

**NON-APPROVED
MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
PATCH REEF PARK/JAMES A. RUTHERFORD COMMUNITY CENTER
2000 YAMATO ROAD
BOCA RATON, FL 33431
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 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
Chris Bednar Park Maintenance Supervisor III

Others Present: Dave Johnson Boca Resident

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION was made by Mr. Betters, seconded by Dr. Frisch, to accept the minutes of the September 9, 2014 regular meeting as written. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

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

PURPOSE: Regular monthly meeting.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: Dave Johnson thanked the Board for their support and for the successful meeting conducted about 3 weeks ago. He said that the City Council approved \$50K for Hillsboro/EI Rio Park planning. Dr. Stevens said she saw a television news report that spoke briefly about Hillsboro/EI Rio Park.

CORRESPONDENCE: In the packet was the memo sent by Mickey Gomez to Leif Ahnell regarding user fees. Mr. Gomez informed the Board that the user fees, as endorsed by the Board, were approved by City Council.

REPORTS:

1. **Staff Updates – Holiday Lighting Program – Chris Bednar**
Chris Bednar distributed his 2014-15 Holiday Decorations Program handout. He said that he has worked 23 years for the City. He explained where all the lights would be installed and that this year will be the first time all the City's holiday lights are LEDs. This will save the City money. He told how and when the process of installing holiday lights in the City begins and how and when the lights are taken down. He described some of the problems encountered, e.g., squirrels do not like the lights. He spoke about the reduced workforce hours and how he managed the scheduling. He answered Board questions. It was suggested that a unique bulb (orange, for example) be used in one location and a contest be established whereby the first person to identify the location of the special bulb receives a prize. Greg Stevens said that Chris Bednar really takes ownership of this project and sets an example for all supervisors. Last year there was a bad batch of LED lights and the manufacturer worked with the City on replacement, due to Chris' excellent documentation.

2. **Department Project Updates – B. Parks**
Mr. Parks explained the **Red Reef Maintenance Enclosure** is finished and will come off the list. Mr. Parks said that we will connect the new pumps when they come in for **Gumbo Limbo. Spanish River**

Library Mezzanine Enclosure and Silver Palm Park Restroom Renovations were moving forward. The **Playground Renovations at South Beach Pavilion and Woodlands Park** are complete. Mr. Parks said the next project on this list would be Hillsboro/El Rio. We are going to come up with options and speak with the consultant this Friday. We have 80% of the design plan from before. Mr. Parks said that Dave Johnson's hard work paid off. Dr. Frisch said that at the Special Meeting was approximately 50/50 for and against the park. Perhaps as we go forward with the process, a lot of the negative comments may change.

3. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report – J. Varney

Mr. Varney began by advising the Board that participation at the Sugar Sand Park Community Center from October of 2013 through August of 2014 has increased over the same time period for four consecutive years.. He spoke about how the staff is innovative and constantly strives to keep events fresh and new. Their good work is also reflected in revenue increasing every year for the past four years. Mr. Kreh mentioned that all three tennis centers are doing well. Mr. Gomez said that the City of Boca Raton was recently recognized as the USTA's Florida Member Organization of the Year. In response to a question from Mr. Boylan, Mr. Varney said that beach concessions revenue will be included in each of the three beach front park's revenue figures. Mr. Varney answered Dr. Frisch regarding the cost of the concession items.

NEW BUSINESS:

OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Hillsboro/El Rio Update – B. Parks**

Mr. Parks previously spoke about this when he discussed Department Project Updates.

2. **City Council Goal Setting (May 1 and 2, 2014) – M. Gomez**

In the packet was the Goal Setting Sessions Summary Report for May 1 and 2, 2014. He explained that it is a top priority for the City Council to have a joint meeting with the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District. The City Council was scheduled to meet with FAU, but the meeting needs to be rescheduled. Mr. Gomez went through the report and answered questions. He said that the Recreation Services Department is a vital part of Boca Raton.

3. **Recreation Services Budget Update – M Gomez**

Mr. Gomez said that the FY 14-15 operating budget was approved, as submitted. Selected evening hours at both libraries were restored. On Monday through Friday, the libraries will be open until 9:00PM. Mr. Gomez said he is still meeting with Art Koski, Greater Boca Raton Beach & Park District (GBRB&PD), about equipment and vehicle replacements and CIP projects. He said that he anticipates the Recreation Services Department will maintain the same level of service that the residents of the City and the Greater Boca Raton Beach and Park District enjoy. Responding to a question from Mr. Boylan, Mr. Gomez said that a restroom for dog park patrons will be discussed in conjunction with a second phase of construction at Countess deHoernle Park. Discussion ensued about the Wildflower property and Mr. Gomez said the City Council was awaiting information they requested which would address the residents' concerns. They discussed that an RFP for the 15 acres by the Spanish River Library will be going out. There were different options discussed for this property including an entertainment area similar to Delray Marketplace with a movie theatre/bowling alley, restaurants and stores. Mr. Good asked about parking spaces for the restaurant across the street from 5th Avenue and Mr. Gomez said he would ask Mr. Brown about that.

STAFF COMMENTS:

1. **Director's Report**

Mr. Gomez previously spoke about it earlier in the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER INTEREST INITIATIVES & COMMENTS:

Mr. Boylan said he was at Red Reef Park and he likes the new beach concessions. Discussion ensued that the workers should be non-intrusive and no hard selling of beach concessions.

ACTIVITIES:

NEXT MEETINGS:

November 5, 2014 – Spanish River Library (this is a Wednesday)
December 2, 2014 – Sugar Sand Park Community Center (Discussion
ensued and the Board Members decided to come early to this meeting)

The members started to discuss upcoming events. The Holiday Park Parade would be December 3.
Tree Lighting would be the Wednesday before Thanksgiving. The Boat Parade is December 6th.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION was made by Mr. Boylan, seconded by Mr. Gilbert, to adjourn the meeting at 6:15PM.
MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Arlene Moskowitz, Recorder