



# SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION

## *South Area Advisory Board*

REGULAR MEETING  
November 21, 2005

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Monday, November 21, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the South Area Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1515 Sarno Road in Melbourne.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

John Corelli, Chairman  
Robin Tibbitts, Member  
Jerry Jagrowski, Member  
Ramona Birmingham, Member  
Ted Whitlock, Member

### MEMBERS ABSENT

Joan Lewis, Member  
Mary Goelz, Member  
Mary Ann Bowman, Member

### STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager  
Jerry Gust, South Area Maintenance Superintendent  
David Moore, South Area Maintenance Superintendent  
Lisa Grizzle, South Area Recreation Superintendent  
Barry Portnowitz, South Area Recreation Superintendent  
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

### PUBLIC

None.

### MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Corelli called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Mr. Corelli noted that a quorum was present and that the meeting would be conducted.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the September 21, 2005, meeting. After review, Mr. Jagrowski made a MOTION to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. Whitlock seconded. UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

### STAFF REPORTS

#### JERRY GUST

Mr. Gust informed the Board that repairs to the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Boat Ramp and Fisherman's Landing were finally underway after more than one year. Work on the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Boat Ramp would cost approximately \$39,000 to \$40,000, while the expense to repair Fisherman's Landing would be in the area of \$279,000. Mr. Whitehead noted that, during repair of the 1<sup>st</sup> Street Boat Ramp, residents of the island were informed that they could utilize Fisherman's Landing for parking their vehicles and boats and that such arrangement was working out well.

Mr. Gust proceeded to inform the Board on the progress at Micco Park, noting that all of the necessary demolition was performed in-house. Mr. Gust further stated that irrigation had begun and that grading was completed. Mr. Whitehead informed the Board that a "tree planting work day" involving Parks and Recreation staff and residents of the community would be scheduled in the near future.

Mr. Gust reported that the tentative completion date for construction at Palm Bay Regional Park was January 1, 2006, but that an extension of 30 to 60 days might be required. Bids for construction of the community center had been received and opened but not yet awarded. Multi-purpose fields were being sprigged, and staff was working to add additional drainage around the soccer fields. Mr. Corelli inquired as to the reason for the delay, and Mr. Gust responded that all of the record rainfall had forced the contractor to request extensions at certain times.

Mr. Gust informed the Board that a team had been attained to perform a topographical survey of 120 acres at Rodes Park. Mr. Whitehead continued that initial topographical studies revealed more wetlands at Rodes than were originally expected. It was noted that Hurricane Wilma caused damage to the baseball backstops at Rodes and washed out one of the boat ramps at Jorgenson's Landing but that the damage, in general, was nothing like last year.

With regard to Palm Bay Regional Park, Mr. Jagrowski inquired as to whether the County was tied in with the City of Palm Bay. Mr. Whitehead responded that, when Mr. Nelson was the director, he had discussed the possibility of sharing some facilities. Mr. Whitehead further noted that he would like to see the County oversee various softball programs and run leagues in order to offer a higher caliber of event and that he would be happy to work with the City of Palm Bay if that was a stipulation. Mr. Jagrowski inquired as to whether the County currently had any programs being offered at the City's sites, and Mr. Portnowitz remarked that is indeed the case and cited Liberty Park as one example. Mr. Whitlock asked if the drainage situation was being remedied at Palm Bay Regional Park, and Mr. Gust replied that staff was expecting one additional quote and a start date was anticipated for the following week. Mr. Whitlock also asked if any complaints had come from the soccer organizations, and Mr. Gust and Mr. Whitehead stated that there had been and that drainage is an issue. Mr. Whitlock expressed that he was surprised at the animosity displayed by the groups and also noted that he was disappointed that the City of Palm Bay's referendum had failed.

#### **DAVID MOORE**

Mr. Moore informed the Board that work had begun on the Wallace Street Crossover, which was damaged during the 2004 hurricane season, and also noted that FEMA repairs to the Eau Gallie Boat Ramp were underway.

Mr. Moore indicated that, because bids had become exceedingly exorbitant, the Department attempted to partner with the School Board on the Geiger Point project. Mr. Whitehead noted that Dixon Electric was no longer performing activities related to ballfield lighting and that staff was still seeking a company from a surrounding county that could perform that type of work.

