Herman and Dorothy Shooster Preserve Master Plan Gretel Porcaro, Natural Resource Specialist

Ms. Porcaro and Gil MacAdam, Environmental Section Manager, presented the Board with the master plan and answered questions. Hazelle Rogers made a motion to approve the master plan for the Herman and Dorothy Shooster Preserve, which was seconded by Bill Spute. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Harbin announced that Mr. MacAdam will be retiring after 33 years of working in Parks' Environmental Section.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 2, 2007, at Delevoe Park.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m.