

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2006
Gaines Park Community Center

Present: Charlotte Presensky , Patricia Sned, Kerry Gallagher, Curtis Kelly, Cliff Bridges, Gregory Burdick, Kirk Olney and Ann Harrison	Staff present: Christine Thrower, Laban Reeves, Jonathan Bramley and John Roach.
Absent:	Guest: Mayor Lois Frankel, Commissioner Kimberly Mitchell

Topic	Discussion	Follow up
Approve Minutes	Minutes approved from June, 2006 meeting.	
Park Maintenance update, Laban Reeves Assistant Director of Parks Maintenance.	<p>Howard Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fence should be complete by July 21st. • Lights 90% complete from hurricane damage. • Dog Park closed due to flea and tick problems. Opening July 31st. • Fountain out, but under warranty. <p>Westward Park:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received quote on fountain, water level is low. Can be retrofitted for approximately \$3-4,000.00. <p>Planting trees from monies received from grant due to hurricane damage. Will include evergreens and flowering trees. All work will be done in house.</p> <p>Laban mentioned to Ann Harrison about the Westward sign colors have yet to be decided on.</p>	Commissioner Mitchell commented to PRAC members that Laban Reeves works seven days per week.
Planning Department presentation update on Currie Park.	<p>John Roach, Senior Planner with the <i>City of West Palm Beach</i> reviewed the Currie Park Master Plan with PRAC members, no representative from the Parks development team were present.</p> <p>Patt Sned, PRAC member asked, “can we support the master plan without details”?</p> <p>Charlotte Presensky PRAC Chair expressed concern over what is in the best interest for residents, and suggested</p>	

	<p>recommendations. Reviewed dock space with concerns regarding boats obstructing view. 80 dock slips with 40 City owned, and 40 leased from Merco.</p> <p>Commissioner Mitchell said the revenue from the dock would generate \$200,000.00 and would benefit the <i>City Of West Palm Beach</i> in whole, and is budgeted to target the Park system.</p> <p>Curtis Kelly stated she likes the idea of the dock plan at Currie Park, and commented on the lovely view of the boats even for non-boat owners.</p> <p>Design issues were discussed, and Phase II Master Plan was passed out to PRAC members supplied by John Roach. Phase I is fully funded, proposed Phase II only has minor improvements as seen in the Color map/overhead of Currie Park.</p> <p>PRAC members concerns with Currie Park Phase II;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parking/ now and future. • Developer Merco regarding Park. • Need additional facts. • Clarify <i>City of West Palm Beach</i> ownership. • Cost affordable. • Obstruction/ size of boats. <p>John Roach told PRAC members that Currie Park Phase II is still subject to approval in regard to concerns over Sea grasses and trying to keep away from Manatee habitat.</p>	<p>PRAC to have “special meeting” before Commission review of project.</p>
<p>Capital Project Review, Jonathan Bramley, Director of Engineering Services and Christine Thrower, Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.</p>	<p>Jonathan reported that the Gaines Park bridge installation will be out for bid at the end of July. The bridge is ready to ship once we have a contractor under contract. Planned completion date October 2006.</p> <p>Coleman Park once again received no bids for installation of the wet play area. Requirements have been re-written to encourage more applicants for installation. Purchasing has decided to extend time to the two interested companies to get proposal in for review and award.</p>	

	<p>Cliff Bridges, PRAC member said he wasn't pleased with the wet play planned for Coleman Park, and that South Olive sets the standard for other Parks. Could we possibly look into upgrading Coleman design? Additionally, Cliff mentioned the Wet Play area at Gaines Park, he isn't pleased with the location of the Wet Play area and that it is fenced and requires admission to the pool to access the wetplay.</p> <p>Christine Thrower stated that the intent of adding both the pool and wet play area was to increase attendance at the aging pool complex. The Wet Play area is not accessible except through the aquatic center which is fenced. However, families who only want to use the wet play are permitted entry at no charge.</p> <p>Ann Harrison, PRAC member stated that so much money has been wasted on the wet play area regarding the size and the location. Christine wants to address how we can open the wet play area for easy access.</p> <p>Christine Thrower stated that Riverwalk Park will require extensive permitting but must be master planned in its entirety before that can happen. Cliff Bridges mentioned re-allocating from Riverwalk Park money to Yeager Middle School's piece of land that could be used for Park use. Charlotte Presensky addressed the PRAC members who would we address within the <i>City of West Palm Beach</i> regarding the issues of the fence, parking and accessibility. Christine Thrower answered and said it would be a district commissioner whom we would address.</p>	<p>Charlotte Presensky said she would represent PRAC regarding Riverwalk residents about monies re-allocating to Yeager Middle School green space/park.</p>
<p>Committee member comments on public meetings</p>	<p>Kerry Gallagher attended the Saddlebrook/Gramercy Park meeting. Kerry stated that there are so many single Mothers, and why are we not helping them.</p>	
<p>Mayor Frankel address to PRAC members.</p>	<p>Mayor Frankel addressed the PRAC members regarding the Youth Empowerment Center and thanked the members for their service to the city.</p>	

	<p>Christine shared plans for the Youth Empowerment Centers (YEC), partially funded by the County. The Criminal Justice Commission recommended five locations throughout the county for the YECs, one of which was West Palm Beach. The city, recognizing a greater need for center for teens, presented a proposal to the county for two centers, one at the Northwood Adult Center, the other at Gaines Park.</p>	
Public Comments		
Board Comments	<p>Discussion about priority issues came up again with a recommendation that the committee consider establishing priorities for focus.</p>	<p>Christine Thrower wants each PRAC member to bring their top “3” things to address at next meeting.</p>
Adjourn	<p>6:00pm</p>	<p>Next meeting August 8th, South Olive Community Center @ 4:00pm.</p>