

**NON-APPROVED
MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
RED REEF PARK PAVILION
1400 N. STATE ROAD A1A
BOCA RATON, FL 33432
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2014**

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

Members Absent: 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
David Hill Park Maintenance Supervisor III

Others Present: A J Abbott Fox Victor Ltd.
Gerry Angers Boca Raton resident
David Johnson Boca Raton resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION was made by Dr. Frisch, seconded by Mr. Gilbert, to accept the minutes of the April 1, 2014 regular meeting with one correction. On page 2 under Director's Report, add the words *was being prepared* and take off the words *went out* in the following sentence. Mr. Varney said that an RFP ~~went out~~ *was being prepared* for the beach concessions. **MOTION PASSED 6-0.**

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

PURPOSE: Regular monthly meeting.

WELCOME: Dr. Stevens welcomed the board's visitors. She explained about public speaking and invited the guests to speak.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: David Johnson said he spoke at the City Council Goal Setting regarding Hillsboro El Rio Park. He distributed a copy of a petition that was signed by five neighborhoods. He reminded the Board that the park was moving forward to construction when the economy turned bad, and the project was not funded. Now that property values are up, as well as the economy, he was requesting the Board's support for the City proceeding with the final design and construction of the park. The Board spoke about the Master Plan and the fact that the project is now in the approved CIP, scheduled for 2019. Mr. Johnson felt that a letter from the Board to the Mayor and City Council in support of this project would be helpful.

MOTION was made by Dr. Frisch, seconded by Mr. Gilbert, to have the Board send a letter to the Mayor and City Council indicating that they would like to move the completion of Hillsboro El Rio Park up on the priority list, with advance planning done to see what amenities and costs would be involved and possibly move it up from 2019.
MOTION PASSED 6-0.

Mr. Gomez said he would have the letter prepared to go out under Chair Steven's signature.

Mr. Good commented that he was surprised when he read the letter from Mr. Ossipian regarding Dog Beach. Chair Stevens said that Greg Stevens' reply to Mr. Ossipian was excellent.

REPORTS:

1. Staff Updates – Dog Park Maintenance – David Hill

Mr. Hill said that the dog park occupied six acres, of which five were fenced. He noted that 9,000 to 12,000 "poop bags" are used each month. The park is open from 7:30am until dusk seven days a week except Wednesday morning, when weekly maintenance takes place. One park employee opens the park daily and the Park Rangers lock it. His employees maintain the grass, spray for fleas and ticks, etc. His crew removes and replaces sod as needed. Everyone enjoys this park. Users would like to see the park have a restroom, chilled water and lights. About 100,000 people use the park throughout the year. Dr. Frisch suggested putting ideas together about what dog owners would be offered to do with the dogs when a restroom is constructed. Mr. Gomez responded that staff would inquire about this at other dog parks and also speak with the pet owners. Mr. Parks spoke about IRIS water hookup and explained potable and reclaimed water. Mr. Hill answered questions about the tarps in the shaded areas, and the fact that they could be taken down in case of a hurricane.

2. Department Project Updates – B. Parks

Mr. Parks spoke about the new storage area across from Red Reef Park. It would be fairly large. For **Gumbo Limbo Boardwalks**, Mr. Parks stated that the bids were open last week. When references were checked and a recommendation made by Municipal Services, a memo would be sent to Mr. Koski at the Beach & Park District about funding. For **Gumbo Limbo Pumps**, Mr. Parks said that they met with the consultant on March 27. The consultant was directed to prepare a proposal to explore more options for the best, long-term fix for the pumps. Also, at Gumbo Limbo, the contractor is waiting for the doors to arrive for **Gumbo Limbo – Doors, Windows & Gutters**. Mr. Parks answered that **Red Reef Park – Restroom Renovations** are on hold because the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District engaged a consultant and was re-looking at the Master Plan.

3. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report – J. Varney

Mr. Varney reported that revenue figures are now available. Referring to the October – March revenue report, he noted that a recent decline in revenue at the Downtown Library has been reversed and that revenue is now trending upward. He also named some facilities (e.g., Meadow Park Pool) where the revenue has increase for four consecutive years. He added that good service leads to increased revenue. Golf had a slow but steady revenue increase. Mr. Varney also advised the Board that Dog Beach revenue has far exceeded expectations. A question was asked regarding FY 2013-14 revenue for Athletic Programs. Greg Stevens said that he would look into the matter, but thinks it may have to do with the timing of league registrations. Responding to questions, Mr. Varney indicated Lake Wyman Park revenue is generated by pavilion rentals and that de Hoernle Park revenue is generated by vending machines.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

STAFF COMMENTS:

1. Employees of the Quarter – First Quarter 2014

Mr. Parks announced that Julie Barbato won for Commitment. She is a part-time employee in the library. The children love her. She puts more research and effort into her programs. She is like the Energizer Bunny and always goes the extra mile.

