

**NON-APPROVED
MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
COMMUNITY CENTER ANNEX
260 CRAWFORD BOULEVARD
BOCA RATON, FL 33432
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 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 Gomez Recreation Services Director
Buddy Parks Deputy Recreation Services Director
J.D. Varney Recreation Services Superintendent
Kevin Beckman Athletic Programs Administrator
Jim Thomas Athletic Supervisor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION was made by Mr. Kreh, seconded by Dr. Frisch, to accept the minutes of the February 4, 2014 regular meeting as submitted. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

MOTION was made by Mr. Betters, seconded by Mr. Boylan, to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2014 annual tour as submitted. **MOTION PASSED 7-0.**

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

PURPOSE: Regular monthly meeting.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: No one from the public was present. Mr. Gomez said that a lady from the public might attend. A lady called regarding a portable bathroom at the dog park. Greg Stevens explained that we did not have the money for a portable bathroom in our budget; however, there would be a permanent bathroom built close to the dog park at the Countess de Hoernle fields. Board members commented.

REPORTS:

1. **Staff Updates – Skate Park – Jim Thomas**
Mr. Thomas said he has worked for the City since 1998. The Skate Park opened March 7, 1998. The original building and some shuffle board courts were still there along with the 12,500 sq. ft. concrete Skate Park. The park is supervised all of its hours of operation. He answered that now there were about thirty participants a day. They all sign waivers. Helmets are not mandatory but most wear them. They are open 363 days a year. They have four events each year for skate competition. He said that June 7th is the next scheduled competition. He named the skate parks that were his competitors. He envisioned future expansions to the park in about five years. He answered that there are more males but out of the thirty daily participants, there were about three to five females. Jim Thomas said there were a few different future designs. Some take away the northern shuffle board courts for expansion to the skate park and some leave existing shuffle board courts and just expand the skate park area. This is a City owned

park. Jim answered that employees give out the shuffle board equipment. He also answered that there is a picnic area outside the park under a tree. He answered that the sport is still growing. Tony Hawk, professional skateboarder, visited this park. They spoke about hover boards and skateboard equipment. Mr. Thomas answered that their participation numbers were not affected by the Olympics but rather stayed constant. Revenue was also consistent of about \$16K to \$21K per year. He answered that this revenue was for entrance and was not from the snack machines.

2. Department Project Updates – B. Parks

Mr. Parks reported that for the **Red Reef Park Maintenance Enclosure**, the City and contractor agreed to delay the construction start date to April first. For **Gumbo Limbo Boardwalks**, Mr. Parks stated that they would have their pre-bid meeting this week. For **Gumbo Limbo Pumps**, Mr. Parks said that the pumps report would be tomorrow. All tennis resurfacing was completed for **Clay Tennis Court Resurfacing – Boca Raton Tennis Center & Racquet Center**. The gutters were complete and everything else was coming along for **Gumbo Limbo – Doors, Windows & Gutters**. Mr. Parks mentioned that they were going to engage the services of a “father company” and start with Silver Palm Park restroom renovations. This company would supply the architect, contractor, etc. This type of company would save us time when we do a project. It may save us money as well. He answered that Municipal Services and other departments would be involved, so it would be done to the City’s standards. Mr. Parks answered that the Hughes Park Security Cameras were not complete and Greg Stevens was not in attendance tonight to give any further update on the cameras. Mr. Gomez said that the police chief would like to see cameras in all parks.

3. Parks & Recreation Monthly Report – J. Varney

Mr. Varney reported that he will begin providing Revenue Reports when they become available. He reported that year-to-date participation numbers for the Boca Raton Community Center were consistent for FY 2010-11 and FY 2011-12, jumped in FY 2012-13, but declined this year. The Sugar Sand Park carousel’s participation numbers dropped in FY 2012-13 due to maintenance problems, which have been resolved. Mr. Varney said he would look into why the participation numbers for Hillsboro/El Rio Park and Lake Wyman Park jumped up in FY 2013-14. It was suggested by Mr. Beckman that participation may be up due to an increase in the number of practices being conducted. Responding to a question, Mr. Gomez said that the City is accepting applications for the vacant Library Manager position. He noted that those who have already interviewed remain viable candidates.

