

**NON-APPROVED
MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD - 2015 TOUR OF FACILITIES
SPANISH RIVER LIBRARY & COMMUNITY CENTER
1501 NW SPANISH RIVER BOULEVARD
BOCA RATON FLORIDA 33431
SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2015**

Ronald L. Betters, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. Roll was called.

Members Present: Ronald L. Betters, Chairman
Gordon Gilbert, Vice Chairman
Peter Boylan
Hank Kreh
Dr. Trudi N. Stevens

Members Absent: Dr. Dennis R. Frisch
Joseph Good

Staff Present: Mickey Gomez Recreation Services Director
Buddy Parks Deputy Recreation Services Director
J.D. Varney Recreation Services Superintendent
Greg Stevens Recreation Services Superintendent

Others Present: Sammy Stevens

Following breakfast, the Board began their tour.

SAND PINE PARK

(two small crumb rubber artificial turf rectangular fields installed in June 2010)

Mr. Gomez spoke about the different types of infill used on artificial turf, those being crumb rubber and organic. While crumb rubber is less expensive, organic is generally regarded as providing a surface that most resembles grass. The organic also eliminates health concerns (justified or not) associated with crumb rubber, and it is at least 30 degrees cooler.

Mr. Parks indicated that many varieties of artificial turf are FIFA approved and that G-MAX testing provides an objective comparison of artificial turf and grass.

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

(one small crumb rubber artificial turf rectangular field installed prior to Sand Pine Park)

Mr. Gomez advised the Board that this field was not the "top of the line" product on the market at the time it was purchased and installed. Additionally, it does not appear to be well maintained, ranking below the fields at Sand Pine Park and Boca Raton High School.

BOCA RATON HIGH SCHOOL

(crumb rubber artificial turf rectangular field)

Mr. Gomez told the Board that the original field was installed in 2009 and recently replaced at the vendor's expense due to problems with the white lines. Many Board members commented on the texture, infill and attractiveness at the new field. All agreed that this was the best of the 3 fields that were seen.

HILLSBORO EL RIO PARK

The Board toured the undeveloped, south side of the park. Mr. Gomez and Mr. Stevens spoke regarding efforts to remove debris from the site and the anticipated demand for parks due to new residential construction downtown. It was noted that no athletic fields are planned for the south side. The Board asked that the most recent approved Master Plan for Hillsboro/El Rio Park be placed on the Agenda for the February 3, 2015 regular meeting.

SOUTH BEACH PAVILION

Mr. Stevens pointed out the new roofs and the recently re-painted bars located along the benches.

Mr. Varney advised the Board that during a rainstorm, sand and water cascade down inclines on the north and south side of Ocean Rescue's storage building, resulting in the driveway adjacent to the storage building being flooded. Water also drains into the driveway from the south and the east. Staff is waiting on a Work Order from our contract Engineers for a design that will alleviate flooding of the driveway.

Mr. Gomez and Mr. Stevens told the Board of challenges the Recreation Services Department is facing in replacing beach tractors. These units are used to keep the beaches clean. They also spoke of the advantage of replacing asphalt walkways with concrete.

Mr. Parks spoke briefly regarding an innovative design and construction process (job order contract) that is being used on the restroom renovation project at Silver Palm Park. He explained that once the project is complete, the process will be evaluated, along with the time and quality of the end product, for a decision as to the preferred method to use for renovations of the restroom at the Pavilion.

PATCH REEF PARK

Despite intermittent rain and dark sky on the horizon, the Board pressed on.

Mr. Gomez led a discussion pertaining to the hours of use that grass fields can endure per year. He concluded the discussion by emphasizing the benefits of replacing the grass fields at Patch Reef Park with artificial turf. He went on to say that, with the capable assistance of a consultant, the Beach and Park District is considering the benefits and drawbacks of each, noting that the District has scheduled a meeting for February 2nd to seek input from the groups that use the athletic fields. Also discussed was the impact of deHoernle Park on field usage in Patch Reef Park, a report provided by Dr. Busey regarding turf maintenance practices and a decision to delay any laser grading of the Patch Reef Park fields until a decision is made to either re-sod with Celebration turf or to replace the existing grass with artificial turf.

Mr. Varney led a tour of the Patch Reef Park Tennis Center. Of particular interest was the pending resurfacing of the facility's 17 hard courts and hitting wall.

The Board returned to the Spanish River Library and Community Center and adjourned the meeting at 11:56 AM.

J.D. Varney, Recorder