



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

### **Regular Meeting February 16, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board, was conducted on Monday, February 16, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1515 Sarno Road, Building B-2, Melbourne, Florida.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ted Whitlock  
Jerry Jagrowski  
J. Keith Farquharson  
Mary Goelz  
Frank Bevack  
Damian Wilson  
Richard Contreras

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

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  
Gustavo Vergara, Recreation Superintendent  
Troy Cox, Recreation Coordinator  
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary

#### **PUBLIC**

Leslee Brimer  
Mark Tanski  
Mike Leary

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

Mr. Whitlock called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Mr. Minor called the roll and then introduced his staff members and asked the members of the public to introduce themselves to the board members.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After review of the minutes from the Joint Special Meeting held on September 8, 2008, Mr. Contreras made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, Mr. Bevack **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Minor stated Mrs. Bowman's appointment to the committee had expired, and that the Chairperson seat was vacant so the members would need to vote a new chairperson for the committee. Mr. Farquharson made a **MOTION** for Mr. Jagrowski as the current Vice Chair and based on his experience to accept the position of Chair, Mr. Contreras **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Whitlock made **MOTION** to nominate Jerry Jagrowski as Chairman with Keith Farquharson as Vice Chair, Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Minor stated that Parks and Recreation was hearing about a 20% budget cut, which turned into an 18% budget cut. Mr. Minor stated that a cut that big would require the release of employees. Mr. Minor stated that since there was a hiring freeze, he was working on ways to staff the new facilities despite the hiring freeze. Mr. Jagrowski asked Mr. Minor what else he was thinking of cutting besides personnel. Mr. Minor responded that this could be a double edge sword because Parks had projected revenues from the programs that staff ran. Mr. Whitlock asked what was happening on the capital side of the department. Mr. Minor responded that there were no new capital items being purchased for the next year, i.e., tractors, mowers, etc. Mr. Minor added that unfunded capital equipment would most likely be cut from the budget. Mr. Minor stated that we were currently projecting a full summer program. Mr. Whitlock asked about the Senior Center at Wickham and the rest of the referendum projects. Mr. Minor responded that all referendum projects were budgeted to be built. Mr. Jagrowski asked if the monies set aside in the referendum for maintenance were still available, Mr. Minor responded that yes, there were still in place.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Gust stated that the Ted Whitlock Community Center had received a Certificate of Occupancy (CO) and he was working on finalizing all purchases for the community center. Mr. Vergara presented the board members with the South Area Gazette and stated that this was an in-house newsletter that was done to increase employee morale and to inform the staff of what was happening within our department.

Mr. Moore stated that he wanted to reiterate that the 25 positions that were cut last year were jobs that were vacant, but that the workload had remained the same, so other employees had stepped up to provide the same level of service. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Minor what his total budget was for the year. Mr. Minor responded that he was in charge of three separate budgets, South Area, Wickham Park and Long Point, and together they totaled approximately 20 million for the FY 08/09 year. Mr. Minor stated that we are the largest area within the Parks Department, covering Districts III, IV, and V, with the largest budget and the most parks.

Mr. Poppe said our department was looking at innovative ways to retool and staff the new facilities due to the impact of the hiring freeze. Mr. Poppe added that employees were wearing more than one hat, and even though we were facing cuts, the department was trying hard to maintain the same level of services. Mr. Poppe said that looking at 20% cuts meant that we were facing dire times. Discussion ensued regarding the budget cuts and what they entailed.

Mr. Contreras requested a summary of equipment and a list of the remaining referendum projects, Mr. Gust has the **ACTION** item, the list will be provided to the members via e-mail.

Mr. Minor said that we are still awaiting a CO for the Senior Center at Wickham. Mr. Jagrowski asked if we have the permits from St. Johns for the Trail Park. Mr. Minor responded no, but we have got the 10% deposit check and it will be mailed to the mitigation bank tomorrow.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Poppe gave a brief history to the members on what it entailed to be a recreation partner and how they came to be. Mr. Contreras asked what the requirements are for a recreation partner. Mr. Cox stated that he would provide the board members with a copy of the requirements. Mr. Cox stated that all recreation partners are volunteers, and that they are a part of the Parks and Recreation family. He stated that part of the process was for the recreation partner applicants to make a presentation to the board and if the board accepted them, they would become recreation partners. Mr. Cox added that he had sixteen current agreements that needed to be renewed. Mr. Contreras asked if there were duplicate partners for the same facilities. Mr. Cox stated that was one of the reasons that the process was initiated, and that with limited facilities, the SAAB's opinion became very valuable. Discussion ensued regarding the recreation partner agreements. Mr. Minor stated that Parks and Recreation could not provide the programs that are currently in place without the Rec Partners, and that they received no compensation from the Parks and Recreation Department. Discussion ensued regarding the joint use agreement with the school board and concerns that they were able to utilize our facilities and displace someone who wanted to rent the facilities. Mr. Whitlock voiced concerns to the staff that we were giving up the facilities for nothing and not receiving anything in return for use of the facilities. After discussion, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve the renewal of the sixteen existing recreation partners, Mr. Wilson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Mr. Cox then introduced the new recreation partner applicants beginning with Mrs. Leslee Brimer of Palm Bay Police Athletic League (PAL). Mrs. Brimer stated that PAL was a non-profit and stated that 42% of her kids were low income kids and that all monies they made were put back into their programs. Mrs. Brimer stated that PAL was interested in using the gym at the Ted Whitlock Community Center for leagues. Mr. Contreras asked if there was a threshold requirement that they had to maintain as far family income requirements for their programs. Mrs. Brimer responded no and that the programs were available to any child and

that some families did provide fees. Mr. Whitlock stated that the request for PAL should go through the Palm Bay Regional Park Advisory Committee before going to SAAB. Mr. Contreras asked if Parks staff were supportive of the PAL program, Mr. Minor responded affirmatively.

Mr. Contreras made a **MOTION** to approve PAL contingent upon PBRPAC approving the partnership. Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Poppe asked if PAL was looking to augment their program or if PAL was looking to expand their program and what other types of programs was PAL looking to run at that facility.

Mark Tanski with Palm Bay Youth Basketball Association introduced himself to the members. Mr. Tanski presented the members with an overview of his program. Discussion ensued regarding the needs of the PBYBA. Mr. Tanski stated that his program was currently operating in the red, and that they had approximately a three thousand dollar deficit. Mr. Tanski said that if the Parks Department did not charge them to use the facilities that would help his program. Mr. Gust said we could vote them in as a recreation partner but that did not guarantee them use of the facilities. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to approve PBYBA contingent on the Palm Bay Regional Park Advisory Committee approving the partnership. Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Mr. Mike Leary with the Satellite Beach Youth Lacrosse Association introduced himself to the board members and presented the members with an overview of his program. Mr. Leary said they currently have around 200 members and are expecting growth. Mr. Leary said the mission of his organization was to develop and manage youth lacrosse programs at various levels throughout Brevard County. Mr. Leary said that surprisingly Florida was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in lacrosse. Mr. Leary said they need to become a rec partner to have a place to play and provide training and classes to registrants. Mr. Whitlock asked what the lacrosse season was, and Mr. Leary responded that in Florida it was dictated by spring football but typically the youth leagues start in February or March and run through May. Mr. Leary stated that the official field size was 110 feet by 60 yards but they could adjust the size as needed or required by the location. It was suggested that they be assigned to the area of Micco Park or South Beach Community Park.

Mr. Wilson made a **MOTION** to approve Mr. Leary as a recreation partner contingent upon any local board approval, Mrs. Goelz **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business, Mrs. Goelz made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mr. Contreras **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.