



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION South Area Advisory Board

Regular Meeting
June 16, 2008

A Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Wednesday, June 16, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1515 Sarno Road, Building B-2, Melbourne, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Goelz
J. Keith Farquharson
Jerry Jagrowski
Ted Whitlock

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mary Ann Bowman
Ben Clark
Guillermo Capote, Sr.

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
David Moore, Parks Maintenance Superintendent
Fred Poppe, Recreation Superintendent
Jerry Gust, Parks Maintenance Superintendent
Cheryl Page, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation
Gustavo Vergara, Special Projects Coordinator

PUBLIC

Jim Tapp
Bob Layhe
Jasper Trigg

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Jagrowski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Mr. Vergara called the roll, and Mr. Jagrowski 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 February 18, 2008, meeting. After review, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the February 18, 2008, minutes, Ms. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Whitehead extended a thank you to the SAAB board, he is now on the Golf Operations side, and Mrs. Page is the interim South Area Manager until Mr. Greg Minor comes on board July 14th. Mr. Whitehead stated it was a pleasure working with the board. Mr. Jagrowski stated that Mr. Whitehead did a great job and thanked Mr. Whitehead.

Mrs. Page stated that the Parks and Recreation Budget was looking at a 8% reduction. Palm Bay Community Center will be operated with special reserve monies. Mrs. Page stated that we had received state funds, special budgeting, for the Brevard Zoo Linear Park in the amount of \$200,000.00

Mr. Poppe stated that the Big Rigging Event would be held at Viera Regional Park on Saturday from 2-8 p.m. It would be our large team event for the summer. 2nd Annual Fishing Derby at Suntree Rotary Park would be held the following Saturday. Additional state funding was becoming available; the Brevard Zoo Regional Center for Wildlife Conservation would be receiving \$500,000.00 and the Brevard Zoo Linear Park Trail would be receiving \$200,000.00.

Mr. Gust stated that we added two sets of athletic field lights at Palm Bay Regional Park, a new football program called Bayside Bears became a recreation partner with Palm Bay Regional Park. The Caribbean Festival experienced a good turnout. Baseball District 2 tournaments would be held at Rodes Park and Viera. Mr. Whitehead said that the staff was awesome

Mr. Gust stated next Monday there would be a South County Boat Ramp Referendum Committee meeting. Mr. Jagrowski inquired about the Brevard Zoo Linear Park Trail.

Mr. Vergara stated that the Summer Camps are at full tilt. Mr. Jagrowski inquired about the fees, and Mr. Vergara stated that the fees were increased with no impact to enrollment.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Poppe stated that Mr. Tapp had a meeting with Commissioner Voltz and they spoke with Mr. Lusk. Mr. Tapp introduced himself, his Vice President, his Treasurer, and his Council. Mr. Tapp read a statement and presented a short video outlining how they accomplished the Field of Dreams in New Jersey. Mr. Tapp stated that a field like the one on the video was

desperately needed for disabled children in Brevard County and surrounding counties to actively participate in the great American pastime of baseball as well as other sports. The field would have a concrete base with a synthetic covering accommodating those with wheelchairs, walkers, canes, crutches, braces, or other apparatus that may be necessary. These sports would be staffed by volunteers. Mr. Tapp stated that he had college students working on securing grants for the project. Winn Dixie had pledged \$5,000.00 towards the project. He followed by stating that he would need to raise funds for the concrete surface and would need a lot of volunteers and background help. Mr. Tapp was looking for concrete and synthetic surface companies to possibly donate their services. Mr. Tapp said his biggest stumbling block was getting people to donate time or money. Mr. Jagrowski advised Mr. Tapp to contact the Rotary Club in his area for support and possibly donations. It was estimated that approximately \$150,000 in funds would be needed to complete the project. Mr. Whitlock inquired where the field would be located. Mr. Tapp stated that Rodes Park would be an ideal location. Mr. Poppe added that after a meeting with Commissioner Colon, the Commissioners office stated that they wanted to partner with Mr. Tapp's organization and that he could turn the old Rodes Park building into the Disabilities Program Headquarters. He added that all discussions up to now had been received as favorable. Mr. Jagrowski asked how big the old Rodes Park was. Mr. Poppe stated 18 acres and that the other fields could be used for AAU or other specialty baseball classifications.

