



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee

**REGULAR MEETING
March 22, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee, was conducted on Thursday, March 23rd, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Palm Bay Community Center, 1502 Port Malabar Boulevard NE, Palm Bay, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Keiron Jackman
Joe Fazecas, Designee for Steve Riser
James Gaines
Ted Whitlock
Dudley Anderson

MEMBERS ABSENT

Bruce Wecshler
Clifford Barber
Barry Morin
Jerry Sandy

STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager
Jerry Gust, South Area Maintenance Superintendent
Rick Schuh, Park Supervisor, Palm Bay Regional Park
Gustavo Vergara, South Area Special Projects Coordinator
Bernice Smith, South Area Office Assistant

PUBLIC

Lawrence McCalla
Luc Jean
Wilfrid Jean
Keith Farguharson
Roy Dinham

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitlock called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Whitehead called the roll, and Mr. Whitlock noted at 7:20 p.m. that a quorum was present and that the meeting would be conducted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the January 25th, 2007, meeting. After review, Mr. Gaines made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, and Mr. Jackman seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Rick Schuh

Mr. Schuh provided everyone with a copy of a typed out "ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND EVENTS REPORT" which detailed the work being done at the park by his staff, and the events that occurred at the park during February and March. He asked everyone to read it and that if anyone had any questions he would be happy to answer them. Mr. Whitehead noted that this written outline provided by Mr. Schuh will be the new format by which information will be shared between staff and advisory groups, with the intent that members of the advisory groups have something in writing that they can share with the citizens and the public. Mr. Whitlock then asked for this form would be attached to the minutes, and Mr. Whitehead confirmed that it would. Some discussion followed after everyone read the maintenance report.

Jerry Gust

Mr. Gust addressed the issue of the hole in the wall of the subdivision and informed everyone that he had been in contact with the contractor and the manager of the development, and explained that the developer had put up the wall on their own accord, and that they would block the hole in the wall within the next couple of weeks. Mr. Gust also let the committee know that the side walk leading to the hole will be removed and re-sodded by Parks and Recreation Staff. He also informed everyone that the small dog park will tentatively open by may 1st, and that staff will continue to work on the large dog park. Mr. Gust explained that the small dog park will be utilized for large and small dogs intermittently until the large dog park opens. He proceeded with informing everyone that a full time person had been hired as a supervisor for the dog park and that that interviews were held for the remaining part time positions and that two individuals were chosen. He commended Mr. Schuh and his staff on the great job they did readying the soil and sprigging the small dog park area. He also informed the committee that the contract for the bid of the community center and Cricket building will go out in April. Mr. Anderson asked about a swell that was filled on the outside perimeter of the Cricket field, and that since it was filled the cricket field did not drain as well as it used to. Discussion proceeded about drainage in the field, and Mr. Gust offered to go to the Cricket field after the next hard rain to assess the drainage status and see what could be done to improve drainage in this field.

Mr. Whitehead

Mr. Jeff Whitehead informed everyone that we should have a new Parks and Recreation Director by April 10th, and that his name was Don Lusk. He also informed everyone that

he would be conducting interviews for a new Administrative Secretary the week of March 26th, and he invited everyone present to attend the grand opening of the new POW/MIA park formerly known as Pineda Landing on April 18th at 10:00 a.m. He then informed the committee that the 2006 Audit Report was available through the Brevardparks.com web site. He followed by explaining that the contract with BRPH was being terminated and that any remaining work on the fields will be done by Parks & Recreation Staff.

Mr. Vergara

Mr. Vergara summed up the staff reports with a power point presentation which included all issues discussed as well as pictures of the progress of the park.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Whitlock discussed the issue of the school board using the road of the park for their high school, and that the meeting did not end in a positive manner.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Whitlock Brought up the idea of having the next Committee meeting on site on April 26th at 6:00 p.m., and all committee members present agreed that that would be a good place for it. It was decided that everyone would meet at the PAL Pavilion and a tour of the facilities would follow. Mr. Gaines commended Parks & Recreation Staff on a great job while on site at the park. He said the park was very clean and he saw the Park ranger as well as the maintenance staff doing a great job during his visit to the park. Mr. Gaines also voiced concern about wanting a bigger sign for the entrance to the park, and also about a sign on Malabar road close to I-95 that would direct people to the park. Mr. Gust said he would follow up on this issue.

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. Farguharson had some questions about the “Gumbo Clay” that Parks & Recreation staff is removing from the area, stating that that clay was ideal for the pitching area of the cricket field. Mr. Gust and Mr. Schuh extended him an invitation to come to the park and look at the clay to see if it was ideal for their field. Mr. Farguharson also asked if there were drawings of the cricket field and it’s capacity, to which Mr. whitehead replied that we would try to provide these items to the board by the next meeting. Mr. Lawrence McCalla stated that an open swell at the outer circumference of the Cricket field would have a negative impact on the game and that it should not be reopened.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mr. Whitlock called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gaines made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Jackman seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Whitlock adjourned the meeting of the Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee at 8:07 p.m.