



# SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION

## *Wickham Park Advisory Committee*

REGULAR MEETING  
May 3, 2006

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Wickham Park Advisory Committee, was held on May 3, 2006, 6:30 p.m., at the site of Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Drive, Melbourne, Florida.

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Baker  
Ben Elliott  
Eleanor Munton  
Karen Kilianek  
Carol Mulligan  
Bill Connor  
Cheryl Palmer  
Sally Richardson  
Ralph Earrusso

### MEMBERS ABSENT

R.L. Jones  
Lauren Milne  
Greg England  
Thomas Seaman  
Greg Welsh

### STAFF PRESENT

Jeff Whitehead, South Area Parks Operations Manager  
Fred Poppe, South Area Recreation Superintendent  
Josh Henderson, Park Supervisor III, Wickham Park  
Jessica Breault, Park Supervisor II, Wickham Park  
Lisa Nicholas, South Area Administrative Secretary

### PUBLIC

Shane Richardson  
Laine Henry  
Debbie Pavone  
David Pavone  
Kay Turner  
Julia Cesary  
Dianne Young  
Shirley Nelson  
Bob Dougert  
Jane Dougert

### MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Baker called the meeting to order at 6:28 p.m. Ms. Nicholas called the roll, and Mr. Baker noted 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 March 1, 2006, meeting. After review, Mr. Earrusso made a MOTION to approve the minutes, and Mr. Conner seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

### STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Henderson reported that the maintenance staff at Wickham Park was at full capacity, but Ms. Rogers, Wickham's Office Assistant, would be leaving to pursue other opportunities. Staff was waiting

for hot water to be installed in the youth area, and the amphitheatre was completed and looked outstanding. The inside of the Rangers' Station had been painted, and two new rangers recently had come on board. Interviews for full-time staff for the dog park would begin shortly. The dog park and playground parking lots were now all ADA accessible.

Two fires had plagued the park and destroyed approximately 250 acres between them. The campground area was closed for nine days, but the park itself was only closed for a total of two and one-half days. Mr. Whitehead commended the efforts of staff and praised all of those who were involved in the endeavor. There was no damage to the amphitheatre, but two dilapidated structures and approximately 225 trees had been lost. It is hoped that the trees will be replaced, and staff will be applying for grants to assist with the cost involved. The fires, which occurred on March 27, 2006, and April 8, 2006, were both suspected to have been caused by minors engaging in mischief.

Mr. Whitehead provided some information that had been given to him by Mr. Ross, Senior Construction Coordinator. Road and Bridge had finished the water main, and the youth area shower building is up and running but needs some minor site work. The Loop A shower building is ready for electric and water hook-up, and the Loop B shower building was slated for delivery the following week.

Mr. Whitehead informed the Committee that quotes had been received for the horse stalls in the equestrian area. The proposal is for a shed-row barn built mainly from pressure treated lumber and steel roof trusses. The proposal is for six barns at \$119,050 a piece for a total of \$714,300 (a cost of \$19,842 per stall) with a tack room and corral. Prices have already gone up as of April 30, 2006, and will undoubtedly change again.

Mr. Whitehead reported that the Grand Opening for Viera Regional Park was scheduled for June 3, 2006, at 9:00 a.m. and encouraged all members to attend.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Mulligan inquired as to why the issue of construction of the horse barns was on the May 16, 2006, agenda of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), and Mr. Whitehead replied that the BOCC must be the entity to provide direction on where to go with that particular project. A member of the public inquired as to who placed the item on the agenda, and Mr. Whitehead responded that it was Don Lusk, Interim Director, Parks and Recreation Department, because it was a sensitive issue. The person then asked what exactly the BOCC would be providing direction on, and Mr. Whitehead responded that the Board was giving direction on the construction of the barns and other amenities for the equestrian area. Mr. Whitehead indicated that he would accept whatever direction the Board provided.

Mr. Whitehead added that project costs have doubled and that staff was attempting to accommodate the equestrian community. A member of the public asked who the horse-boarding community should speak with regarding the issue, and Mr. Whitehead encouraged all interested parties to attend the Commissioners' meeting on May 16. Ms. Mulligan stated that a group of individuals interested in the equestrian issue was planning to attend the May 16 Board meeting in order to convey the value of the entire equestrian area at Wickham Park.

A member of the public inquired as to why the horse boarders were not involved in the design, and Mr. Whitehead replied that the plan had already been approved and that it could not be changed.

Ms. Mulligan noted that 4-H groups could construct 3-step bleachers because what is currently in the area is too much.

A member of the public asked if something portable could be used as an announcer's station, and Mr. Whitehead responded that staff was looking at a portable stage.

Ms. Mulligan suggested that all those interested in the equestrian issue could convene after the Wickham Park meeting.

Mr. Baker encouraged individuals to participate in the May 16 BOCC meeting and urged them to go in with a unified voice, not personal agendas.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Baker provided a letter for the record from Mr. M. T. Whitlock of Palm Bay, Florida, concerning the operation of Wickham Park during the annual Veterans' Reunion event. Mr. Earrusso added that, at times, couples rent multiple camp sites in different names and that such a practice is not really fair. Mr. Baker stated that he was happy with the treatment provided by Wickham Park staff and that staff was very helpful. Mr. Henderson commended the Veterans for lending their assistance to park staff.

Ms. Kilianek suggested that staff publish a telephone number for a neighborhood watch and added that if the public were engaged, they might be more likely to respond to incidents. Mr. Henderson stated that he had contacted the Jaycees and requested that they lock up their area.

Ms. Kilianek inquired as to why there had not been more natural re-growth of trees throughout the years, and Mr. Baker responded that pine seeds need heat to be able to grow, so the fire will actually assist with the re-growth.

Mr. Elliott noted that the trail system had been pretty devastated, and Mr. Henderson stated that there was really no way to get back there to fight it. Mr. Elliott indicated that, because the area was now pretty much open, perhaps fire breaks could be installed.

Mr. Whitehead introduced Fred Poppe, new South Area Recreation Superintendent, and indicated that Mr. Poppe had come to the County with more than 30 years' experience with the City of Palm Bay.

### PUBLIC INPUT

None.

### ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mr. Baker called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Earrusso made a **MOTION** to adjourn, and Ms. Palmer seconded. **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mr. Baker adjourned the May 3, 2006, meeting of the Wickham Park Advisory Committee at 8:36 p.m. and informed the Committee that the next meeting would be held on July 5, 2006, 6:30 p.m., at Wickham Park.