

MINUTES

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting of November 7, 2007

7:30 a.m. — Quiet Waters Skate Park — Deerfield Beach

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Sharon Kent
Marc Kiar
Quentin Morgan, Chair
Stephen Oyer-Owens
Ed Portner
Guy Roper
Sheila Rose
Bill Spute
Jack Talabisco
Milette Thurston
Gretchen Menk Tindle

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Terry Danger
Gerald Knight
Alanna Mersinger
Hazelle Rogers
Steven Sampier

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Harbin, Parks & Rec.
Mike Harlan, Parks & Rec.
Gayle Preston, Parks & Rec.
Chester Pruitt, Parks & Rec.
Bob Roth, Parks & Rec.
Jim Federici, Parks & Rec.
Don Puglisi, Parks & Rec.
Mike Langdon, Parks & Rec.
Meoshi Jackson, Parks & Rec.

The meeting was called to order by Quentin Morgan at 7:43 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 October 3, 2007. Bill Spute made the motion, which was seconded by Sharon Kent and passed unanimously.

Employee of the Month for November 2007

Mike Langdon was congratulated as Employee of the Month for November. 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

Erik Westberg, Parks & Recreation Manager V, welcomed the Board and gave them an update on Quiet Waters and the Skate Park. Quiet Waters Park, which opened in 1983, is a regional park that consists of 433 acres. Amenities include Splash Adventure, Ski Rixen cable water skiing, camping, boat rentals, and mountain bike trails (which are currently under construction).

Mr. Westberg updated the Board on some upcoming events and projects, including the reopening of the campgrounds this past September. They were expanded with the addition of four sites, and two of those are teepees. Sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, and a tether ball court were also added. The International Mountain Bike Trail Association (IMBA) was hired to design the mountain bike trails. Employees and volunteers are working together to build them, and the first section of the trail may be opened by mid-December. 71 Motorola employees came to the park, as part of a volunteer effort, and planted 1,312 plants along the mountain bike trail and 35 in the butterfly gardens.

Quiet Waters will be hosting the National Wakeboard Championship and the Ultimate Athlete Competition during the weekend of November 9-11. They will also host their second annual Candy Cane Hunt in December.

Parks and Recreation Division (Parks) Update

Bob Harbin reminded the Board that the opening ceremony for Central Broward Regional Park (CBRP) will take place on November 9th at 4:00 p.m. The construction company obtained a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy, and the park will be operational and opened to the public on Saturday, November 10th. It consists of 110 acres, including a multipurpose field that has 5,000 covered seats. It has the potential to host international cricket events, football, soccer, as well as many other possibilities. There are two additional multipurpose fields, a two-story field house, two large corporate picnic shelters, as well as smaller shelters, nature trails, two natural area habitats, and there will also be an instructional pool. Mr. Harbin then credited Jaime Plana for his work in creating the original master plan for the park.

The Division invited the public to attend a public forum being held on November 14th, regarding the master plan for Everglades Holiday Park. It will be at the BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise at 7:00 p.m.

Ed Portner asked whether or not the 2007 Holiday Fantasy of Lights will be held. Mr. Harbin informed the Board that, due to budget restraints, it was canceled. Although Brandano Displays, Inc. offered to operate the show at no cost to the County, staff felt that the perception would not be a positive one considering the state of the budget and potential staff reductions. Mr. Harbin commented that they would consider letting the vendor offer it next year on a contractual basis.

Very few complaints have surfaced regarding the gate fee increase from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per person in parks. However, there have been complaints about the parks being closed on certain holidays, such as Veterans' Day. Mr. Harbin reminded the Board that employees are paid time and a half on holidays, and salaries make up 74 percent of the budget.

Bond Construction Update

Jim Federici, Project Manager IV for Planning and Design, passed around a Parks and Recreation Project Status Report. There were a few recent park openings and renovation completions, such as the Highlands Scrub Natural Area and T.Y. Park. Roosevelt Gardens will open on November 26th. The Long Key Nature Center is progressing and should be opened in early 2008. Design build projects for Tree Tops and Sunview Parks are also coming along well. The prototype projects for maintenance facilities, corporate shelters, and covered basketball courts are ongoing and will be scattered throughout the County parks.

New Business

Spangler Challenge Grant Revision – City of Oakland Park

The Parks and Recreation Division received a request from the City of Oakland Park to revise their Challenge Grant that was originally allocated for the purchase of the Spangler Property. Jenna LeFleur and Ray Lubomski, from the City of Oakland Park, were in attendance to request that the Board endorse the reallocation of the grant in order to proceed with the Downtown Park Community Center project. If approved, the City will convert an existing 5,420 sq. ft. building, which was designed for warehouse use, into a community center.

Sheila Rose made a motion to approve the Spangler Challenge Grant Revision, which was seconded by Mr. Spute. The motion passed unanimously.

Draft Park Preservation Charter Review Amendment

Mr. Harbin informed the Board that the Charter Review Commission makes recommendations to the County Commission regarding the Broward County Charter. Charter Review's Land Use Subcommittee has proposed a Charter amendment on park preservation, in an effort to strengthen park protection. Charter Review will then make a recommendation to the County Commission that any changes in park property be approved by voter referendum, as opposed to being approved by the County Commission. Charter Review has requested the Board's input as to whether or not they support the amendment or have any objections.

Ms. Rose commented that she felt the Advisory Board should do everything they can to support the initiative, such as serving as a speaker's bureau. Stephen Oyer-Owens asked what the Board can and/or plans to do to educate the voters before the upcoming election. Mr. Spute suggested that a laundry list be created with educational points and made available to the public for their information. Gretchen Menk Tindle commented that the Division's eHighlights newsletter would be a good way to get this laundry list, as well as any other information, out to the public.

Ms. Rose made a motion to endorse and fully support the draft Park Preservation Charter Review Amendment, which was seconded by Jack Talabisco. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Oyer-Owens asked, when considering all of the development taking place in Broward County, what types of planning could take place in the present in order to prepare for a better future.

Mr. Harbin offered some input by saying that the Parks and Recreation Division is made up of approximately 6,500 acres. About half of those will remain natural areas. There needs to be a healthy balance between development and undisturbed areas. Money will be a determining factor, but considering the current financial climate, one can not predict what will happen in that area. In addition, parks and recreation tends to transform over the years and new things will come about that haven't been considered yet. Although standards are set, they can change and there are a lot of unknowns. Mr. Harbin also commented that the Board could form a subcommittee, if they choose to, to discuss these issues and bring recommendations back to the full Board.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on December 5, 2007, at the Fern Forest Nature Center.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.