

**NON-APPROVED  
MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
DOWNTOWN LIBRARY  
400 NW 2<sup>ND</sup> AVENUE  
BOCA RATON, FL 33432  
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2014**

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Dr. Trudi Stevens, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:15PM. 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  
Ann Nappa                 Manager of Library Services

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**MOTION** was made by Mr. Kreh, seconded by Dr. Frisch, to accept the minutes of the June 3, 2014 regular meeting. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

Dr. Frisch questioned if this month's minutes for the Board were on the City's website prior to approval. Mr. Gomez said he would check with the City Clerk's Office. A discussion ensued about items listed in the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District's (GBRB&PD) minutes in the packet.

Mr. Gomez said he would ensure that the City Clerk's office has everything needed for the upcoming Board appointments. He also said he would also speak with Mr. Koski to see if someone from the District could speak at an upcoming Parks and Recreation Board Meeting.

**PURPOSE:** Regular monthly meeting.

**WELCOME:**

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was a memo in the packet pertaining to re-appointments to the Parks & Recreation Board.

**REPORTS:**

1. **Staff Updates – Library Programs – Ann Nappa**

Ann Nappa introduced herself to the Board. She has worked for the Library for twelve years, working in all the different departments of the library. She explained all the summer reading programs. This year, adults were added to the program. An informational handout and a bookmark were distributed. She discussed new classes and discussion groups. She explained about renting space at both libraries. To date, revenue for room rentals was \$70,000. She answered that the rental price was higher for non-residents. If renters stay longer than regular

library hours, there is a charge for after hours. She explained the Spanish River Library mezzanine enclosure. She explained how popular the study rooms and group study rooms were at both libraries and new spaces have been added to the Spanish River Library. A new streaming video service has been added through the website. E-books continue to do very well. She explained that the Instructional Services librarians were teaching classes, as well as helping people individually through a service called "Book A Librarian" that helps people with time intensive and focused projects. She said that Boca Raton Community High School students displayed their photography at the Downtown Library. She explained that library staff is streamlining the process of getting returned library books back on the shelf through a process called LEAN that the City has adopted. Mr. Boylan wanted to know about the playground at the Spanish River Library. Mr. Gomez said he would inquire about it. Mr. Betters suggested scanning the library books when they were returned to get them on the shelf faster.

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

Mr. Parks spoke about **Red Reef Park Maintenance Enclosure** which was moving along quite well. The contractor would clean up the site for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend. Mr. Parks stated that **Gumbo Limbo Boardwalks** were not going to happen this year. He answered that the funds were not re-budgeted by the BPD. Mr. Gomez said they were working together to come up with the best project available. Mr. Parks said that **Hughes Park Security Cameras** were finished and would be taken off the list. The project was completed for **Sand Pine Park – Lighting Improvements**. For **Blue Lake/de Hoernle Lake Connection**, Mr. Parks said that staff would monitor the lakes for their water depth. The study would take about one month to six weeks. He answered a question that both Estridge and the Dog Park be serviced with IRIS. For the **Spanish River Library Mezzanine Enclosure**, he reported that the consultant would finalize plans. For **James A. Rutherford Park Boardwalk**, Mr. Parks stated that they were waiting for finalization of the work order for design and working through Municipal Services. Mr. Parks said they were removing the old structures for the **Playground Renovations**.

## **3. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report – J. Varney**

Mr. Varney began by advising the Board that use of Sugar Sand Park's in-line hockey court has steadily decreased over the past several years. Mr. Varney enlightened the Board regarding the City's inter-local agreement with the Palm Beach School District for mutual use of facilities. He gave several examples of how the agreement benefits both parties. Mr. Varney said that the October –April revenue report will be provided in next month's agenda packet. Mr. Gilbert asked why some beach participation figures decreased in August. Mr. Parks responded that the decrease may be due to the weather.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### **1. Dog Beach – J. Varney**

The Dog Beach opened a little over six months ago. Mr. Varney reported that permit sales were substantially higher than anticipated. He noted that there were 1,131 permits sold to residents and 7 to non-residents. There were 639 weekend (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) permits sold. It was also noted that the public has been very cooperative and considerate, taking care to follow all guidelines. In conclusion, Mr. Varney complemented staff from the community centers, Park Rangers, Parks Maintenance, Ocean Rescue and Administration for their contributions to the opening and operation of the dog beach.

### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

#### **1. Director's Report**

Mr. Gomez said that there were residents both for and against further expansion of Hillsboro/El Rio Park. He proposed that the Board convene a special meeting to receive public input and concerns. It was noted that the meeting will help the City better understand the issues at hand.

The Board decided to hold the meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM, with the location to be determined. Mr. Gomez stated he would notify the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District of the meeting, as residents have requested their participation in funding future improvements in public meetings.

Mr. Gomez spoke about the beach concessions. He indicated that responses to the Request for Proposals (RFP) are due July 7<sup>th</sup>. He said he anticipated the City Council would consider the best course of action at their August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Gomez concluded his comments, telling the Board that it was hoped that beach concessions will be available to the public, at all three parks, by October 1.

Mr. Good told the Board that he was aware of interest in the property at the corner of Palmetto Park Road and S. Ocean Drive for a hotel/condominium. He felt this would be a good fit for the area, especially if beach concessions were to be available.

Dr. Frisch spoke about a couple who suggested installing a handrail/rope along an uphill slope at the south end of Red Reef Park. Mr. Gilbert mentioned an area near there that was easier to maneuver. Mr. Gomez would look into the matter.

## **2. Various Letters of Commendation**

### **BOARD MEMBER INTEREST INITIATIVES & COMMENTS:**

Mr. Kreh inquired about the food trucks associated with the youth lacrosse and football programs at Patch Reef Park. Mr. Gomez said he would discuss the matter with the Risk Manager.

Mr. Boylan commented regarding the lack of parking at Palmetto Dune Park, adding that the park is very well maintained. Mr. Gomez said that the park was built as a pocket park and, as such, a parking lot was not included.

Mr. Good asked about the cost of the fireworks to which Mr. Gomez responded that the cost was approximately \$25K or \$27K. Mr. Gomez reminded the Board that Special Events was just transferred back into his department.

Mr. Betters asked about additional athletic fields. He was told that the City is working with the Beach & Park District to provide additional fields.

Mr. Kreh suggested a Watch Party at the Amphitheater if the United States team were to reach in the finals of the World Cup.

### **ACTIVITIES:**

**NEXT MEETINGS:** August 5, 2014 – Sugar Sand Park Community Center  
September 2, 2014 – Community Center Annex

**ADJOURNMENT:** Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20PM.

Arlene Moskowitz, Recorder