



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

REGULAR MEETING July 26, 2007

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee, was conducted on Thursday, April 26th, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Palm Bay Community Center, 1502 Port Malabar Boulevard NE, Palm Bay, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dudley Anderson
Joe Fazecas, Designee for Steve Riser
Ted Whitlock
Clifford Barber, Jr.
Barry Morin

MEMBERS ABSENT

Keiron Jackman
James Gaines
Jerry Sandy

STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

L. McCalla
Mr. Tennart
Mr. Washburn
Roy Dinham

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Whitlock called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Vergara called the roll, and Mr. Whitlock noted at 7:08 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 April 26th, 2007, meeting. After review, Mr. Whitehead asked for two corrections to the minutes which were on the second page, under staff reports. Mr. Whitehead asked that the phrase “Cricket fields” be changed to “Cricket Building”, and that the phrase “contract with BRPH had been finalized” to “construction contract with BRPH had been terminated.” Mr. Barber made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes as corrected, and Mr. Fazecas seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Jeff Whitehead

Mr. Whitehead stated that the final site plans for the building and the Cricket building were due back from the city of Palm Bay the day of the meeting, the bid package for the two buildings was due to go out for public bid on August 15th, and those bids would tentatively be back on October 15th, and a contract should be awarded between December 15th 2007, and January 15th 2008. Mr. Whitlock asked if all the Community Center buildings were being contracted individually, and Mr. Whitehead responded affirmatively. Mr. Whitlock asked to be informed if there was a hold up with site plan review from the city of Palm Bay. Mr. Whitehead Stated that although the dog park opened on May 1st, due to the budget reductions, the staff for these dog parks was going to be let go, but the dog parks would still be open to the public. Discussion ensued regarding different issues with operating and staffing dog parks.

Jerry Gust

Mr. Gust stated that the small dog park opened May 1st, and as of the 22nd of June, Mr. Schuh and his staff were able to get the large dog park area ready and opened it for the public. Mr. Gust stated 300 trees had been planted at the park, everything from oaks, to Cypress, to Elm, Red Bay, Southern Magnolia, and some Palms. Mr. Gust stated that these trees were part of a FEMA reimbursement of plants that were damaged through out the parks system during the 2004 / 2005 hurricane season. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** that as long as the Dog Park is not staffed and there is no way to check who or which animal is registered, there should be no charge to use the Dog Park. Discussion ensued regarding ways to enforce a fee, and ways to make sure dogs were vaccinated. Mr. Morin **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Gust stated that he and Mr. Schuh met with Palm Bay Youth Soccer Organization and MUSCO Lighting about the possibility of lighting two or three of the additional soccer fields through referendum and some balance forward money. Mr. Whitlock asked that before any money is spent on the Soccer Lighting, the committee see the budget for this project. Mr. Gust stated that the money for this project would not come from the money set aside for the Community Center or Cricket Building, or any other referendum project. He stated that the money

was coming from savings from last year's operating budget, and that soon BCP&R will be charging the soccer leagues for the lighting of the fields.

Rick Schuh

Mr. Schuh Made sure all committee member received a copy of his Events and Accomplishments Report(attached), and stated that him and his staff had been working on the baseball and softball fields, and had the fields on a regular maintenance schedule. He followed by stating that him and his staff received an award from the Board of County Commissioners on behalf of the Caribbean Festival for 10 years of collaboration with the Festival. He stated that 12,000 to 15,000 people had visited Palm Bay Regional Park in May, and that the Large Dog Park was opened to the public on June 22nd. He also stated that the gate on the walking bridge had been modified in order to be able to lock it, and that the hole in the wall of the subdivision at the entrance to the park had been filled by the contractor of the subdivision. Mr. Gust stated that Mr. Schuh had lost a staff member who had worked with BCP&R for 16 years, Tim Sullivan retired and a luncheon was held for him. Mr. Whitehead stated that the vacancy from Mr. Sullivan would not be filled. Mr. Whitehead followed by informing the Committee that the Senior Center at Wickham Park was back on track.

Gustavo Vergara

Mr. Vergara stated that he had distributed copies of the 2006 Audit report. Mr. Whitlock explained some of the report to the committee and stated that the bottom line as an advisory board was that there was going to be accountability with the committees, where decisions made by this committee would go before the South Area Advisory Board, who would in turn take the recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, and Mr. Whitehead added that there were a lot of staff decisions made with past referendum projects, and that this would not be the way business would be conducted in the future. Mr. Gust added that the committee's role was very important because they were the grass roots part of the parks projects, and eyes and ears of the community, and their recommendations were very important because they carry those recommendations to the South Area Advisory Board, and that they were very appreciated and respected by the Parks & recreation Department. Mr. Whitehead added that he appreciated the committee taking their job so seriously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Anderson asked about staffing of the construction department for this project and if that was going to change and Mr. Whitehead responded that Mr. Porzio, who is the current construction coordinator in charge of this project, would remain. Mr. Barber asked if there was any update on the possibility of a police substation at the Park, and Mr. Whitehead responded that he had not had time yet to pursue that issue because he had been very busy trying to keep people's jobs the past few weeks, but that it was in the minutes and that he will look into it. Mr. Anderson asked if Mr. Whitehead would be speaking with the city of Palm Bay police or the sheriffs department, and Mr. Whitehead

responded that although the park falls under the jurisdiction of the city of Palm Bay, the sheriffs department had talked to him about the possibility of moving a trailer to Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Gust added that the city police does do drive bys at the park about once a day, and Mr. whitehead added that perhaps a collaboration between the school board and parks and recreation regarding a school resource officer could be possible in the future. Mr. Whitlock asked if there was a water fountain at the Playground, and Mr. Schuh responded that not at this time and Mr. Gust added that once construction started at the community center, something could be done about that.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC INPUT

Mr. McCalla stated that on behalf of the Brevard Caribbean American Sports Cultural Association incorporated, he wanted to compliment the committee for its services for the development of Palm Bay regional Park and for their foundation of Sports and other areas that the committee serves.

Mr. Dinham asked when the Cricket building would be finished, and Mr. Whitehead stated that construction should commence between December of 2007 and January of 2008, and that the construction process would be about 12 to 14 months.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Whitlock stated that the next meeting date would be August 23rd, at the Viera Regional Community Center. Seeing no further business, Mr. Whitlock called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Morin made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Fazecas seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Whitlock adjourned the meeting of the Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee at 8:07 p.m.