NEW BUSINESS: Attendance & Participation at Board Meetings by Telephone –
M. Gomez (City Ordinance 5265)

Mr. Gomez reviewed City Ordinance 5265 with the Board.

STAFF COMMENTS:

1. Director’s Report

Mr. Gomez spoke about Mobimats. The mats are now in at a crosswalk in South Beach Park and at Gumbo Limbo from the Center area to the chiki hut. It is used for ease of access on the beach for wheelchairs, baby carriages, cooler chests on wheels, etc. The Department will explore funding for additional Mobimats in next years’ budget. Boca Raton also has a surf chair. Mr. Gomez reported that he went to Fort Lauderdale and saw their different installation styles for Mobimats.

Mr. Gomez then updated the Board on beach concessions. The City Council voted 5-0 to do their own RFP for lounge chairs, umbrellas, etc. instead of piggy-backing off Pompano Beach. Red Reef Park is the densest turtle nesting area of our three beaches. We could have chairs and umbrellas moved due to turtle nests and to ensure lifeguards could safely see people in the water.

Mr. Gomez then updated the Board on Dog Beach. This was week 12 and 46 permits were sold. So far, 800 resident permits were sold, 7 non-resident permits and 27 weekend permits. Thirty-four dogs usually are brought in the morning and 72 dogs in the afternoon. This is an "attend at your own risk" park. So far there have been three dog bites. Not sure of the insurance risk if someone was bitten that did not bring a dog.

Mr. Gomez said that Spanish River Renourishment project was starting in March. He told the Board that Becky Self was back in Parks & Recreation and she would be charged with the responsibility to program special events. Mr. Gomez said that Lake Wyman Park was identified as Macy's "Heart Your Park" fundraising program recipient in Boca Raton. He went to Macy's in Boca to introduce himself to the Store Manager or Assistant Store Manager. He spoke with the Operations Manager who did not know anything about this program which was in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association. He encouraged shopping in Macy's March 7th to March 31st and donate a \$1 or more at the register. Mr. Gomez said there would be no strings attached and the money could be used for whatever we want at Lake Wyman Park.

2. Various Letters of Commendation

BOARD MEMBER INTEREST INITIATIVES & COMMENTS:

Dr. Frisch inquired about the date of the next Youth Sports Meeting. Mr. Gomez said that it was not set yet. Dr. Frisch suggested doing some type of community fundraiser to help defray the cost of buying more Mobimats. Mr. Gomez thought it was a great idea and would work up an estimate. Dr. Frisch said our Rugby Youth were State Champions. He asked about the new insurance requirements for Risk Management. Mr. Parks said that he was trying to get to the bottom of this issue as well. He explained the problems the Scouts of America had because they could not get the insurance endorsement required by Risk Management. Dr. Frisch said the Rugby Team cannot get this endorsement because USA Rugby Adult and Children cannot give the endorsement the City requires. Groups using the Community Centers have a problem as well. Dr. Frisch said that Shannon let Rugby know in February that this insurance requirement would be effective in August. Mr. Gomez encouraged Board Members to let him know about any such problems. He said we were honoring the permits already issued and were looking into these problems.

ACTIVITIES:

March 1st – The 9th Annual Sea Turtle Day – Gumbo Limbo Nature Center – 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
March 11th – City of Boca Raton Municipal Election
March 22nd – Beach Bash for People w/Disabilities @ Spanish River Park – 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

NEXT MEETINGS:

April 1, 2014 – Gumbo Limbo Environmental Complex
May 6, 2014 – Red Reef Park/Pavilion

ADJOURNMENT:

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Arlene Moskowitz, Recorder