



*“The Capital City of the Palm Beaches”*

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee  
Meeting minutes of November 8, 2005  
City Hall, Room 519

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

**Call to order:** Steven S. Newburgh called the meeting to order at 4:15pm on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

PRAC Chairman Steven Newburgh welcomed Christine Thrower, newly appointed Director for Parks and Recreation for the City of West Palm Beach, FL.

*Review of minutes for changes/corrections from September 13, 2005*  
*Minutes approved.*

- A. Christine Thrower, newly appointed Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of West Palm Beach spoke about her past position as Director of Parks and Recreation in Hollywood, Florida, Mrs. Thrower left there in 1999 and went to work with Woman in Distress as their CEO for five years. She most recently served as a management consultant in non-profit and public administration organizations for the past year and a half.
- B. Shelly Goodson, Center Supervisor at Vedado Park spoke about her neighborhood community involvement, and center activities.
- C. Laban Reeves, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation for Parks Maintenance spoke about hurricane Wilma’s clean-up. All City Parks are now 50% cleaned up and open with the exception of tree stumps. Dreher Park is still closed and soon to be opened around mid November. There were 212 damaged trees, and 145 trees can be stood-up with roots intact, and a 2-3 week window to save. South Olive Community Center has tennis, racquet ball and court damage. Howard Park tennis courts will be up and running next week. Gaines Park has field damage, lights, and concession stand Damage. Last year

we applied for a \$100,000.00 grant for Urban Forestry program after hurricane Frances and Jeanne in 2004, and received \$75,000.00. The contract is currently with the Mayor to sign, then on to finance to make funds available.

*Continuing business*; Laban Reeves for Parks Maintenance added the addition of 2 full time employees, and two part time positions during the growing season. Park clean-up issues are continuing for pavilion rental permit holders. Trash cans are needed, as per Kerry Gallagher referencing a pavilion rental at S. Olive Community Center.

Up-date on Westwood Park pump is the water level is low and pump is off. Annie Harrison's opinion of the Westwood sign is "ugly", and would request a change of color and design.

D. Leah Rockwell, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Department reporting that our Community Centers are up and running after the hurricane, and kids are back in school which means our after-school program is booming once again. Our brochure is on hold for the January session due to make-up days. Gaines Park and Phipps Park FRDAP grants are well under way. New fence at the tennis courts at Phipps down, and the new tennis court fence at Gaines Park is down. The Bond Referendum from Addie Green is taking the direction for an RFP for an architect to include the design work for the renovation and expansion of the Gaines Park Community Center to include a multipurpose room and banquet facility. Mayor Lois Frankel is adding \$200,000.00 in addition to help with renovation with existing space for Gaines Park. Annie Harrison, PRAC member is asking if the neighborhood has been advised of the new developments. Cliff Bridges also is stating that the neighborhood wants a new building, not a renovated building, a stand alone multi-purpose building. Christine Thrower, Director of Parks and Recreation states that we need to use the facility for it's best use, which would include to add staff for an additional building.

Currie Park has been moving along with construction design plan, and picking out fixtures that match the new development across the street. The plans are going for review within the next few months and there is an issue with the ingress and egress of the Protofino Condominium driveway which causes a hazard.

- E. Kerry Gallagher, PRAC member asked about the property on Australian Ave. that was re-appraised from \$225,000.00 in 2002 originally to the current appraisal of \$800,000.00. Charlotte Presensky PRAC member asked if this has been agended and gone before Commission to discuss? Need to make sure this money has been earmarked for the Sailing Club on Lake Mangonia. Ciff Bridges PRAC member mentioned a Church group will pay property market value at this time. Additionally Mr. Bridges stated The City of West Palm Beach met with this group, and has solicited all the neighborhood associations and agreed with the proposal, and said that if the church is successful in

purchasing the property they will allow the City to use the parking area for parking in the Sunset Park south from said property.

**Action Items:**

1. Boys and Girls Club to be added to future tour of Parks.
2. **Motion** to meet with Mayor Frankel to discuss the Gaines Park renovation.
3. **Motion** that was passed for Yeager Middle School property to open to public. Second motion passed.
4. E mail PRAC members to have “meeting of the minds” what priorities are, and review as a group at next PRAC meeting..

Adjourned: 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Attest:

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

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Steven S. Newburgh,  
Presiding Officer