Mr. Parks announced that Krisin Child won for Innovation. Her job at Gumbo Limbo entails coordination of all print and digital media including program flyers/advertisements, the website, newsletter, press releases, etc. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) had a 3-day meeting this year in Deerfield. Kristin used her innovation, and Gumbo Limbo and the City of Boca Raton received invaluable exposure at that meeting in Deerfield as a result of her efforts.

Mr. Parks said that Danny Mitchell won for Motivation/Positive Attitude. He always has a smile on his face. He is a full-time custodian at Sugar Sand Park. Occasionally he will be asked to run the carousel to cover for other employees. The children have such a wonderful time when Danny runs the carousel with his positive energy.

Mr. Stevens said that Ramon Medina, Shatner Spain, Quinton Miller, Singletary Kinlaw and Chris Bednar won for Teamwork. Their work schedules changed to have crews work on the weekends at straight time pay. These scheduling changes saved the City \$26,714 in overtime funds. Also, this year's shipment of LED lights contained numerous defective strands. On the day of the Holiday Street Parade, the lights on 14 Royal Palms went out at Sanborn Square. The crew worked with much pride and determination, so that all the trees were lit for the parade. Due to great documentation and communication with the light vendor, the City would be receiving reimbursement for the purchase of the lights from last year's shipment.

2. Director's Report

Mr. Gomez discussed the City Council's Goal Setting. He talked about the items on the City Council's Top Priority list (e.g., Wildflower property) and the items on the High Priority list (e.g., service and staffing levels). For the next meeting, he would have the Recreation Services Department's Successes and Challenges. He talked about the Dog Beach, which has almost reached its six-month benchmark. Resident permits sold were 1,049 and non-resident permits sold were 7. Weekend permits are sold at the gatehouse. He spoke about the Ad Hoc Board Meeting. There was total consensus among the youth sports associations. He said Dr. Frisch ran a great meeting. He then updated the beach concession and beach re-nourishment projects. The beach re-nourishment had to stop because of permit restrictions. The project would be finished after turtle season.

Greg Jerolaman mentioned to the Board that Ron Better's son was mentioned in the Palm Beach Post as one of the top ten best Dolphin picks in draft history.

3. Various Letters of Commendation

Chair Stevens said that the letters were very impressive.

BOARD MEMBER INTEREST INITIATIVES & COMMENTS:

Dr. Frisch said the Spanish River library was an amazing spot to have a wedding. The library staff did a great job. Mr. Gomez answered the Chair's question about the Library Director opening. There were two candidates from the new advertisement and two candidates from the last advertisement. These four still did not feel like the right fit. The one who is in charge right now is doing a fantastic job for the City and we are taking our time to hire the right person. Chair Stevens discussed the City's volunteers as rangers on the golf course. It would cost the City a lot of money if they had to pay them. Chair Stevens asked about the Wildflower property and was told that Houston's was asked for some more calculations. It was mentioned that some members of the public suggested at Goal Setting to use this location for water amenities/park and not a restaurant. Dr. Frisch spoke about a Wall Street Journal article describing golf for older people to include shorter distances and bigger holes. He asked to have Greg comment at next month's meeting being held at the Golf Course. Mr. Boylan asked if the City Council made up its mind regarding the Dog Beach. Mr. Gomez responded that nothing had been determined yet, but that the six month mark was coming up shortly Mr. Gilbert reminded about the upcoming Board appointments. This would be an item on the June agenda.

ACTIVITIES:

May 20th – Recreation Services Annual Awards Luncheon @ 12:00pm (Boca Raton Community Center)

Parks and Recreation Board Re-appointments (Peter, Gordon, Joe & Trudi) City Council Workshop on Monday, July 7th (Workshop is after CRA Meeting – CRA Meeting starts @ 1:30 and goes to ???) or City Council Meeting Tuesday, July 8th at 6pm

NEXT MEETINGS:

June 3, 2014 – Boca Raton Municipal Golf Course
July 1, 2014 – Downtown Library

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Mr. Boylan, seconded by Mr. Betters, to adjourn at 6:37pm
MOTION PASSED 6-0.

Arlene Moskowitz, Recorder