



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Wickham Park Advisory Committee

**REGULAR MEETING
May 6, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Wickham Park Advisory Committee, was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 6:30 p.m., at the site of Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Drive, Melbourne, Florida, 32935.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Kilianek (Chair)
Ted Whitlock
Ed Newell
Mike Nowlin
Greg Jones

MEMBERS ABSENT

Liz Lee
Phyllis Principe

STAFF PRESENT

Greg Minor, South Area Operations Manager
Fred Poppe, South Area Recreation Superintendent
Josh Henderson, Park Supervisor III, Wickham Park
Ted Mieczkowski, Parks Supervisor II, Wickham Park
Mechelle Cook, Administrative Secretary, South Area Operations

PUBLIC

None.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Karen Kilianek called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Ms. Mechelle Cook called the roll with five members present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the March 4, 2009, meeting. Ms. Karen Kilianek asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes and called for a motion

to approve. Mr. Ed Newell made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes, Mr. Mike Nowlin **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

STAFF REPORTS

Mr. Josh Henderson gave a report to the members on the Veterans Memorial Wall Event at Wickham Park and the minor problems that had been encountered during the event, such as drinking incidents and arguments. The Veterans Event recorded 1500 bikes this year, last years count was 900.

The Brevard County Fair reported good attendance numbers on the weekend but had experienced rain for a few days during the week. County staff had received nothing but compliments on the Fair. The rodeo, horse show, and the archery events were very successful, with comments that we were getting back to what county fairs used to be, and that is what the people liked about the event. The next big event is the opening of the Senior Center. County staff is waiting for the seniors to come up with a date for the ribbon cutting, possibly in late May or early June.

Mr. Greg Minor said that the budget cuts have been submitted to the Commissioners. The actual budget for Wickham Park is 1.9 million and they get very little from the general fund, they are very close to being self sufficient. Mr. Minor stated that we get to keep our balance forward. Mr. Minor stated that we are planning improvements to the main pavilion estimated at \$260,000.00. Mr. Minor said that we will be increasing our fees for the main pavilion and Mr. Poppe said that we will be reviewing the fee structure every year. Mr. Henderson said we are planning to add 36 new campsites and gave the preliminary figures for the costs. Discussion ensued about the campsite areas to be built.

Summer camp enrollment numbers are good; Rodes Park is already sold out. There was a report of vandalism and theft at the soccer fields, the park staff remain on alert. Board members were given invitations to the Caribbean Festival and ribbon cutting ceremony for the Ted Whitlock Community Center to be held on May 23, 2009 at Palm Bay Regional Park. Mr. Poppe stated that there will a host of activities, the dedication ceremony, and an open house. Wickham Park will host the Touch a Truck event the weekend on May 9, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Kilianek inquired about the dog park and Mr. Henderson said it was going very well, and they are receiving compliments. They are having continuing problems with the sod dying as it is a very sandy area. Mr. Henderson stated that we spend approximately 5-6 thousand a year on waste bags for the park, discussion ensued about ways to cut the costs associated with the dog waste disposal. Mr. Ed Newell asked if we charge for the dog park and discussion ensued concerning fees for the dog park.

Mrs. Kilianek inquired about the north gate, Mr. Henderson said it is currently locked, and stated that when we put a lock on it they cut it off. Mr. Contreras had previously

written a letter to the Rotary Club requesting them to keep the gate locked at all times, it had improved for a short period of time but we are beginning to experience problems with it again. Mrs. Kilianek asked what we could do about the gate and Mr. Henderson said that he has been over there several times to speak with someone, but no one is ever there. Mr. Henderson stated that this is not the only problem area where children can come into the park. Mr. Ted Whitlock stated that we should invite them to our meeting to discuss the issue concerning the gate. Mrs. Kilianek requested county staff to talk to the City of Melbourne about the entry to the park, locking the gate, and putting up no trespass signs.

Mr. Henderson stated that we had two small fires in the last few months, but nothing that was out of control. The Melbourne Fire Department had quickly been able to contain and put out the fires and wanted to express their thanks for the fire trails, they were definitely an asset in fighting and containing the fires. Mrs. Kilianek stated that kids come into the park and set fires.

Mrs. Kilianek inquired about the possibility of trees being planted in the burned areas; Mr. Minor responded that we cannot have a canopy there due to the scrub jay habitat and that we are taking a natural approach to the area and letting it re-forest itself naturally. Mr. Henderson provided a picture to the members showing new tree growth in the area and discussion ensued concerning the new growth and the habitat. Mr. Poppe stated that we need to have a master plan for the area, and that we need to get the appropriate agencies to draw up a management plan for the area (north of the campgrounds).

Mrs. Kilianek inquired about the skate park, Mr. Nowlin stated that they would need approximately 6 acres of fenced area. Mr. Minor said that we will re-address the issue after the referendum projects were finished, discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Newell requested staff to check the by-laws about the length of term for the chairman and co-chairman, **ACTION ITEM**. Mrs. Kilianek made a **MOTION** to elect Mr. Ed Newell as Vice Chairman, Mr. Nowlin **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**.

Mr. Minor said we are building a new trades building, it will be a metal pre-fab structure and the permit was issued today. The system is referred to as a tilt-wall, S-5 (Mr. Cliff Singleton) made a commitment to us to donate two buildings, he will be able to show the building for an 18-month period to build his business up, one unit will be completely finished by the contractor and the other unit will be a shell, and we will finish the interior of the building.

The decision on the entrance to the senior center and community center was to go to bid with Post Buckley Schuh and Jernigan (PBS&J) to handling the design.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Discussion ensued about the next regularly scheduled meeting date of July 1, 2009. Mr. Ed Newell made a **MOTION** to change the meeting date to July 8, 2009 due to the July 4th holiday. Mr. Greg Jones **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.**

Seeing no further business, Ms. Karen Kilianek called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ed Newell made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mr. Mike Nowlin **SECONDED, UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.** Mrs. Kilianek adjourned the May 6, 2009, meeting of the Wickham Park Advisory Committee at 7:26 p.m.