

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
SOUTH AREA ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 20, 2002

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department South Area Advisory Board was held on Monday, May 20, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. at 51 S. Nieman Avenue, Melbourne, FL.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jerry Jagrowski  
John Corelli  
Ted Whitlock  
Robin Tibbits  
Mary Goelz

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Brian Hurley, Chairman  
Juan Marrero  
Sara Love  
Mary Ann Kise, Vice Chairman

**STAFF ATTENDING**

Karen Palus, South Area Parks Operations Manager  
Barry Portnowitz, Recreation Superintendent  
Jeff Whitehead, Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Tina Webster, Administrative Secretary

**PUBLIC**

Jim Rosasco  
Jeff Berger

**MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Jagrowski, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. in the absence of Mr. Hurley.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES (4/15/02)**

Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to accept the minutes from the 4/15/02 meeting as presented. Mr. Corelli seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

**STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Whitehead informed the committee that staff had a successful pepper busting at Melbourne Riverview Park; staff is preparing for Little League tournaments at Rodes Park and Flutie Park; and managers from Foot Action Shoe Store came out and did a work day at Rodes Park.

Mr. Portnowitz stated that initial registration is complete for all summer camp sites (7 sites) and they are almost full at this point; swim camp has 120 children registered which is almost full as well. Staff is working hard preparing for camp.

Ms. Palus informed the committee that she provided information as requested by Mr. Jeff Berger, South Beach Referendum Committee member.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Jagrowski dispensed with the agenda and asked Mr. Berger if he would like to speak now regarding the information provided to the committee. Mr. Berger introduced himself to the committee and stated that he had served as the Chairman of the South Beach Referendum Committee. He mentioned that he has received hate mail and threats since joining the committee. He also mentioned that members of the committee have used obscene finger gestures. He then spoke regarding the phrase "a meeting after the meeting" referencing that this term was used at the last South Area Advisory Board meeting when Ms. Palus provided her status report regarding the South Beach project. Mr. Berger noted that Ms. Palus supposedly made the comment that more happened at the South Beach meeting at "the meeting after the meeting." He referenced the Committee Guidelines and read page 4, \*Committee members cannot discuss with each other items that could potentially come before the committee. Mr. Berger stated that four members of the committee