Mr. Moore informed the Board that the placement of sod at Viera Regional Park had been delayed several times but that it should be in place by December 15, 2005. Mr. Moore further indicated that the hiring process had begun for Viera Regional and that a domino effect would more than likely ensue because of individuals moving around within the Department. It was noted that the paving and other site work was nearly completed at Viera Regional and that, even with the torrential amounts of rain that had been experienced, the drainage was excellent.

At S.P.R.A., Mr. Moore noted that the power had been cut during 2004 and was still not reconnected, but it was becoming close to being done. In addition, it was noted that the observation deck needed to come into compliance with ADA standards.

Mr. Moore also informed the Board that abatement had begun at Canova Beach Park and was scheduled to take place over three days.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired into the status of the fishing pier at Suntree Rotary, and Mr. Whitehead responded that it had recently gone out to bid. Mr. Jagrowski also asked about POW/MIA, and Mr. Whitehead replied that a contractor was close to being chosen.

#### **LISA GRIZZLE**

Ms. Grizzle informed the Board that Mr. Dean Gross, former Storekeeper for South Area Parks Operations, had been selected to serve as the Supervisor for Long Point Campground after serving in that position as Interim Supervisor for several weeks. Ms. Grizzle noted that the winter campers were starting to arrive for the season and that staff and visitors had to cope with much shoreline erosion.

Ms. Grizzle brought to the Board's attention a situation in the vicinity of South Beaches involving Australian Pines on County property that fell on various boats and screened porches as a result of Hurricane Wilma. Ms. Grizzle indicated that the Department was working with the County's Risk Management Department in order to alleviate some of the costs associated with the damage. Mr. Whitehead noted that he would be meeting with Commissioner Voltz with regard to the situation and informed the Board that the canal in this vicinity belonged to the St. John's Water Management District.

Ms. Grizzle continued that Melbourne Riverview Park attained some damage from Hurricane Wilma and that the Hope Workers had again done an excellent job of getting the Park back into shape.

Because several light shrouds were damaged during Hurricane Wilma, which could have potentially caused serious injury, Flutie Athletic Complex was closed for approximately two weeks. The concession stands have been scheduled for completion by January 15, 2006, and progress is on track.

Ms. Grizzle informed the Board that, after more than one year, the Supervisor II position at Wickham Park had been filled by Ms. Jessica Breault, former Interim Supervisor at Rodes Park. The Rotary would again be conducting its holiday light display, which would begin on November 22. Campground improvements and installation of restrooms at Wickham have been slated for completion in April 2006, and Mr. Whitehead noted that this work was to have been completed for the campers' arrival during the winter of 2005. Mr. Whitlock noted that the Veterans' reunion was going to be conducted in April. Ms. Grizzle noted that a schedule was not yet available for the equestrian arena but that the amphitheatre was on track and that a "bandshell" design was being utilized. It was noted that \$10,000 was available in the "Friends of Wickham Park" fund, which may go toward construction of the main pavilion.

Ms. Grizzle reported that some individuals involved with mountain biking assisted the Department with removing various hazards along the biking and hiking trails that posed a threat of injury to persons using the trails. Mr. Whitehead noted that a variety of groups utilized the trails and that each had its own idea of how the trails should be and that it may be difficult to unite these groups and have them reach a consensus.

Ms. Grizzle noted that there had been some damage to the poles that support the safety nets at the soccer fields and that a time was being agreed upon for repairs.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired as to the time frame for the construction of the Veterans' memorial, and Ms. Grizzle responded that the memorial was part of the next phase. Mr. Jagrowski also inquired as to the purchase of various parcels of land within the Park that were not owned by the County. Ms. Grizzle replied that the County would potentially attempt to purchase only those parcels that would have an impact on road access.

