

**NON-APPROVED
MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
SPANISH RIVER LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER
BOCA RATON, FL 33431
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

Dr. Trudi Stevens, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:20PM. Roll was called.

Members Present: Dr. Trudi N. Stevens, Chair
Ronald L. Betters, Vice Chair
Peter Boylan
Dr. Dennis R. Frisch
Gordon Gilbert
Joseph Good
Hank Kreh

Staff Present: Mickey A. Gomez Recreation Services Director
Buddy Parks Deputy Recreation Services Director
J.D. Varney Recreation Services Superintendent
Greg Stevens Recreation Services Superintendent
Maureen McNichol Aquatics Administrator
Joe Cogley Retired B.R. Employee

Others Present: Dave Johnson Boca Resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION was made by Dr. Frisch, seconded by Mr. Betters, to accept the minutes of the September 16, 2014 public meeting as written. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

MOTION was made by Dr. Frisch, seconded by Mr. Kreh, to accept the minutes as amended of the October 7, 2014 regular meeting. The correction is on page two, item 3 under Old Business on the second line change the word Friday to Thursday. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

Mention was given to the other related board minutes in the packet.

PURPOSE: Regular monthly meeting.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: There were no public requests.

REPORTS:

1. **Staff Updates – Aquatics – Maureen McNichol**

Maureen McNichol distributed a handout from the American Red Cross entitled, *Your Home Doesn't Come With A Lifeguard*. Her presentation this evening was regarding drowning prevention. The City teamed up with the Treasure Coast of Palm Beach Chapter of the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA). They are dedicated to saving lives through drowning prevention and water safety – limiting aquatic injuries. The local chapter is working on free swimming lessons for those less fortunate. The NDPA is working on transportation to get vulnerable children to free swim lessons. The City of Boca Raton would like to be a partner for giving free lessons. They would also like to introduce teaching parents CPR while their children are receiving free swimming lessons. Ms. McNichol spoke about donating swim suits, caps, etc. to give to less fortunate children and adults. She answered questions of the Board.

2. **Department Project Updates – B. Parks**

Mr. Parks explained that there are very few projects currently funded waiting to get done. **Gumbo Limbo Pumps** are progressing. He said they had just received the pumps and we have to connect them to electricity and have the variable frequency drives delivered and installed. The **Spanish River Library Mezzanine Enclosure** is in Purchasing being prepared to be bid, and the **Silver Palm Park Restroom Renovations** project is under review before it goes to City Council. Staff met with Miller-Legg on October 15th to review the desired scope of services for both the **Hillsboro/EI Rio Master Plan** and the **Military**

Trail Landscaping – Verde Trail to Glades Overpass renovation projects. Both of these projects require a Work Order. Mr. Parks explained that other Work Orders being developed were for the **Spanish River Boulevard – Countess de Hoernle Park Library Bridge** and the **South Beach Pavilion – Ocean Rescue Storage** building. Dr. Stevens asked when the Board would get Hillsboro/El Rio Master Plan back for a public hearing. Mr. Parks felt that after the holidays, about mid-January.

3. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report – J. Varney

Mr. Varney said that the report in their packet contains data for the complete 13-14 fiscal year, with the exception of a revenue report. He also noted that golf permits have decreased over the past four years due to a variety of reasons. Mr. Varney answered a question from Dr. Frisch regarding participation at the public schools. A discussion ensued about the football leagues. Dr. Frisch asked about the 25 lost persons documented on the Park Ranger Report. Mr. Varney said he will look into the matter and provide a response at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Proposed 2015 Parks & Recreation Board Meeting Schedule – M. Gomez

It was agreed to meet at George Snow Park on March 3, 2015. Mr. Gomez asked the members to bring their calendars to the next meeting to set the date for a tour during January or February of next year. Dr. Frisch asked about businesses in the area utilizing the parking spaces at George Snow. Staff will check with the Park Rangers and report back.

