

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 9th, 2006
Northwood Adult Center

Present: Charlotte Presensky , Clifford Bridges, Kerry Gallagher, Curtis Kelly,	Staff present: Christine Thrower, Laban Reeves, Jonathan Bramley and John Roach.
Absent: Patricia Sned, Ann Harrison, Gregory Burdick	

Topic	Discussion	Follow up
Approve Minutes	Minutes approved from April, 2006 meeting.	
Boys and Girls Club Presentation by CEO, Mary O’Conner and Dennis Cqrpenter, Area Director.	<p>Mary O’Conner, CEO and Dennis Carpenter, Area Director, presented information on operations of the facility in West Palm Beach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children pay a \$20 annual membership, which can be reduced if families meet income criteria. • Hours are 2-8 p.m. Monday to Friday, 9-2pm on Saturdays, holidays, and no school days Summer time the center closes at 6pm. <p>Currently the center is at capacity. There are 280 members, 145-150 kids attend per day, and the staff ratio is 1/20.</p> <p>The center serves kids in the 33407 zip code, and there is a waiting list. Kids on the waiting list will be brought in when the staff increases. 172 are from the 33407 area. 33 of those kids are from Northmore Elemetary, and 38 are from Northboro Elementary, 38 are from Roosevelt Elementary, and some kids are walk-ins. The rest are bused in from other areas.</p> <p>The annual budget is \$500K. Funding is both from area fundraising and from a fund provided by the Children’s Services Council.</p> <p>The Club would like to re-establish communication with City staff. Some of the confusion about what is our and theirs. Charlotte Presensky asked how many staff are programmers? The ratio is 1/7. The</p>	Charlotte Presensky suggested that Chrisitine Thrower meet the club and work on ways to expand access.

	<p>center is also available to the community in the mornings.</p> <p>Cliff Bridges asked where other kids go and to what facilities. The other programs are at Pleasant City Community Center and Smith-Barnes President of Pinewood Neighborhood runs a program at the adult center. This program is run by volunteers, and has 25 kids on average in attendance, with their teen program supported by Weed n Seed funds. They have evening programs twice a month on Wednesdays, and occasional dances.</p>	
<p>Currie Park Proposal presentation by Josh Long, from Gunster Yoakley Law Firm.</p>	<p>Josh Long presented a short presentation on Currie Park. The major change represented to PRAC was the addition of boat slips for both public and private use. The City of West Palm Beach would receive 40 slips (north side) and the developer, MERCO, would receive 40 private slips (south side). The agreement would also include riparian rights for the developer. The developer would potentially have 20-25 year lease agreement with the City of West Palm Beach with the rights reverting back to the City at the end of the lease term. The plan would not allow a gas facility, and there would be no living aboard the boats with any cost to the City in the construction of the docks. There would also be a full time dock master housed near the north end of Currie Park. One slip for a 100' vessel, 12 or less slips for 60'-80' vessels, and the remaining slips for 40'-50' vessels.</p> <p>Josh Long stated that they were still discussing the two phases of Currie Park, and the docks would be built at Merco's expense. Merco would finalize the phase II plan including; a stacking pier, volleyball courts and additional building for bathrooms, picnic areas, and a trolley stop. Phase I prioritized what would be done in what order.</p> <p>Comments included traffic concerns regarding entrance moving from 23rd Street to 26th Street, how to insure that boats would not be worked on</p>	<p>Committee members expressed concern over not having prior input into Phase II design as they did on Phase I. They further expressed concern about having to make a recommendation in support of or against the proposed plan without the full benefit of a complete presentation and deferred any vote on the project until a full presentation was given to the committee.</p>

	at the docks, traffic studies, and if MERCO would receive a DEP permit. Everyone in attendance agreed that we would like to hear more about this plan, and how the City of West Palm Beach would allocate their slip and what fees would be charged, etc.	
Capital Project Review, Jonathan Bramley and Christine Thrower	The capital projects list was updated including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gaines bridge is progressing as expected and would be installed when received – about 10-12 weeks. • The grassy area on the north side of Howard Park next to the Convention Center does not have irrigation so it can not be sodded. Administration is aware of the need for funds for irrigation. Xeriscape is a possibility. • Haverhill’s housing issue is still undecided. 	
Maintenance Up-date Laban Reeves	No maintenance issues exist at this time.	
Directors Report by Christine Thrower	Flamingo Park is going to the Art in Public Places committee for input on the artistic component of the park.	
Earl Hamilton Redemptive Life Fellowship	Mr. Hamilton presented a master plan for building affordable housing through Redemptive Life Urban Issues Corp. The plan calls for developing 3.5 acres north of Redemptive Life Church on Australian Avenue (north of Palm Beach Lakes Blvd.) with a 200-yard addition to the turquoise necklace around Clear Lake. The project would include 174 units between \$190,000 and \$550,000. The organization would like to ask the city to turn over a .73-acre parcel of land that is identified as park space on Australian with frontage on Clear Lake. In return, they would build a .35 acre park on their property that would be accessible to the public. Committee comments: Mr. Bridges believes it is a good proposal and a worthy project that probably needs more discussion. Ms. Kelly has concerns about the the loss of city property and access to the lake. Ms. Presensky expressed concern about giving up more park space than the city would receive under the terms of the agreement. She also	The committee decided to visit the property before the next meeting and seek more input from the public, community and developer before making a

	expressed concern about getting a last minute presentation and that a more thorough discussion with the entire committee was merited.	recommendation to the Commission.
Public Comments	<p>Alex Sailor said she was asked by Commissioner Mitchell, who could not attend the PRAC meeting due to a previous commitment, to attend the PRAC meeting to deliver a request and take notes on several issues. She asked the board to take formal action to ask legal staff to prepare language that would designate the municipal golf course as part of the parks system. Ms. Thrower said the issue of park space designation was coming up in the comprehensive planning process and was already being looked at by the City Planning Department.</p> <p>Ms. Sailor asked PRAC to consider sending a priority list to the commission for parks improvements.</p> <p>Ms. Thrower indicated staff was in the midst of a strategic plan that she expected to get input from PRAC as principal stakeholders. She hoped to bring it before PRAC at the next meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Sailor also inquired about helping ASPIRA find a home. This organization works on dropout prevention with community children. Ms. Thrower said she would meet with Ms. Sailor to look at possibilities.</p>	<p>Mr. Bridges made a motion to request the legal staff to formulate legal language to designate the golf course as part of the parks system. Ms. Kelly seconded the motion. All approved.</p>
Adjourned:	6:50 p.m.	Next meeting 6/13/06 at Gaines Park.