Mr. Corelli asked about dog park flooding, and Ms. Grizzle informed the Board that there had been some flooding as well as various problems with dog bites, stating that the dog park was being utilized to a greater extent because of the cooler weather. Ms. Grizzle further indicated that many discussions regarding the general operations of dog parks in Brevard County were imminent, and Mr. Whitehead added that the County Attorney's Office would not allow a non-staffed dog park of any kind in Brevard. Mr. Corelli further inquired into the capacity limit at the dog park, and Ms. Grizzle responded that the current limit is 25.

Mr. Corelli asked about the removal of tree stumps that resulted from the previous year's hurricanes, and Ms. Grizzle responded that a contractor would be coming in to remove the stumps and to do some replanting.

#### **BARRY PORTNOWITZ**

Mr. Portnowitz reported that there was some minor damage at Erna Nixon Nature Center from Hurricane Wilma but that the Moonlight Stroll event was still able to be conducted and was successful. In addition, Mr. Portnowitz indicated that there had also been some very minor damage at the Palm Bay Aquatic Center but that the pool was up and running and that lessons were being offered.

At Hoover, volleyball and soccer tournaments would be taking place on a year-round basis. Mr. Portnowitz also mentioned the success of the Empty Bowls benefit, which raised \$2,500 for Daily Bread in Melbourne.

Mr. Portnowitz indicated that day camps would be held during the Winter Break at South Mainland Community Center as well as Spessard Holland Elementary School. Mr. Portnowitz further noted that Brevard County before- and after-school programs were no longer in the elementary schools because the schools were providing their own. County programs were now only being offered at South Mainland Community Center, Grant Community Center and the Rodes Park Community Center. Mr. Portnowitz stressed the importance of the construction of additional community centers in Brevard County so that the County's programs could be provided. Mr. Whitlock noted that the County had been able to utilize the schools for many years, and Mr. Portnowitz indicated that, generally, this would be the last summer for programs in the schools, but that a couple schools may be able to be utilized intermittently.

Mr. Corelli inquired into the condition of the retention ponds at Wickham Park, and Mr. Whitehead indicated that the pertinent individuals were fully aware of the situation.

Mr. Whitehead informed the Board that the Space Coast Model Sailing Club was interested in purchasing materials for a pavilion at Wickham Park and had \$4,500 to put toward the endeavor. The Department would be responsible for the actual construction of the pavilion.

Mr. Whitehead extended kudos to all staff members for their efforts during the hurricane season and noted that this would be Ms. Grizzle's last meeting, as she would be relocating.

Mr. Jagrowski inquired into the status of approximately \$1 million that had been set aside for a boat launch on the east (Banana River) side of the Pineda Causeway in 2000. Mr. Whitehead responded that, because Brevard County does not have a state-mandated manatee plan in place, construction could not ensue, as a manatee plan is required to be in place before anything can be constructed in the Banana River. Mr. Whitehead further indicated that he would follow-up with staff.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Grizzle brought to the members' attention that the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Archers had expired and that the group had requested a renewal. Because a new location has been contemplated for the Archers, a six-month MOU was drafted rather than the customary one-year MOU.

Mr. Jagrowski made a MOTION to accept the six-month MOU for the Archers, and Ms. Birmingham seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Whitehead raised the issue of potentially renaming Pavilion IV at Wickham Park as the Sam Fuller Pavilion. Over the years, numerous requests had been made by patrons of Wickham Park and Parks and Recreation staff to have the pavilion renamed as the Sam Fuller Pavilion in order to honor a 31-year employee who spent his entire career with the County serving as a dedicated and devoted employee of Wickham Park. A memo providing documentation of Mr. Fuller's accomplishments and achievements, as well as his moral character, was circulated to Board members, and Mr. Whitehead explained that the first step in being able to rename the pavilion was to obtain Board approval. After a brief discussion on the numerous years of service provided by Mr. Fuller, who is now deceased, Mr. Jagrowski made a MOTION to rename Pavilion IV at Wickham Park as the Sam Fuller Pavilion, and Ms. Tibbitts seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business, Mr. Corelli called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Whitlock made a MOTION to adjourn, and Mr. Jagrowski seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Corelli adjourned the meeting of the South Area Advisory Board at 8:12 p.m. and noted that, because of the Martin Luther King Holiday on January 16, 2006, the next meeting of the South Area Advisory Board would take place on Monday, January 23, 2006.