

**Parks and Recreation Department  
1100 Southern Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33407  
561-835-7025**

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

Meeting minutes of August 9, 2005  
City Hall, Commission Chambers

**Members attending:** Steven S. Newburgh, PRAC Chair, Clifford Bridges, Gregory Burdick, Kerry Gallagher, Annie Ruth Harrison (absent), Curtis Kelly, Charlotte Presensky, Leila Rouady (absent), and Patricia Sned.

**Call to order:** Steven S. Newburgh called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. on August 9, 2005.

Review of minutes for changes/corrections from Tuesday, July 12, 2005 PRAC meeting.

**Corrections made to the July 12, 2005 PRAC meeting minutes under New Business;**

- a. Patt Sned requested the correction to read, "The previous PRAC committee had discussed and approved the plans for Phipps Park. I was not part of that group or discussion. My husband owns property next to Phipps Park so I do have a conflict for the record".

Minutes approved with the exception of the correction made.

**New Business:**

- a. Leah Rockwell, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation introduced Mercedes Jackson, Coleman Park's Recreation Center Supervisor. Ms. Jackson invited a parent, Lashawn Johnson, to speak about Coleman Park. Ms. Johnson spoke about how pleased she is with the programs offered. Ms. Jackson, Center Supervisor also presented a brochure to PRAC members, and told what their mission is at Coleman Park involves and also mentioned the history of Coleman Park as the site for the Negro Baseball League.
- b. PRAC committee requested a current *Fair Market Value* appraisal for the property across from Lake Mangonia on Australian Ave. A percentage of the sale to be set aside for the Parks and Recreation sailing program located across the street from said property. Charlotte Presensky suggested to earmark proceeds from sale, or have a perpetual

fund set up, and also suggested an investigation on how we can present this for consideration. Leah Rockwell, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation mentioned that she had contacted Commissioner Robinson regarding the need for a formal request to Ed Mitchell, City Administrator for the City of West Palm Beach, for a new appraisal.

- c. Curtis Kelly, PRAC member attended the Arts in Public Places meeting. Ms. Kelly suggested we narrow down some Parks that we would recommend as “showcase” spaces, and to reschedule the PRAC tour of Parks to include the AIPP. Joan Goldberg, Cultural Affairs City of West Palm Beach discussed AIPP members joining PRAC members on the southern parks tour. Ms. Goldberg mentioned that the AIPP would like the PRAC committee to make recommendations in the northern, western and central areas to place “art” in parks.

### **Continuing Business:**

- a. Laban Reeves, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation reported that they had completed 98% of sod replacement at South Olive Park. One of the major problems is equipment that is in the shop for needing repairs. The Manning Butterfly Park was dedicated with residents and Mayor Lois Frankel July 26, 2005. Gregory Burdick inquired as to a need for extra employees for Parks Maintenance. Laban Reeves replied that the parks division had been allocated starting fiscal year 2005-2006 an additional 3 ½ employees.
- b. Ken Rearden, Public Utilities Director reported on:
  - The encumbered money for Phipps and Gaines Park.
  - That there was a ribbon cutting ceremony at Apoxee Park and that there still was money available in the budget that will pay for additional kiosks, signage, and emergency call boxes.
  - A \$200,000 grant was received for the dike road and the Preserve for more emergency call boxes and restroom facilities.
  - Currie Park master plan had been approved with the recognition of the \$1,500,000 from the Merillo family and that the City and developer will move forward with the design and construction.
  - Haverhill is on hold till we sell properties around the area.
  - Grassy Waters Preserve, the \$750,000 grant is from the Palm Beach County, Jeff Koons gave \$500,000 and Commissioner Masilotti gave \$250,000 of which \$500,000 is scheduled to go out for bid in October 2005 for more trails and boardwalks.
  - Riverwalk is on hold pending a resolution on the fire station.
- c. Leah Rockwell, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation reported on Phipps Park-Ogston Street closing. An event for the Fire Department

closed Ogston Street, and in doing so, the City discovered that larger trucks could not access the warehouse district. Owners were concerned about receiving deliveries.

- d. Joan Goldberg, Waterfront Project Manager, introduced Michael Singer, artist and lead designer for the “Imagining Howard Park Project”. He presented to the PRAC committee design concepts for this project.

**Action Items:**

- 1. Previous motion dissolved unanimously on August 9, 2005; Motion was to dissolve the resolution and wait for a new appraisal.**

From: Steven S. Newburgh

To: City of West Palm Beach, City Commissioners

Re: Property across the street from Lake Mangonia Park on Australian Ave.

- 2. Motion:** Charlotte Presensky; “The PRAC Committee supports the sale of the property and wishes the funds to be directed back into Parks and Recreation priority deemed by this board”.

- 3. Motion:** Charlotte Presensky, “That PRAC would engage in discussion with the City commission and staff to see whether or not if they could assist in approaching the Palm Beach County School Board with regard to a partnership for a park on Yeager Middle School grounds.

( Early dismissal; Cliff Bridges, and Charlotte Presensky)

Note: Tour; September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005/ 2:00pm. PRAC committee and AIPP members.

Adjourned: 5:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest:

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Carol E. Cook  
City of West Palm Beach,  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Secretary

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Steven S. Newburgh  
Presiding Officer