



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION South Area Advisory Board

Regular Meeting
May 22, 2006

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Monday, May 22, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at the South Area Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1515 Sarno Road, in Melbourne.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Ann Bowman
Jim Rosasco
Jerry Jagrowski
Ted Whitlock
Kevin Walsh
Mary Goelz

MEMBERS ABSENT

Ramona Birmingham
Joan Lewis

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Jerry Gust, South Area Maintenance Superintendent
Fred Poppe, South Area Recreation Superintendent
Barry Portnowitz, South Area Recreation Superintendent
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

None.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

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

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Jagrowski made a **MOTION** to nominate Ms. Bowman for the office of Chairperson, and Mr. Walsh seconded. **DISCUSSION:** Mr. Rosasco requested that, because he was new to the Board, members introduce themselves and provide some background on their experience. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

For the office of Vice Chair, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to nominate Mr. Jagrowski, and Ms. Goelz seconded. The **motion carried by a vote of 5-1**, with Mr. Jagrowski voting in negative.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from March 20, 2006, regular meeting and the April 3, 2006, special meeting. After review, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the March 20, 2006 minutes, and Mr. Rosasco seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Whitlock then made a **MOTION** to approve the April 3, 2006, minutes, and Mr. Jagrowski seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Barry Portnowitz

Mr. Portnowitz reported that various successful events had recently been held at Wickham Park:

- **Eggstravaganza** was held at Easter time and drew more than 1,300 people and children of all ages.
- **Clowning around in the Park** drew about 1,000 people. There were many different activities and 30 clowns participated.

Registration for summer day camps and programs was ongoing, and many of the camps had waiting lists. In addition to the camps offered at Rodes Park and Spessard Holland, Erna Nixon Park would be conducting a nature camp. Parks and Recreation would also be offering a teen camp and **One with the Waters camp.**

Fred Poppe

Mr. Poppe reported that Rodes Park would be hosting the County and All-Star Tournaments for baseball and that staff was working diligently on the fields and buildings at Rodes.

Much debris was taken out of Wickham Park after the fires, and over 150 trees were removed. After a meeting with the Rotary, it was determined that the **LightFest** and the **Holiday Hayride** would be combined at Wickham Park in 2006. Mr. Poppe indicated that he and Wickham Park staff had been in discussions with WFIT with regard to bringing free music festivals to Wickham Park during the summer.

Jerry Gust

Mr. Gust stated that the pier at Fisherman's Landing had been reopened and that some boat ramp issues at John Jorgensen's Landing should be rectified shortly.

The contractor at Palm Bay Regional Park would need to return in order to do a few things, but within a month, the park should be fully functional and up and running. There are, however, various permitting issues with regard to the Community Center at Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Whitlock inquired as to whether there was an estimated opening date, and Mr. Gust replied that it should be scheduled by late summer or early fall. Ground should be broken for the Community Center at Palm Bay Regional Park in about four to six weeks. Mr. Jagrowski asked whether additional funding was received from FEMA for the purpose of hardening all of the new community centers, and Mr. Gust responded that staff looked into the possibility, but FEMA denied the request. Brevard Emergency Management did not provide assistance either.

Progress was being made at Micco Park. The tennis courts had been asphalted, the light poles were in, and sprigging would begin in the near future.

At South Mainland Community Center, summer camp registration was taking place, and the facility also hosted its own **Eggstravaganza**, which turned out to be quite successful.

Jeff Whitehead

Mr. Whitehead reminded the Board that the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners had recently approved an additional \$35 million for Parks and Recreation projects, with roughly \$19 million to be designated for South Area projects. The decision to spend those dollars on park projects was challenged, but the decision was upheld by the Court. Mr. Whitehead reported that the Court's decision was being appealed and would now be going to the Supreme Court to be heard again. Additionally, Commissioner Voltz had recently requested an audit of all the Parks referendum projects.

Mr. Whitehead indicated that the City of Melbourne's Crane Park had been awarded various Little League tournaments and offered to assist in any way possible.

The Senior Center project at Wickham Park was slated to hit the street next. Because of financial constraints, the Senior Center would more than likely be built before the Community Center at Wickham. With regard to the equestrian area at Wickham, the Board of County Commissioners at its last meeting directed Parks and Recreation staff to proceed with building 48 stalls, an announcer's area and judges' station. Mr. Jagrowski inquired into the Veterans' Memorial that was to be constructed at Wickham Park, and Mr. Whitehead ensured that it would be done.

Mr. Walsh inquired about the funding issue in general, and Mr. Whitehead responded that projects were still \$28 million in the hole, and that the bond issue being challenged again did not help. Mr. Rosasco indicated that someone has to be held accountable for the status of the finances of these projects and that someone had to perform an investigation in order to determine what projects are viable. Mr. Whitehead indicated that the SAAB

would more than likely be involved in much of that decision-making process and noted that many items would be coming before the SAAB for its review and recommendation.

Mr. Rosasco noted that one major function of the SAAB was to be the eyes and ears of the community and for its members to report back to the commissioners that appointed them. Mr. Whitehead concurred and also suggested that SAAB members should start thinking about ideas to help get through the deficit.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Jagrowski provided a brief update on Viera Regional Park and indicated that the gas line issue needs to be resolved, the ball field fence needs to be adjusted, and hopes were high for receiving a new transformer sometime during the week. The grass was doing great, and the Grand Opening date for the park was slated for August 5, 2006.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Whitehead brought the issue of the number of members on the South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee before the Board. Currently, there are 17 members on the South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee, and they can rarely conduct business because they cannot attain nine members for a quorum. The Committee therefore approved a motion to request that the SAAB consider reducing the number of members by three and making the status of one of the current members ex-officio, thereby reducing the number of members needed for quorum to seven. Ms. Goelz made a **MOTION** to reduce the number of members of the South Beach Community Park Referendum Committee by three and to make the status of one of the current members ex-officio, thereby reducing the number of members needed for a quorum to seven. Mr. Jagrowski seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

PUBLIC INPUT

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Ms. Bowman called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Jagrowski made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Mr. Whitlock seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Ms. Bowman adjourned the meeting of the South Area Advisory Board at 8:19 p.m. and noted that the next meeting would take place on Monday, July 17, 2006.