



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING
August 25, 2005

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee, was held on Thursday, August 25, 2005, at 7:00 p.m. at the site of Palm Bay Regional Park, Palm Bay, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ted Whitlock, Chairman
Keiron Jackman, Member
Dudley Anderson, Member
Joe Fazekas, Designee for Steve Riser, CPB
Referendum Rep.
Barry Morin, BARC Referendum Rep.

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bruce Wecshler, Member
Jerry Sandy, IRDTC Referendum Rep.
Everett Morris, Member
Clifford Barber, Member

Vacant, Member, SAAB Rep.
Vacant, PAL Referendum Rep.

STAFF PRESENT

Bill Porzio, Construction Coordinator, Brevard County Parks and Recreation
Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Jerry Gust, South Area Maintenance Superintendent
Rick Schuh, Supervisor, Palm Bay Regional Park
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

PUBLIC

Lawrence McCalla, BCASCA
Wayne Savage, BCASCA
Roy Dunham, BCASCA
Fran Gorecki, BARC
Frank Gorecki, BARC
Al Genchi, ChallengeSports Soccer
Bill Dillard, IRDTC

SITE VISIT – TOUR OF PARK

The meeting began with a guided tour of Palm Bay Regional Park. The locations of various new amenities, such as the new restrooms, maintenance building and pending community center, were pointed out to members. Mr. Porzio mentioned that the new community center was close to going out to bid and further stated that it would be able to withstand winds of up to 170 miles per hour and contain a generator. There would not be a lot of showers and such, but it would be able to function as a shelter if necessary. It was noted that, in order to enhance the building to meet these requirements, the cost had been increased by approximately \$350,000 to \$450,000 for the amount of steel that would be required.

Mr. Whitehead noted the new basketball goals, which come with a lifetime warranty and are adjustable from 6 feet to 10 feet, thereby accommodating a wider array of participants.

Mr. Schuh noted the location of the BMX track area and indicated that the track had to be temporarily put on hold.

Mr. Porzio pointed out the restrooms that are part of the dog park. Ms. Gorecki inquired as to the number of acres contained within the dog park, and Mr. Whitehead responded that it was approximately 1.3 acres. Mr. Morin stated that the dog park at Satellite Beach is too small, and Mr. Whitehead replied that the best way to establish a dog park is to start out small and increase the amount of space over time so that the grass will be able to rejuvenate.

Mr. Porzio pointed out the pavilion and informed members that it is complete and has a concrete floor and then informed members of the locale of the new community center. There was a question as to whether there would be a swimming pool, and Mr. Porzio responded that a pool may be considered in the future. The softball fields will include a two-story scorekeeper's/storage building, and the bleachers, which will be along the first- and third-base lines, will hold 70-90 individuals comfortably. Mr. Whitehead noted that, with the addition of these softball fields and all of the other fields in the Palm Bay vicinity, major national tournaments could easily be held in the area.

Mr. Porzio continued the discussion, referencing the two multi-purpose fields, which are of slightly different configurations. They are slightly higher than the soccer fields and additional drainage has been added, which will drain into Lake No. Three. It is felt that this will provide better drainage and diminish the possibility of a standing-water situation.

Mr. Whitlock inquired as to whether there had been incidents of vandalism lately, and Mr. Schuh replied that, fortunately, things had been quiet – no motorcycles had been on the soccer fields, nor had the concession stand been broken into recently.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitlock called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Mr. Whitlock noted that a quorum was present and the meeting would be conducted.

Mr. Whitehead introduced Mr. Porzio, Mr. Gust and Mr. Schuh, and Mr. Whitlock recognized Mr. Dillard from the Indian River Dog Club, as well as individuals present from the BCASCA and BARC.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the August 15, 2005, meeting. After review, Mr. Jackman made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, and Mr. Anderson seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Because there were no staff reports, Mr. Whitlock opened up the floor for questions about the site visit.

Q & A

Mr. Jackman inquired as to whether games would be permitted to be played if there had been an exorbitant amount of rainfall. Mr. Whitehead indicated that, in June, there were near-record rainfall amounts. Mr. Schuh continued, stating that if there were to be standing water on the fields, play would not be permitted to take place, as it poses a safety concern. Even though the new drainage is doing a great job, there is not much that can be done in a downpour situation when 2-3 inches of rain falls almost instantaneously.

Mr. Schuh indicated that, in 1992, the fields were constructed. Subsequently, in 1996, the concession building was put in place and lighting the fields began. Then 2000 brought the referendum. Mr. Schuh further noted that the Tourism Development Council (TDC) assisted with the lights on two fields. It was noted that, because having additional lighted fields would be beneficial, perhaps other funding sources, like the TDC, can be identified.

There appeared to be concurrence among the members that multiple tournaments could be held at the facility and that they would be largely successful.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Gorecki inquired into whether funding was an issue regarding the fencing in the dog park area. Ms. Gorecki further stated that dog parks are popular and expressed concerns of potential overcrowding on a 1.3-acre site. Mr. Whitlock replied that the best way to build a good dog park is to construct sections one at a time, thereby leaving room to expand. Ms. Gorecki then asked about the possibility of a BARC-sponsored fundraiser to help provide funding for the fence, and it was noted that this was certainly a sound idea. Ms. Gorecki inquired as to whether the lake was positioned outside of the fence, and staff responded that the lake had to be outside of the fence because of difficulties experienced with alligators from time to time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jackman made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Morin seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Whitlock adjourned the meeting of the Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee at 7:50 p.m. and noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, September 22, 2005, at the Palm Bay Community Center.