Mr. Whitlock mentioned the playground at a Palm Bay Park and stated that they would need the same kind of playground at Rodes Park.

Mr. Whitlock stated that Mr. Tapp made a presentation in front of the Palm Bay Board and that he was 100% behind the project.

Mr. Poppe added that discussions had been previously held about retaining the old Rodes Park facility versus selling the property; 4 fields and buildings, to provide an area for a disabilities program. The infrastructure was already in place at Rodes Park and though it may need some modifications, the fiscal impact would be considerably less than providing a new facility. Parks and Recreation has a disability program already in place, but it currently does not have an assigned location.

Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to accept his presentation and assist Mr. Tapp in establishing the Old Rodes Park as a center for disabled children. Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mrs. Page stated we were ready to name the interior loop road at Wickham Park, the proposed name was Leisure Way, the name had been checked through Address Assignment and there are no conflicting names. The road would connect the Senior Center and the new Community Center. Mr. Trigg stated that the Senior Center at Wickham Park was due to be opened May 5, 2009, and that Leisure Way was a natural place and name for the road.

Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to accept the nomination of Leisure Way, Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Trigg asked when it would go before the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, Mrs. Page stated that she would like to go ahead and move forward with renaming the Brevard County Senior Center at Melbourne. Mr. Trigg stated that Senior Center at Wickham Park was a great name. Mr. Jagrowski asked for the exact name, Mrs. Page said Wickham Park Senior Center. Mr. Trigg responded that Wickham Park Senior Center was very easy to find. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to rename the Senior Center at Melbourne to The Wickham Park Senior Center and Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Gust stated that the Cricket Pavilion Building was to be a multi purpose building and that it would be used by many groups. Mrs. Page read a letter from Brevard Caribbean American Sports and Cultural Inc. concerning Judge Ali B. Majeed and the naming of the Pavilion after Judge Majeed. Mr. Farquharson stated that Judge Majeed was instrumental in getting the pavilion started. Mrs. Page stated that the naming convention for the Pavilion is in line with Brevard County policy.

Mr. Whitlock made **MOTION** to approve the naming of the Pavilion to Judge Ali B. Majeed Pavilion contingent on the Palm Bay Regional Parks Advisory Board agreeing with the name, Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Gust stated that the Palm Bay Regional Parks Referendum Committee was mandated to name the roads at Palm Bay Regional Park. A contest was brought to the different schools in Palm Bay with the following results, the main road was motioned and approved to be named Creighton Weldon Circle, the 2nd road was the dog park road and Grassville Avenue was approved.

Mrs. Goelz made a **MOTION** to approve the road names selected by the Palm Bay Regional Parks Committee, Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Whitlock thanked Brevard County Parks & Recreation for the use of Wickham Park for the Vet Reunion. Mr. Poppe added that there was a follow-up meeting and that good discussions followed on making the event better. Mr. Poppe stated that there were a lot of issues to be approved before the Vets Plaza Memorial could come in at Wickham Park.

Mr. Poppe stated that the name of the Community Center at Palm Bay would need to be changed. Mr. Whitlock asked about the new budget and that he understood that right now there was an expected 8% cut but asked if there was anything the board could do.

Mr. Jagrowski requested the board to send a letter of special mention to Mr. Whitehead and stated that Mrs. Page should write a letter so the Board can sign it.

PUBLIC INPUT

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

With business concluded, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED**. Mr. Jagrowski then adjourned the meeting of the South Area Advisory Board at 8:20 p.m. The next meeting date will be August 18 at the South Area Parks and Recreation conference room.