

**Parks and Recreation Department  
1100 Southern Blvd.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33405  
561-835-7025**

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting minutes** of September 13, 2005  
City Hall, Commission Chambers

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

**Call to order:** Steven S. Newburgh called the meeting to order at 4:05pm on September 13, 2005.

PRAC welcomed Commissioner Kimberly Mitchell at 4:15pm

*Review of minutes for changes/corrections from August 9, 2005 PRAC meeting.*

**A.** Steven Newburgh read to PRAC members the motion that was dissolved regarding the property proceeds from the sale of the property on Australian Avenue to be redirected back into the Parks and Recreation Department Sailing Program. A Motion was then passed to wait until a new appraisal is done on the property and value of property confirmed.

**B.** Steven Newburgh read for the record a letter addressed to Bob Banting, of Anderson & Carr, Inc. from Suzanne Payson, Assistant City Attorney for the City of West Palm Beach. The letter was a request for an appraisal of the property opposite Lake Mangonia boat ramp on Australian Avenue.

**C.** Correction: New Business, b. "Review of final design for Gumby Park". Commissioner Mitchell stated until PRAC has signed off along with the DAC (Downtown Action Committee), it is semantics. Commissioner Mitchell also stated that it isn't final until it goes to City Commission for final approval. Correction noted to read "Review of design for Gumby Park".

**New Business:**

**A.** Diane Rehberg, Recreation Campus Manager at South Olive Park presented a PowerPoint presentation of past photos of South Olive Community Center along with an overview of Center programs, the tennis center and the staff. Mrs. Rehberg also spoke about expanding the centers facility to accommodate growth. Guest speaker Cecilia Edwards, a member of the "Friends of South Olive" and facility user, spoke to the PRAC members about the excellent

programs that South Olive offers for her children. Ms. Edwards children presently attend the after school programs and camps. She commented on the improvements that have been made in the past years and the difference it has made for her family.

- Amy Stelly, City Planner, presented the “Review of design for Gumby Park”. Guest , Connie Fisher, Landscape Architect designer for Gumby Park was in attendance to answer questions.
- Ms. Stelly stated this same presentation will be reviewed tomorrow by DAC. The location is a very constricted sight at Okeechobee and the Australian overpass, with approximately 2 acres of City owned land, and a permanent location in downtown West Palm Beach.
- Adjacent to the Palm Beach Convention Center, next to The Marriott, and close to Howard Park on Parker Avenue.
- Discussion on the Marriott having access to Gumby Park with limited access. Gregory Burdick was against access for the Marriott and their guests. Curtis Kelly presented motion, with Cliff Bridges seconding for the approval of this plan with conditions set forth. i.e. see attached Motion from PRAC.

### **Continuing Business:**

A. Laban Reeves, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director/Parks reported on tree replacement with the \$100,000 grant, and Howard Park fountain is under repair.

- Commissioner Mitchell asked Mr. Reeves if he had read the memo she sent to Mr. Ed Mitchell, City Administrator for the City of West Palm Beach in regard to Howard Park and maintenance requirements. Commissioner Mitchell found from her visit this past weekend that Howard Park was found to have trash left from the night before, mulch was needed in the trails, trees that were still not up-righted, and there is additional needs for garbage cans. Mr. Reeves stated that mulching is done twice a year and is very expensive. It was suggested and briefly discussed about making the trails a hard surface. Suggestions were made by Kerry Gallagher for clay surface, and Gregory Burdick mentioned the rubberized mulch for the trail.
- In regards to the weekend parks maintenance, Mr. Reeves stated that the City has two employees per weekend day to cover the clean up of parks with each covering either the south or north end of the City.
- Commissioner Mitchell stated she can find money for our parks if need be, to keep City parks up to our high standard. Stating that our Parks need more than one person for maintenance needs.

- Steven S. Newburgh requests that Mr. Reeves report back to the PRAC committee on how many employees we need to cover the maintenance needs of our City parks.
  - Commissioner Mitchell requested that Mr. Reeves look at the replacement of mulch in regard to short and long term needs.
- B.** Leah Rockwell, Interim Director of Parks and Recreation reported on the appraisal of the property on Australian Avenue should be back to view next week.
- Additionally Ms. Rockwell reported the meeting for the final design for Ombres Park will be on September 22, 2005.
  - City Commission approved two new tennis courts at Phipps Park, which is being funded by the Palm Beach County School Board.
  - Ogsden Street closure to be determined in the next couple of weeks.
  - The FRDAP grant for both Gaines and Phipps Parks are starting to move ahead. Gaines Park FRDAP: Tennis courts have been resurfaced, net posts are in and the nets are up. The basketball courts are pressure cleaned and racquet ball courts are being patched and painted. The extension of the pool deck at the Warren Hawkins Aquatic Center has started and the slide for the pool will soon be installed. The project also includes large umbrellas for shade. Quotes are being requested for pool resurfacing.
  - Annie Harrison responded to Ms. Rockwell that the pool deck needs repairs, and the bathrooms need improvements. Ms. Rockwell answered and reported that the bathrooms are being updated with new fixtures, and renovations are being done. Mrs. Harrison says the pool needs new bathrooms. “The FRDAP grant for \$400,000.00 does not allow for replacement of the new wet play area, and redoing the tennis courts” states Ms. Rockwell. Ms. Rockwell recently visited the bathrooms at the pool, and said they were immaculately clean. Mrs. Harrison questioned why pool staff clean bathrooms and paint. Ms. Rockwell stated that it is customary in Municipal Pool operations that Pool guards clean as a part of their rotation and during rainy days. Kerry Gallagher asks that it seems strange that staff clean and paint bathrooms. Ms. Rockwell replied that our staff pitch in and help out. Diane Rehberg, South Olive Campus Manager, in response to PRAC member questions regarding bathroom maintenance, stated that her staff clean and help paint within their facility.
- C.** Ken Reardon reported that everything is moving along well.
- Ombres Park contract is on the City Commission Agenda for the Sept. 26, 2005 meeting.
  - Nature Center trails and boardwalks will be out for bids in November of 2005.

- Gaines Park bridge is going to be piggybacked off of another bridge contract for the “M” canal.
- D.** Joan Goldberg reported that the AIPP did not have a quorum at the last meeting, and were not able to approve the guidelines to discuss the tour.
- E.** Tentative tour of South end parks scheduled for October 11, 2005 at 2 pm outside City Hall.

**Action Items:**

- PRAC members agree to check out bathrooms at the Aquatic Center at Gaines Park before next meeting and discuss the issues.
- Motion presented by Curtis Kelly for the review of the Gumby Park presentation.
- Staff to research mulch replacement options.

(Early dismissal: Gregory Burdick (6:20pm), Annie Harrison (6:28pm))

Adjourned: 6:46pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Attest:

---

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

---

Steven S. Newburgh,  
Presiding Officer

f/prac/min.9-13-05