2. Artificial Turf – B. Parks

Mr. Parks said that artificial turf has been in the news lately. He played the NBC Report that was on the news for the Board Members. He said it is being shown just for informational purposes and to educate the Board Members on the topic of crumb rubber used as infill on the artificial turf fields. The news report talked about female soccer players, especially goalkeepers, having lymphoma and a coincidental relationship to playing on artificial turf fields with crumb rubber. Mr. Parks reviewed the information in the Board Packet which listed 46 studies that have been conducted since 1998, and as of today, there have been no reported relationships of adverse health effects on those playing on crumb rubber. Sand Pine Park will remain available for public use. The number one complaint is that artificial turf fields get hot and the City is looking at a cooler artificial turf field. The Board Members asked questions and gave comments. The City is looking at organic infill field made of corn husk, cork and coconut fibers. It seems to be 30 degrees cooler than crumb rubber. Mr. Gomez said that when he was at the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) he went to several classes about this subject. Mr. Gomez said that the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District (GBRB&PD) was having a public meeting on November 12th and they would hear what all the users would like. Discussion ensued that organic materials and materials known to be non-dangerous should be considered. The City is doing its due diligence and there are no plans to install any crumb rubber artificial turf fields.

OLD BUSINESS:

STAFF COMMENTS:

1. Director' s Report

Mr. Gomez previously spoke about different subjects earlier in the meeting.

2. Employees of the Quarter – Third Quarter 2014

Greg Stevens awarded the Teamwork Award to Sherman Lang, Singletary T. Kinlaw, Donald Singleton, and Johnny Martin. Sherman Lang and his staff have been tasked with fueling the diesel rental pump daily due to the failure of the seawater pumps at Gumbo Limbo. When the tank truck' s pump broke down, he figured out how to keep the pump running continuously since the initial failure.

JD Varney awarded the Commitment Award to Mia Turner. Mia has outstanding customer service. When Mia walked out of the pro shop, she noticed all the commotion at the bridge. A customer dropped a set of keys into the water beneath the bridge. Mia went into the water and, using a net, found the keys.

JD Varney awarded the Innovation Award to Vicky Gilligan. She developed a simple, accurate and timely method of documenting hours worked for 151 part-time employees. At the conclusion of every pay

period, Ms. Gilligan updates the report which must be accurate for three one-year periods. This gives supervisory staff a great management tool.

Buddy Parks awarded the Motivation/Positive Attitude Award to Laura Fulton. With a few buckets of joint compound and chicken wire, she turned simple products into scary monsters for this year's Shriek Week Haunted House at Sugar Sand Park. She is the coordinator for all the volunteers who help to construct the haunted house. She is also the coordinator for the entire volunteer team used in the Willow Theatre and creates spectacular posters and flyers for the center.

3. Various Letters of Commendation

BOARD MEMBER INTEREST INITIATIVES & COMMENTS:

Mr. Good said he will not be at the December meeting, but will be at the January meeting.

Chair Stevens inquired if the Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District had provided a meeting date that they would send a representative to a Board meeting to provide updates on their current projects. Mr. Gomez said he would request Art Koski to provide a date. She then spoke about the upcoming holiday events. She inquired about a second Dog Park at El Rio (as a possibility).

Mr. Betters said that the brochure for the Downtown Library was beautiful and Dr. Frisch said that the brochure was made in an evergreen way so that it could be re-usable.

ACTIVITIES:

Veteran's Day Celebration at the Boca Raton Cemetery – Tuesday, November 11th @ 9 am.
Wednesday, November 26th @ Mizner Park – 5:30-8:30 pm, Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
Wednesday, December 3rd @ 7:30 pm, 44th Annual Holiday Street Parade
Saturday, December 6th @ 6:30 pm, 38th Annual Holiday Board Parade

NEXT MEETINGS:

December 2, 2014 – Sugar Sand Park Community Center

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Mr. Betters, seconded by Mr. Kreh, to adjourn the meeting at 7:00PM.
MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Arlene Moskowitz, Recorder