



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

### **Special Meeting September 8, 2008**

A Special meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Monday, September 8, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1515 Sarno Road, Building B-2, Melbourne, Florida.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Guillermo Capote, Sr.  
Ben Clark

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Greg Minor, South Area Parks Operations Manager  
David Moore, Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Fred Poppe, Recreation Superintendent  
Jerry Gust, Parks Maintenance Superintendent  
Troy Cox, Athletics Program Coordinator  
Gustavo Vergara, Special Projects Coordinator  
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary

#### **PUBLIC**

None

#### **MEETING CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Bowman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Mrs. Cook called the roll, and Mrs. 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 June 16, 2008, meeting. After review, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the June 16, 2008, minutes, Mr. Jagrowski **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Minor introduced himself and Mrs. Cook as new members with the South Area Parks and Recreation office and stated that he was excited to be in the South Area. Mr. Gust reported that he had a successful summer camp program with many camps at 100% capacity. Mr. Gust stated that the cricket pavilion was now open and has been utilized for rentals and that the Community Center at Palm Bay is within 3 months of completion.

Mr. Poppe said they were scheduling a site visit with the South Brevard Seniors on September 9<sup>th</sup> and that the facility was at least 3 weeks ahead of schedule. Mr. Poppe added that because of the hard work of Parks staff all facilities had opened very quickly after the Tropical Storm Fay event. Mr. Poppe added that several areas were impacted and Rodes Park and Wickham Park had taken a heavy hit with flood waters but normal operations were achieved within a couple of days. Mr. Poppe added that the stables at Wickham had been used as an animal shelter during the tropical storm event and the last of the animals were due to leave within the next day or two.

Mr. Moore then gave his staff report which stated that the Viera Regional Community Center had opened as a shelter on Wednesday and then was changed to a special needs shelter thru Saturday during the Tropical Storm Fay event. Mr. Moore added that he had filled a position at Erna Nixon Park which had been vacant for at least one year. Mr. Moore stated our tournament season was over but we had hosted the Southeast Regional Baseball tournament for Seniors. Mr. Moore said that people from surrounding southeastern states were amazed with the facilities that we had to offer. Mr. Moore stated that some pictures of the event would be published in the next county newsletter and that it was an awesome opportunity to showcase our facilities.

Mr. Vergara provided each member with information (handout) on referendum projects and their current status and construction updates.

Mr. Jagrowski asked when the horse stables at Wickham Park were going to be opened. Mr. Poppe stated that there were a series of meetings coming up on the 25<sup>th</sup> through 26<sup>th</sup> of September regarding the barns and their use. Mr. Poppe added that by the end of September we would have more information on the future of the barns. Mr. Whitlock asked if we had evacuated any campers during the storm event. Mr. Moore said yes, but they had returned to the park and stated that the barns had been used to house horses and sheep that had been evacuated due to area flooding.

## OLD BUSINESS

None.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Gust stated that at the last Palm Bay Regional Park meeting a motion was made and seconded to name some of the amenities at the park after people and it was unanimously approved to name the Community Center after Mr. Ted Whitlock in recognition of all his years of service to Parks. Mr. Jagrowski asked if there would be any problems for anyone in moving forward with this.

Mr. Jagrowski made a **MOTION** to name Palm Bay Regional Park Community Center after Mr. Ted Whitlock, Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Mr. Gust added that at the same meeting new names had to be selected for the roads because the last names that the South Area Advisory Board had approved for the interior roads at the park were denied by 911. Mr. Gust stated that the new names had already gone through 911 and they had no problems with these new names. Mr. Gust read the two names, Championship Circle and Regional Park Trail. Mrs. Goelz made a **MOTION** to accept the new names of the roads, Mr. Whitlock **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

Mr. Minor stated that certain fees needed to be raised due to the fact that they had experienced much increase in the past six years, as well as some employee fees that needed to fall in line with current employer costs. Mr. Minor stated that he didn't want to raise the fees anymore than necessary, but that the latest budget cuts took 1.6 million away from the budget. Mr. Minor added that he was grateful to have Mr. Troy Cox on board as a new staff member. Mr. Minor read over some of the increased fees. Mr. Poppe added that one of the biggest fees raised were the tournament fees because the previous fee schedule actually made it easy for some private organizations to abuse the system. Mr. Poppe said in the south area the biggest group was soccer, and private individuals were hosting tournaments, making a lot of money on our facilities and not sharing it with the non-profit groups.

Mrs. Bowman asked about adult leagues at Palm Bay Regional Park, Mr. Minor asked Mr. Cox to expand on some the things that he is doing at Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Cox stated that he has been working on the fee schedule and doing a comparison with other areas and what they were currently offering. Mr. Cox stated that due to the availability of facilities in the south area, he will be able to bring in baseball leagues, adult baseball and flag football leagues. Mr. Cox added that in 2009 a flag football tournament will be coming to Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Cox said he had had a positive experience with our staff and everyone was very excited about bringing more programs to Brevard County Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Jagrowski asked about the public speech issue of the fee schedule. Mr. Minor responded that it had to do mostly with political speech at our facilities. Mr. Minor stated that a state statute indicates that they would pay at the lowest rate available for any organized group. Mr.

Jagrowski asked if it had to be an organized group. Mr. Gust responded that it had to be mostly political. Mr. Poppe added that there were rules in place regarding what they could do at the park. Discussion ensued regarding stipulations for this issue and the different fees being raised. Mr. Whitlock asked about a senior citizens discount on any of the fees as well as active duty military. Mr. Whitlock stated that they should get a discount in some way. Mr. Poppe responded that there were some programs already in place with seniors; Mrs. Bowman added that the fee structures at the senior centers were in line for seniors. Mr. Whitlock added that the complaint he hears the most is from senior citizens not being able to camp at Long Point Park and added that with the City of Palm Bay, active duty military receive free gym use at the community center. Mr. Whitlock stated that these were reductions that should be considered. Mr. Jagrowski asked how our fees compared to the YMCA. Mrs. Bowman responded that the YMCA was way more expensive.

Mrs. Bowman asked the committee if they agreed with the fee schedule and asked when the fee schedule would take effect. Mr. Gust stated on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Jagrowski made a **MOTION** to approve the fee schedule and that further considerations should be made on Mr. Whitlock's comments regarding the senior discounts, resident/non-resident fees and no charge to active duty military personnel. Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

NONE

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With business concluded, Mrs. Goelz made a **MOTION** to adjourn and Mrs. Bowman **SECONDED**. Mrs. Bowman then adjourned the meeting of the South Area Advisory Board at 8:05 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting date will be October 20, 2008 at the South Area Parks and Recreation conference room.