Minutes
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting – October 17, 2024, 6:00 PM
Plantation Heritage Park, 1100 S. Fig Tree Ln., Plantation, FL 33317

Board Members Present

Christina Clifford	Javier Lasaga	Howard Nelson
Terry Danger (Vice-Chair)	Marty McNeil	Kristen Reineke
Kimberly Jean	Daniel Mulieri (Chair)	

County Staff in Attendance

Kristin Bachleda	Eric Harker	John Pipoly
Cyndy Baker	Meoshi Jackson	Dan West
Katherine Burnell	Nadine Levy	Erik Westberg
Chris Deal	Mary Noe	

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (Board) meeting was called to order by Chair Daniel Mulieri at 6:04 PM. Roll was called.

Approval of Minutes: Howard Nelson MOTIONED for approval of the August 2, 2024, minutes; Chair Daniel Mulieri seconded. MOTION carried.

Announcements:

Dan West, Director, Parks and Recreation Division, introduced new Board members Ms. Kimberly Jean and Mr. Daniel “Willie” Wilcoxen. Ms. Jean was appointed by District 5 Commissioner Steve Geller and is currently employed as a Park Ranger Supervisor with the City of Deerfield Beach. Mr. Wilcoxen was appointed by District 2 Commissioner Mark Bogen and is currently employed by Burns & McDonnell as a Program Manager in Engineering & Construction Services.

John Pipoly, Environmental Project Coordinator, provided a brief update relating to the various environmental education and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) programs available to educators directly through Canvas on their computer desktops. Also, the after-school programs in the neighborhood parks are in their 4th year of providing science and geography reviews which has demonstrated success in improving student academic performance.

Parks and Recreation Update: Dan West, Director

Mr. West discussed the Division's Hurricane Milton preparations and general hurricane season responsibilities. This season, we provided sand for over 4,100 sandbags in the Broward Municipal Services District (BMSD).

The Director's Office hosted a briefing for Miramar Vice-Mayor and District 7 Commissioner-Elect Alexandra P. Davis at Miramar Pineland Park. Staff provided an overview of the Parks Division's operations and are looking forward to working with her in the future.

Broward County Fee Schedule Update: Mary Noe, Administrative Manager

The Parks Division annually reviews and updates its fees for services, programs, and facilities. These fees are adjusted based on market research, usage trends, and comparisons with other park systems. The goal is to offset operational costs while remaining competitive.

A significant fee update was implemented last year, and this year's review focuses on minor adjustments. However, there are eight key areas that will impact revenue: athletics, aquatics, camping, employee-led programs, Hollywood North Beach parking, shelters and umbrellas, stables, and vendor fees. These changes

include increased parking fees at Hollywood North Beach; higher fees for field lighting and court rentals to adjust for higher utility costs; adjusted fees for camping, trail rides, and other programs to cover increased maintenance and operational costs; and new fees for specific services such as fees for canine events, cycling courses, and photo shoots with horses.

The most notable change is the significant increase in Hollywood North Beach parking fees, aligning with market rates at other local beaches. This increase is expected to generate approximately $50,000 in additional revenue.

Overall, the fee adjustments are expected to have a positive impact on the Division's revenue without significantly affecting the public.

Parks Manager Update: Eric Harker, Parks Manager, Associate

Eric Harker, Parks Manager Associate, provided a brief overview of Plantation Heritage Park.

In 1931, Frederick C. Peters moved to South Florida and purchased 90 acres of land, now part of the City of Plantation, which was once traversed by Native Americans and covered by three feet of water. In 1948, the Peters family began farming and ranching there, and later, the land became home to the University of Florida's USDA Plantation Experiment Station for research on citrus black fly. The Peters family outdoor kitchen, now the Duck Pond Gazebo, is the oldest structure in the city and often hosts weddings and events.

In 1977, the Broward County Commission and City of Plantation acquired the land through a federal grant, and in 1978, the Plantation Historical Society donated it to the county. The park, initially called Peter's Tract, was renamed Plantation Heritage Park and opened as a regional park in 1984. In 1990, the state designated the 6-acre lake as a fish management area. The Fountain Room, later renovated into Heritage Hall in 2023, was added in 1994. Today, the park offers picnic shelters, playgrounds, a fitness zone, disc golf, a rare fruit grove, a walking trail, and hosts special events like Park Fest and the Scottish Festival.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Chair Mulieri opened discussion regarding the controversial issue of new construction and installation of lodges, pickleball courts, and other revenue enhancing facilities in our State Parks and the community response to these plans.

Mr. West concurred that the public outcry was swift and spoke clearly to not wanting these developments in our State Parks.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM

7:00 PM Public Forum

The Public Forum was called to order by Chair Mulieri at 7:01 PM.

Mary Noe, Administrative Manager, provided an overview of the proposed changes to the Broward County Fee Schedule. A significant fee update was implemented last year, and this year's review focuses on minor adjustments. However, there are eight key areas that will impact revenue: athletics, aquatics, camping, employee-led programs, Hollywood North Beach parking, shelters and umbrellas, stables, and vendor fees. These changes include increased parking fees at Hollywood North Beach; higher fees for field lighting and court rentals to adjust for higher utility costs; adjusted fees for camping, trail rides, and other programs to cover increased maintenance and operational costs; and new fees for specific services such as fees for canine events, cycling courses, and photo shoots with horses.

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Public Speakers:

Ms. Mailyn Colangelo, Ms. Gisela Perez, and Ms. Kelly Callahan, respectively, spoke to the issues some homeschool groups are encountering in a few parks while the respective groups are utilizing the parks for informal get-togethers.

Erik Westberg, Assistant Director, addressed a few of these concerns with the group and arranged to meet separately to address any further issues.

Mr. Ryan Xu had comments for the Board relating to staffing in Broward County parks, and the natural areas in particular. He expressed frustration over not having sufficient staff to direct volunteers adequately in the natural areas and would like to know if there is a possibility of hiring more staff.

Mr. West provided a very high level outline of the budget process and explained the process for agencies being allocated positions every year. It was also clarified that Parks Maintenance Group currently has an invasive species removal team and they are slowly moving through each park as staffing and time permit.

With no other speakers, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

Next Meeting: Friday, December 6, 2024, 7:30 AM
Markham Park & Target Range,
16001 W. State Rd. 84
Sunrise, FL 33326