Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – March 1, 2024, 7:30 a.m.
Sunview Park, 1500 S.W. 42nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33317

Board Members Present

Michelle Brown
Joseph Carter
Christina Clifford
Terry Danger (Vice-Chair)
Howard Garson
Javier Lasaga
Lawrence "Jabow" Martin
Marty McNeil
Daniel Mulieri (Chair)
Howard Nelson
Kristen Reineke

County Staff in Attendance

Cyndy Baker
Linda Briggs
Chris Deal
Trevor Fell
Monica Florestal
Meoshi Jackson
Nadine Levy
Gabriel Pellegrino
John Pipoly
Lori Vunkannon
Dan West
Erik Westberg
Val Wolberg

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:34 a.m. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Howard Nelson MOTIONED for approval of the January 5, 2024, minutes; Vice-Chair Terry Danger seconded. MOTION carried.

Announcements:

The Parks and Recreation Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th, 2024, at Long Key Natural Area and Nature Center. The Chair asked that the board members attend if their schedules allow.

Parks Manager Update: Gabriel Pellegrino, Parks Manager Associate

Gabriel Pellegrino briefly spoke to the various amenities offered by Sunview Park, including a community center (rental facility), computer lab, playground area, a full-court basketball court, full size baseball field, full size softball field, a multipurpose field for soccer, football, rugby, and lacrosse, and an open space recreation area. The Sunview Park Community Center is frequently rented for birthday parties, baby showers, and other family and/or community events.

A couple upcoming improvements include upgrading the irrigation system by replacing the current hydraulic pump system with an electric system on the north side of the park and replacing the safety netting around the softball and baseball fields.

Dan West spoke briefly about the history of some of the previous upgrades throughout the past 10-15 years that were funded through the 2000 Bond Initiative, such as the Community Center and restroom facilities.

Linda Briggs, Environmental Manager, provided an overview of the development of Sunview Park, how the site was chosen, and the flooding issues that has resulted from increased rainfall throughout the years.

Ms. Briggs shared a very early conceptual plan from Highway Bridge and Maintenance being designed to address the flooding by using grant funds to install large water catchments to divert some of the watershed to the opposite side of the park to create a wetland area. This will allow for the re-creation of the various sports fields on the north side of the park and provide passive recreation on the south side of the park.

Vice Mayor Lawrence Martin inquired about the possibility of any immediate short term mitigation efforts that could made to try to shorten the time needed to complete the long-term mitigation, thereby shortening the time needed to have the fields closed and inaccessible to the community.

The Board had discussion regarding the timeline, impact to the community, which is in the Broward Municipal Services District, and funding opportunities through grants. Highway Bridge and Maintenance is completing the Master Plan for this project.

Parks Planning and Design Update: Nadine Levy, Capital Program Administrator

Ms. Levy gave the Board an update on the improvements being made to Central Broward Park and Broward Stadium in preparation for the ICC T20 World Cup Cricket Tournament. The project includes building new grandstands that will add approximately 3,000 seats to the stadium and will provide space for additional temporary seating and temporary structures, as well as installing the practice pitches.

Simultaneously, the legacy bond project is Tradewinds Park Educational Farm & Gardens. Phases 1 and 2 are almost complete. Phase 3 is pending a bid protest but should be resolved soon. This $23 to $25 million project will take approximately 2 ½ years to complete and will completely transform the northern part of Tradewinds Park.

The Hollywood North Beach Mooring Field project is about to be awarded and construction will begin soon.

Parks and Recreation Update: Dan West, Director and Erik Westberg, Assistant Director

Mr. West discussed the Cricket World Cup's economic boost to the community and highlighted the approximate 20,000 room nights already reserved in connection to the games. The anticipated 2.8 billion viewers and the 10 million applications for tickets emphasizes the widespread excitement these upcoming games are generating.

Trevor Fell gave a brief overview of the game of cricket, what a cricket pitch is and how it is built and maintained. Mr. Fell also outlined the enormity of the undertaking of building an ICC certified pitch in 7 months.

Mr. West spoke briefly to the promotional events being planned around the giant 800 lb. cricket ball moving around Broward County and fan experience opportunities out in the community.

Erik Westberg provided an update on some events happening in March. The Renaissance Festival at Quiet Waters will be wrapping up at the end of the month and they've had the highest attendance levels at this location. The Scottish Festival at Plantation Heritage Park is in its 40th year. In conjunction with the Natural Resources Division, Parks is hosting Water Matters Day at Tree Tops Park on March 9th. March is also Florida Bike Month and there will be events hosted throughout the County. Also, water parks open this month for Spring Break beginning March 22nd.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None. The chair reiterated his hope that the board would try to attend Parks and Recreation Division functions in addition to the scheduled meetings.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:13 a.m.

Next Meeting: Friday, May 3, 2024, at 7:30 a.m.
Reverend Samuel Delevoe Memorial Park
2520 N.W. Sixth St.
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33311