



SOUTH AREA PARKS AND RECREATION Wickham Park Advisory Committee

**REGULAR MEETING
September 2, 2009**

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, Wickham Park Advisory Committee, was held on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 6:30 p.m., at the site of Wickham Park, 2500 Parkway Drive, Melbourne, Florida, 32935.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

Liz Lee

STAFF PRESENT

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

PUBLIC

None.

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Members were provided with a copy of the minutes from the July 8, 2009, meeting. Mrs. Karen Kilianek asked if everyone had a chance to review 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.**

Approved 11/04/2009

STAFF REPORTS

Committee members were provided with the monthly reports for Wickham Park for the months of July and August 2009. Mr. Josh Henderson stated that the Discaliber Golf Club has completed replacement of seven tee pads. Mr. Henderson stated that we were making progress with the horse people; they have held several meetings with staff and are working on becoming a Rec Partner. Mr. Henderson also added that two Park Ranger positions were posted internally for the park that has been vacant for over a year, and a Parks Maintenance Position (PMT) had also been posted. Mr. Fred Poppe stated that in addition to that we had a Coordinator Position for the park that had been posted and we will be conducting interviews shortly. The position will be responsible for promoting the Equestrian Area and Special Events and other activities; it will be a far-reaching position. Mr. Poppe added that the Equestrian group that was looking to become a rec partner was moving along very quickly and had by-laws, articles of incorporation and a membership application, and they will shortly be providing us with a calendar of events for the year.

We have had 3 or 4 meetings with the agricultural center and we are discussing using the equestrian area for a certified farmers market and the discussion is that we will probably be starting within the next couple of months. Mr. Poppe stated that probably what we will be doing will be weekly and will most likely be evenings, Wednesday or Thursday, we have not picked a day yet and a we could host a larger one about once a month, on Saturday or Sunday. Mrs. Kilianek inquired if that would be on the grasses around the center, Mr. Poppe replied no, that we would actually be using the whole area, and that those areas would be very conducive to that.

Mr. Poppe stated that the equestrian coordinator will also be meeting with those groups that have shown an interest in using the facilities plus, we will be working with the Ag Center (4H) as well. Mr. Poppe felt that we will see a lot of progress in this area once the coordinator is on board. Mrs. Kilianek inquired how the position would be advertised and Mr. Poppe responded that we have a number of options to use. Mr. Nowlin asked if the county was aware of the Downtown Farmers Market hosted by the City of Melbourne (Downtown Eau Gallie) and Mr. Poppe responded that that was one of the items we were looking at and that we did not want a conflict.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Principe inquired if we had anything new on the skate park. Mr. Minor responded that as a department, we have not made a commitment to build. Ms. Julie Cain has met with Commissioner Nelson; Mr. Minor sat in on the meeting. Mr. Minor said that five days after our last meeting he was basically subpoenaed and had to provide a public records request to a law firm out of Cocoa for information that the County had on the skate park. Mr. Jones asked at whose behest was the request. Mr. Minor stated that we get public records request all the time. Mrs. Kilianek asked if that meant the organization was being assertive in wanting that and if we had any other meetings about that. Mr. Nowlin said that he knew that Ms. Cain wanted to come and speak with the board and asked if we could schedule that for next month, Mrs. Kilianek agreed. Mrs. Kilianek

inquired if Ms. Cain would consider another place somewhere in the park, possibly on Wickham Road, and stated that was something that she would really like to push personally and asked if Mr. Nowlin would bring that to Ms. Cain's attention. Mr. Nowlin stated that that would be Ms. Cain's decision, and he felt that she would be open to any additional input.

Mrs. Kilianek stated that she wanted to confirm something that she was feeling and asked if we were all here to represent Brevard County and the citizens of this area and asked if the members felt that way also. Mrs. Kilianek asked the members if they went out and asked people about their concerns with the park and what they are happy with, their concerns with the park or if they felt that this was unnecessary and asked the members for their comments. Mr. Nowlin responded that in his dealings with the general public in District 1, that everyone was consumed with budget issues at this time and that it did not come up in general conversation at this time.

Mrs. Kilianek stated that she had heard concerns from women about the fleas at the dog park and that they were incredible and that they did not come there for that reason. Mr. Henderson stated that they treat the park for fleas monthly. Mrs. Kilianek stated she heard there was an attack on a woman at the dog park by a pit bull. Mr. Henderson responded that it was a minor incident, that it was reported to Animal Control and that attacks have happened previously, but that they did not happen often and that signs are posted in the area, and that the woman in question had stepped in between two fighting dogs in an attempt to separate them and had received minor scratches from the incident.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Minor stated that we had held the Grand Opening of the Wickham Park Senior Center and that turnout had been excellent, with close to 200 people attending. Dr. Beach, the Secretary for Elder Affairs for the State of Florida was the guest speaker at the Grand Opening. Mrs. Principe said that the seniors are so grateful for the location in Wickham Park that it is a central location and that seniors are coming from the north and the south, and that membership has grown from about 330 to over 1500, just due to the location alone. Mrs. Principe said that in fact, they have already outgrown the center. On behalf of the Senior Center they have asked Mrs. Principe to extend their sincere thanks to the group for locating the center where it is.

Mr. Minor said that our budget has not taken any further hits, and that the Board would be voting on the 2010 budget soon. Mrs. Principe asked about the vote on the administration fees; Mr. Minor said that each area funds a portion. Mr. Whitlock stated that the cuts equaled 1.7 million dollars.

Mrs. Kilianek then asked Mrs. Cook if we could invite Don Lusk to our next meeting. The members asked for what purpose, Mrs. Kilianek said so that Mr. Lusk could find out more about the proposed skate park, to have his input and so that he could officially offer different locations on the skate park. Mrs. Cook stated that the next meeting would be officially moved to the Senior Center location. Discussion ensued about the committee's

role with the proposed skate park. Mr. Newell stated that the committee does not make policy, but as a committee we can only make recommendations to the Commissioners. Mr. Jones stated that our role as a committee was to take the input offered by Ms. Cain, and then the committee would decide what course of action to take. Mr. Poppe stated that the members needed to remember that this was a very preliminary stage of what will be a very long process.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, Mrs. Karen Kilianek asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ted Whitlock made a **MOTION** to adjourn, Mr. Ed Newell **SECONDED**, **UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED**. Mrs. Kilianek adjourned the September 2, 2009, meeting of the Wickham Park Advisory Committee at 6:55 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting is November 4, 2009.