



## **SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION South Area Advisory Board**

Regular Meeting  
September 17, 2007

A Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Monday, September 17, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at Viera Regional Community Center, 6288 Athletics Lane, Viera, Florida.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jerry Jagrowski  
J. Keith Farquharson  
Mary Goelz  
Ted Whitlock  
Mary Ann Bowman

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Kevin Walsh  
Joan Lewis  
Guillermo Capote, Sr.

### **STAFF PRESENT**

Jeff Whitehead, Parks Operations Manager  
David Moore, Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Barry Portnowitz, Recreation Superintendent  
Jerry Gust, Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Bernice Smith, Office Assistant I  
Denise Hayes, Administrative Secretary  
Gustavo Vergara, Special Projects Coordinator

### **PUBLIC**

Brice Crossley  
Bob Ball  
Terry Ball  
Richard Cannata  
Ruth McCartney  
Forest McCartney  
Mary Anne Beasley  
Nancy Sewell  
Judi John  
Chuck Manning  
Herb Richter  
Mike Malone

## **MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Ms. Hayes called the roll, and Ms. Bowman noted that a quorum was present and that the meeting would be conducted.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Members were provided with copies of the minutes from the May 22, 2007, meeting, and after review, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the May 22, 2007, minutes, and Ms. Goelz seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

### **David Moore**

Mr. Moore informed the committee that since their last meeting, there was a grand opening of Viera Community Center, and that as of October 6<sup>th</sup>; the community center will be open to the public, with a soft opening the week prior. He stated that the little league baseball tournaments were a huge success, and some planting was done at POW/MIA Park. Mr. Jagrowski asked how the trees that were planted at Viera Regional in April were doing, and Mr. Moore responded that the trees were doing great.

### **Barry Portnowitz**

Mr. Portnowitz stated that his summer camps served about 8,000 children through out the entire summer, and took in over \$200,000 in revenue. He stated that the facility at Viera Regional was used for the first time, and it was very successful, and anywhere from 70 to 130 children attended camp there every week. Wickham Park had around 80 children registered every week, and he also had camps at Hoover Middle School, Grant, and Rodes Park, where there were 130 children weekly. He followed by stating that Sky Hounds had just been hosted at Palm Bay Regional Park, and that this event was usually hosted at Wickham Park, and that the event did very well at Palm Bay Regional Park. He stated that on October 6<sup>th</sup>, Erna Nixon Park will be hosting an event called Old Florida Fest, which used to be called Cracker Fest, and that there was a golf tournament on October 20<sup>th</sup> at Habitat Golf Course benefiting the disabilities program. He added that this was the second annual golf tournament. He stated that Harvest Splendor will take place on October 27<sup>th</sup> at the Franklin Degroot Library and Long Point Park, and that Spooktacular was taking place at the South Mainland Community Center on October 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Whitlock asked if the revenue stream that came in from summer camps went directly into the general fund account, and Mr. Portnowitz responded affirmatively.

### **Jerry Gust**

Mr. Gust stated that September 8, 2007, he and his staff held the grand reopening of Micco Park, and that there was a great turnout for this event, and that all other

referendum projects were continuing to progress. He stated that bids were out for the South Beach Community Park, and that a bid opening for Palm Bay Regional Park was to be held on September 19<sup>th</sup>, which will include the community center and a cricket building. He stated that his staff was working diligently on the baseball and softball fields at Palm Bay Regional Park, and that he was hoping to start some leagues there in the near future. Ms. Bowman asked about the Senior Center at Wickham Park, and Mr. Gust responded that he wasn't sure, but he believed that the site was currently under design and permitting, and that he thanked the City of Melbourne very much for their support on this issue. He stated that staff was looking into possibly building an administrative building for the South Area Parks and Recreation Operations at Wickham Park, but the issue met some resistance from the Wickham Park Advisory Board, so the issue was recessed for the moment. Mr. Jagrowski asked about the Brevard Zoo Linear Trail Project, and Mr. Vergara stated that it was still in design, and that it was close to 90% designed. Mr. Jagrowski asked about combining the committees from Suntree-Viera with the Brevard Zoo Linear Trail Referendum Committee, and Mr. Vergara responded that Brevard County Parks and Recreation was dealing with issues from combining referendum and advisory board groups together, and that when referendum committees mixed with advisory committees, it took voting power away from referendum committees. Discussion ensued regarding differences between referendum and advisory committees and the history of the Suntree – Viera Advisory Committee. Mr. Jagrowski asked where this issue goes from this point, and Mr. Vergara responded that he would have to discuss that with Mr. Lusk and Mr. Whitehead to get a decision on that issue.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Vergara stated that Suzanne Reed was working on the new referendum project website and that she is trying to get it finished as soon as possible.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gust stated that as of Saturday September 22<sup>nd</sup>, the two dog parks run by Brevard County Parks and Recreation will be free of charge and unmanned. He stated that because of budget cuts to the department, the dog park staff had to be laid off. Mr. Whitlock asked about staff for Viera Regional Community Center, and Mr. Moore stated that he took staff from Mr. Portnowitz in order to fill those positions. Mr. Gust added that after the first of October, the current hiring freeze may be lifted in order to fill some vacancies in the department.

### **Jeff Whitehead**

Mr. Whitehead introduced Denise Hayes as the new administrative secretary. He then recognized members of the Oars and Paddles Park Referendum Committee that were present by giving them a Certificate of Recognition for all their help and hard work with Oars and Paddles Park. Mr. Crossley stated that the park turned out to be more than their original plan, and Mr. McCartney stated that there were a lot of young families that used the park, and that it was a very positive addition to the community. Mr. Cannata stated

that when the referendum committee was first formed, their priority was to try to get their park built fast while the referendum money was available, and that now he saw the park as the gift that keeps on giving. Mr. Whitehead then introduced the members from the Suntree-Viera / POW-MIA Referendum Committee, and recognized them for their hard work and help in building POW/MIA Park and Viera Regional Community Center. Mr. Whitehead presented the attending committee members with a Certificate of Recognition for their work with these parks. Mr. Whitehead stated that because the construction of Oars and Paddles Park was finished, he was now in the operation part of this park. He stated that the committee had finished their job with this project he was looking for a motion from the committee to sunset the Oars and Paddles Referendum Committee, Jerry Jagrowski made a **MOTION** to sunset the Oars and Paddles Referendum Committee, Mary Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

NONE

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business, Ms Bowman stated that the next meeting date would be November 19, 2007 at the South Area Parks and Recreation office conference room. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Ms. Goelz **SECONDED**. Ms. Bowman adjourned the meeting of the South Area Advisory Board at 7:45 p.m.