



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

### **REGULAR MEETING January 28, 2010**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee, was conducted on Thursday, January 28, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. at the Ted Whitlock Community Center, 370 Championship Circle NW, Palm Bay, Florida.

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ted Whitlock, Chairman  
Keiron Jackman  
Clifford Barber, Jr.  
Keith Farquharson

#### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

Deborah Greenough  
Dudley Anderson

#### **STAFF PRESENT**

Fred Poppe, Recreation Superintendent  
Jerry Gust, Maintenance Superintendent  
Rick Schuh, Park Supervisor, Palm Bay Regional Park  
Rob Medina, Community Center Coordinator  
James Reynolds, Recreation Leader, TWCC  
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary

#### **PUBLIC**

None.

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

Mr. Whitlock called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m. Mrs. Cook called the roll with four members present and two members absent. Mr. Whitlock confirmed that quorum was present.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee members were previously provided with an e-mail copy of the minutes from the September 24, 2009, meeting for review. Mr. Barber made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, Mr. Jackman **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Approved March 25, 2010

## **STAFF REPORTS**

Mr. Fred Poppe introduced the staff members and advised the committee members that Mr. Rob Medina has resigned. Mr. Medina has accepted a position with Congressman Posey's office, Mr. Andy Dimmig was introduced at the interim supervisor at Ted Whitlock Community Center. Mr. Poppe stated that the paperwork was in to advertise the position, but we are under a hard freeze for hiring. Mr. Poppe stated that we currently have 38 vacancies in the south area. Mr. Poppe advised the committee that Mr. Don Lusk would be retiring on March 1<sup>st</sup> and that an interim director would be appointed until the search was completed for a new director.

Mr. Rick Schuh gave his monthly status reports to the committee members and offered to answer any questions they may have. Mr. Schuh stated that the traffic count has slacked off, possibly due to the cold weather and the holidays. Mr. Keiron Jackman asked why the pepper trees were removed and what we did with them when we removed them, Mr. Schuh advised that they were an invasive exotic species and that there was currently an eradication program underway to remove them in the State of Florida, Mr. Schuh stated that we took the trees to the county landfill. Mr. Schuh stated that the removal of the trees really opened up the landscape.

Mr. Poppe stated that the City of Palm Bay had contacted South Area Parks and asked them to join with them on March 20<sup>th</sup>, All Play Day, and they are looking to move the July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Celebration event to Heritage Park and asked if they could use the PBRP for parking for patrons at the event.

Mr. Ted Whitlock asked if the camping area is being used, Mr. Schuh stated that it is only used by the Boy Scouts, or non-profit youth groups, Mr. Whitlock asked if we anticipate using the facility for any public camping, Mr. Gust stated that would involve significant financial expenditures and it was not currently in the budget, Mr. Schuh also stated that only rustic camping would be available due to electrical and water service not being available. Mr. Poppe said that camping would be regulated by the State, Mr. Jackman asked if anyone is doing any marketing on the park camping areas.

Mr. Whitlock stated that the City of Palm Bay is hosting their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and that the Birthday party was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January at BCC, Good Times in Old Palm Bay is the next event on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March, and also Fun in the Parks and every park in the City will have an event going on at the same time, with the main event on Main Street in Palm Bay. There will be bounce houses, fire trucks, fishing contests, boat rides, and a parade to name a few of the activities. The last event of the year will be the Mayor's Ball.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Rob Medina expressed his thanks to the Brevard County staff for showing the confidence in his leadership at the facility and thanked them for the opportunity. Mr. Medina felt that we had laid out a very firm foundation at the TWCC. Mr. Medina wished to address the action item from the last meeting concerning the Midnite Madness Basketball Event. Mr. Medina had started the Friday Frenzy events during the winter months and had local pizza companies donate pizzas for the events. Mr. Medina discussed the fee rate of 50.00 dollars for the gym rental for the Midnite Madness Basketball and inquired if the members had any questions concerning the events that would be

