



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

### **REGULAR MEETING October 25, 2007**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee, was conducted on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the Viera Regional Park Community Center, 6288 Athletics Lane, Viera, Florida.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

James Gaines  
Joe Fazecas, Designee for Steve Riser  
Ted Whitlock  
Clifford Barber, Jr.

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Barry Morin  
Keiron Jackman  
Dudley Anderson

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

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

#### **PUBLIC**

Ed Butler  
Mrs. Butler

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

Mr. Whitlock called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Ms. Hayes called the roll, and Mr. Whitlock noted at 7:17 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 July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007, meeting. After review, Mr. Gaines made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, and Mr. Barber seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Ed Butler from Bayside Bears Youth Football League and Cheerleading Association presented the committee with a plan for expanding their league to Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Butler stated that Palm Bay needed a football league on the west side of the City, and stated that the need would just grow as the west side of Palm Bay grew in population. He stated that the teams would start with Flag Football which started with kids as young as 5 years old, all the way to seniors, which are kids as old as 15 years old. Mr. Butler went over the layout and demographics of Palm Bay, and stated that the first year he expected enrollment in his league to be about 125 kids in total, and that he felt he was being conservative with these figures. Mr. Butler stated that the games for this league would be played at Bayside High School on Saturdays, and he was looking for the boards' approval to practice at Palm Bay Regional Park, two times a week. Discussion ensued regarding the specific needs of the football league and logistics of how they could be accommodated at the park. Mr. Butler assured the committee that his league would not tear the fields up, and that he would make sure under no circumstances would his league use the fields when the fields were wet. Mr. Whitlock asked Mr. Butler if he had his 501c paper work in order, and Mr. Butler responded that he had filed for his association to have a 501c status, and that he had raised the necessary money to qualify to be a 501c. Mr. Whitlock stated that Mr. Butler would have to finish all of this paper work before playing on the fields at Palm Bay Regional Park, to which Mr. Butler responded that he would have all of this paper work in line by the time the first practice came around. After further discussion, Mr. Whitlock stated that after all the public meetings that the committee has had to date, this was the first time that the committee had been approached about youth football, and that he was appreciative of Mr. Butler making the effort to start a league at Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to support the Bay Side Bears Youth Football and Cheerleading League to be able to utilize Palm Bay Regional Park as decided between park staff and the Football Association. Mr. Gaines **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### **Gustavo Vergara**

Mr. Vergara distributed a bid tabulation sheet from the bid opening for the Palm Bay Regional Park Community Center, and stated that Canaveral Construction was the low bidder, and informed the Committee that Canaveral Construction built the community center at Viera Regional Park, and that the bid of \$ 4,787,000 was for both the community center building and the cricket building. He informed the committee that the cricket building was fully permitted, and that the community center building should be fully permitted within a couple weeks from the meeting. Mr. Whitlock asked that if there was any stop in the work at this community center he be made aware of it, and Mr.

Whitehead added that informing committee chairs of stops in the building of projects that their committees represented was the new standard in operating procedures in the South Area Parks & Recreation Department.

### **Rick Schuh**

Mr. Schuh distributed the committee members with his accomplishments and events report (attached), and pictures of the softball fields that his crew had fixed (attached). Mr. Whitlock asked if the fields were being well used, and Mr. Schuh responded that there were two softball leagues currently playing at the park, and that there was no baseball because those fields were still being worked on and they needed time to mature before putting the stress of leagues on them. Mr. Whitehead added that in order to hire a contractor to finish all the fields to Parks & Recreation standards, the cost would have been over \$500,000, and that Parks & Recreation decided to back off and correct the fields themselves, and that that process would take some time in order to do it correctly. Mr. Gust added that the process of building fields has changed since this park, and that the specs from Parks & Recreation have become more stringent when it comes to design plans of fields for the parks, and that the process of hiring a contractor has also changed in that any fields built in the future at any South Area Parks, will be built by a specialty contractor. Discussion ensued regarding the soil at Palm Bay regional and the mistakes made in the past in the building of the fields. Mr. Schuh informed the committee that the park had hosted a Soccer tournament at the beginning of October, which was hard to pull off because it had rained about two to three inches of rain that weekend, and that the tournament drew around 3 to 4 thousand people from all over Florida.

### **Jeff Whitehead**

Mr. Whitehead stated that there was a Sunshine State Flag Football tournament being held at the park on December 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and that Parks & Recreation was co-sponsoring this event with P.A.L. Mr. Gust added that shortly after this tournament, the park would be closing its fields because of yearly maintenance. Mr. Whitehead added that he had been meeting with Troy Cox who was the president of Space Coast Baseball League, and that he was pursuing a partnership between Parks & Recreation and P.A.L. regarding Parks & Recreation running the baseball leagues for P.A.L. and hosting them at Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Gust added that the Dog Park at Palm Bay Regional was currently free of charge and open to the public 7 days a week from dawn to dusk. Mr. Whitlock asked if there was a rules sign at the park, and Mr. Gust responded that there was a huge rules sign at the entrance to the park. Discussion ensued regarding the possibilities for running that park and how to make it safer.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Barber asked about a police substation at the park. Mr. Whitehead responded that he has not had any response from the police department yet, but added that with the new school being built next to the park, the possibility of a school resource office living on site between both facilities had a lot of promise. Mr. Gaines asked about the School

Board using Palm Bay Regional as an entrance to the new school, and Mr. Whitehead responded that the issue was dropped by the school board. Discussion ensued regarding the exact location of the new school.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gaines stated that someone approached him about naming either a field or a pavilion at Palm Bay Regional Park after the first casualty from Palm Bay during the war in Iraq, and inquired if there was a possibility of doing that at the park. Mr. Whitlock responded that there was a written procedure on how to do that. Mr. Whitehead informed Mr. Gaines that the proper procedure would be for the interested party to make a presentation in front of the committee, and once the committee approved it, make a presentation in front of the South Area Advisory Board, and then present it before the Board of County Commissioners.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

NONE

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Whitlock stated that the next meeting date would be November 29th, at the Palm Bay Community Center. Seeing no further business, Mr. Whitlock called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fazecas made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Mr. Barber seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Whitlock adjourned the meeting of the Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee at 8:30 p.m.