MINUTES APPROVED 6/17/02

where present at this and he feels it is a violation of the Sunshine Laws. Mr. Corelli reminded Mr. Berger that this may all be hear say. Mr. Berger stated that Mr. Rosasco was at the South Area Advisory Board meeting when the statement was made about a meeting after the meeting and is the one who informed Mr. Berger. Ms. Palus explained that Mr. Rosasco was present and that may have been his interpretation of what was said but that is not what was meant by her statement. She expressed that what she mentioned was the fact that there was a lot of animosity among the members and what she had mentioned was that she along with several members had started talking about the plan. It was the first time that any of them had been able to ask questions related to the plan because Mr. Berger had not allowed the discussion during the meeting. So her comment to this committee was yes, she can be there to talk to the members to provide technical support and answer questions, not to coerce the committee members, but to provide information and technical support as they had asked. There was no decision making, it was information only. Mr. Berger then stated that the meeting after the meeting did not have a recording secretary, and did not have all members present and therefore is a violation of the Sunshine Laws. Ms. Palus stated that she disagrees; it was part of a public process. The meeting had concluded and is done at other meetings where there is no action and members have questions of staff which staff is allowed to provide. Mr. Berger mentioned that because this project is such controversial issue and due to the unprofessional behavior of some members, he feels that everyone should abide by Sunshine Laws and not stretch it. Mr. Jagrowski stated that occasionally members are going to disagree and that is ok. He is concerned about the harassment going on in the South Beaches. Ms. Palus stated that the Sheriffs department is already attending the meetings. She mentioned that the Chairman needs to be the one to bring the committee together. Mr. Jagrowski asked how that would happen and she replied that the committee has a new chairman and the last meeting proved to be productive. Mr. Berger discussed two more examples of abuse by other committee members. One was a threatening phone call and the other was an obscene finger gesture of a committee member to a member of the public. He said that Mr. Rosasco was the one who received the gesture and it was done by Mr. Moore. Mr. Jagrowski stated that he wants to see the committee work together. Ms. Palus cautioned Mr. Berger about pointing fingers at other people because infact Mr. Berger has contributed to those actions as well and they are available in the minutes of the South Beach Referendum Meetings. Mr. Berger asked the members to look at the hand out available in their packets and read some of the inserts from the minutes. He then stated that Mr. Hurley has been part of the problem at the meetings, not part of the solution. Mr. Berger feels that Mr. Hurley has been a bully to him as well. He then stated that Mr. Moore has been verbally abusive as well. He feels that they are trying to coerce him or influence him at the meetings. He stated that he and the new chairman know how to be a good chairman and the new chairman, Mike Slayton is having to deal with the same things as he did in that role including personal character assassination among members. Mr. Berger feels that the South Area Advisory Board could do a service by disbanding the South Beach Committee and starting over. Mr. Jagrowski stated that everyone associated with the committee needs to take a breath, calm down, and learn to work together. The committee instructed Ms. Palus to work with the Chairman to bring the committee together. Mr. Berger asked the Board to not allow this kind of behavior anymore at the meetings. Mr. Jagrowski reiterated that everyone needs to learn to work together whether they all agree on things or not. Mr. Berger stated that he does not believe that Mr. Moore is capable of being civil. Mr. Corelli commented that Mr. Berger is attacking Mr. Moore's character and it is not appropriate. Mr. Berger noted that he has never said anything inappropriate to the committee, but other members of the committee have. Ms. Palus stated that Mr. Berger has said inappropriate things and it is in the minutes. Mr. Jagrowski stated, "You need to grow up and work together." He then said that the South Area Advisory Board along with staff is working to achieve the same goals and work together to do so. That is what needs to be done. He then redirected Ms. Palus to work with the Chairman as previously stated. Mr. Whitlock expressed that if Mr. Berger feels threatened then he needs to go to the Police. Mr. Berger feels that the South Area Advisory Board should do something. Mr. Whitlock reiterated that they are just an Advisory Board and he would need to contact the Police. Mr. Whitlock then made a statement that even with the South Area Advisory Board, members do not always agree; however, just because they disagree on how to get a project done, does not mean that they don't share the same commonality of what needs to be done. There is no reason for threats or anything else; that is not how to get things done. Mr. Berger stated that he feels the Board has a responsibility to do something about the actions of the South Beach Committee. Mr. Jagrowski stated that the committee has tasked Ms. Palus to work with the new chairman to encourage the committee to work together and if there are members that cannot do that then they need to leave the committee.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Palus informed the committee that there are two plans for the committee to review and approve; Flutie Athletic Complex and South Mainland Community Center.

Ms. Palus then explained the Flutie Athletic Complex plan. Mr. Corelli questioned the impact of the scrub jay fringe and Ms. Palus stated that because there is so little impact, staff is not anticipating any problems. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the Flutie Athletic Complex and Ms. Goelz seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Ms. Palus then discussed the South Mainland Community Center plan. She explained that the Grand Opening for the Gym would be June 29, 2002 at 10:30 a.m. Ms. Tibbits made a **MOTION** to approve the South Mainland Community Center Plan and Mr. Whitlock seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Ms. Palus provided a copy of the maintenance facility plans for the committee to look at. They were pleased with the plans. Ms. Palus gave a status of the remaining projects.

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Public input occurred during the meeting and is provided throughout the minutes. Ms. Palus mentioned that Mr. Hurley had asked her to speak on his behalf to request a change of the meeting time back to 7:00 p.m. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to change the time back to 7:00 p.m. and Mr. Corelli seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Ms. Tibbits informed the committee about a weekly sports illustration called the Sweat Gazette which is a free publication and available throughout the county.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There was no further business to discuss. Mr. Corelli made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Ms. Goelz seconded the motion. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2002.