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scheduled either quarterly or 3 times per year. Mr. Whitlock inquired if they were current recreation partners, Mr. Medina responded that they are not, but would be welcomed as recreation partners and he felt Mr. Delgatto would welcome that opportunity to partner with Brevard County. Mr. Poppe stated that they could rent the facility at any time and as a non-profit group they would receive the reduced rate. Mr. Poppe cautioned that they needed to proceed carefully as we could not add additional hours due to the cuts in operational hours at facilities. Mr. Medina stated that the hours discussed were 6-11 p.m., they would be out the door by 11:00 p.m. Mr. Whitlock asked for a **MOTION**, Mr. Barber made a **MOTION** to consider the events, Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Mr. Barber requested information on how to become a recreation partner and what the process involved consisted of, Mr. Gust explained the process, **ACTION ITEM**, send via e-mail to Mr. Barber the Recreation Partner process information.

Mr. Schuh responded to the request from Mr. Farquharson in September about picnic areas in the park. Mr. Schuh suggested the area between the dog park and the group camping area that has been cleaned up. Restrooms facilities are close-by and you will have a view of the lake. Mr. Schuh said they have 1 or 2 picnic tables available that they could put in the area. It is not next the athletic area, but Mr. Schuh felt it would be a nice area to consider. Mr. Farquharson stated that he wanted areas along the road, close to public view and he was concerned about the safety of the patrons/families. Mr. Farquharson wanted to establish family picnic areas along the main road, to the north side of the lake, north side of the baseball complex. Mr. Schuh provided the members with a picture of the area that had been cleared. Mr. Schuh stated that his concerns were people pulling off the road and parking on the grass, and that there were no facilities close by. Mr. Whitlock stated that many people were in the park on the weekends for athletic events and would like a place to have lunch, and be able to sit down for a period of time. Mr. Gust advised that they needed to consider the budget and any additional costs that could be incurred with the installation of picnic tables. Mr. Farquharson inquired if we could just install some benches in the area near the activities if dollars were available to support the idea. Mr. Whitlock said that we have referendum dollars left in the budget and that they want the items in the park as planned, such as an amphitheater. It was suggested that Mr. Schuh obtain site maps for the members to look at and they could place "X's" on the map where they wanted the tables. It was noted that they the members needed to collectively decide on the location and prioritization of the request. Mr. Schuh stated that he had 5 picnic tables ready to be installed at this time.. Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to table the request until the next meeting, with the provision that the members were to view the park areas and decide where to locate the tables, and if they also wanted a family picnic area, but included as a secondary item. Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

Discussion ensued concerning budget monies, projects and budgetary issues, Mr. Whitlock made a request to county staff for a copy of the referendum budget (D-3, D-4 and D-5) to be supplied to the committee members, specifically to determine what was allocated and what was spent in the south area, **ACTION ITEM**. Mr. Poppe said there were significant unfunded projects that were left over.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Gust recommended that the committee go to bi-monthly meetings, discussion ensued concerning the current meeting schedule and the change, Mr. Whitlock made a **MOTION** to change the meeting dates from monthly to quarterly, Mr. Barber **SECONDED**, Mr. Jackman asked are we at the level of

changing the meetings, Mr. Jackman stated he favored going to bi-monthly meetings with the stipulation that the committee could call a special meeting as the need arose, Mr. Barber stated we are established enough to go to a quarterly meeting schedule, Mr. Farquharson **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. The next meeting date was determined to be March 25, 2010 and subsequent meeting dates for the remainder of the year would be June 24, 2010, and September 23, 2010. Mr. Poppe stated that the benefit would be more time to get the information together prior to the meeting and that they would become more productive. Mr. Whitlock reminded everyone to note the new meeting dates on their calendars, discussion ensued concerning the need to establish quorum at the meetings and what constituted an excused absence, three unexcused absences and you would be removed from the committee. Mr. Whitlock requested that a copy of the by-laws be sent or supplied to the committee members by Mrs. Cook, **ACTION ITEM**. Mr. Whitlock reminded the members about the upcoming Veterans Reunion Event at Wickham Park and requested volunteers to help set-up and break down the event during 18-25 April.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Farquharson made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mr. Barber **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Mr. Whitlock stated that the next meeting date would be held on March 25, 2010. Mr. Whitlock adjourned the meeting of the Palm Bay Regional Park Citizens Advisory Committee at 8:42 p.m.