

FAMILIES, PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, November 18, 2014

A meeting of the Families, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at the Dr. I. Sylvester Hankins Park Recreation Site, 1340 Lake Park Court, Orlando, Florida.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rachel Andre
Gregory Reynolds
Stephanie Appel
Ricky Ly
Wendy Mathisen
Jason Reynolds

MEMBERS ABSENT

Gary Hasson
Maria Caban
Celeste Thomas

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Early, Director of Families, Parks and Recreation Department
Stacy Anne Mahar, Executive Assistant
Peter Effaldana, Parks and Cultural Arts Manager
John Perrone, Parks Division Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Gregory Reynolds called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public requested to speak before the Board.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Families, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, October 21, 2014

Approval of minutes for the October 24, 2014 meeting was moved by Rachel Andre and seconded by Ricky Ly and unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Mark Sees, Wetlands Manager for the Orlando Wetlands Park came before the Board to provide an overview of the park as well as proposed improvements to the park. Orlando Wetlands Park attendance continues to climb each year. Visitors are extremely diverse with most visiting for bird watching, nature study, photography, jogging, biking and horseback riding. In 2014, it is estimated that nearly 25,000 attended from 48 states and 30 countries. With visitorship continuing to rise, the Wastewater Division would like to provide better access and educational opportunities at the Park. Over the next couple of years the City of Orlando plans to make improvements by connecting an equestrian trail to the Bronson State Forest, improve hiking trails connecting to the Seminole Ranch Wildlife Management Area and a proposed boardwalk in the southeast portion of the treatment wetlands which will link three berm roads that are used for hiking and provide better access to the eastern portion of the Park.

In addition to the above mentioned improvements, an education center is proposed. The approximately 5,000 square foot facility will have presentation space for 150 patrons, informative educational displays, office space, kitchenette, bathrooms, a movie room, rain water cisterns and native gardens. The education center will serve as a location for the Friends of the Wetlands (volunteer group) to meet, and launch educational tours of the Park.

To accomplish these goals, the Wastewater Division has approved \$940,000 from the Capital Improvements Fund for 2014/2015 and 2015/2016. The Division also plans to pursue several grant opportunities to assist with these improvements. A Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant was applied for in October 2014 to assist with the development and construction of the proposed boardwalk and trails.

Mr. Sees informed the Board that the Wastewater Division plans to apply for another FRDAP grant for the education center as well as to improve the equestrian trails. A motion was made by Rachel Andre and seconded by Jason Reynolds to support the Wastewater Division in applying for the FRDAP grant. The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Lisa Early presented Rachel Andre with a plaque for her service as FPR Board Chair for the 2013/2014 term and thanked her for her time and dedication to the Board.

Lisa Early also reported that on Monday, November 17, 2014 she presented a workshop to the Orlando City Council on Families, Parks and Recreation Children's Programs, at which time she discussed services provided and data on program effectiveness for the Recreation Center programs, After School All-Stars and Parramore Kidz Zone. The presentation included the overall number of children served, number of low income children served, charts showing how the Department has moved the needed in academics, and juvenile crime.

Lisa Early reported that the Families, Parks and Recreation Department has been allocated Capital funding for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. She expressed her appreciation to the Families, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and to Gregory Reynolds for representing the Board at Orlando City Council and advocating for funding for needed improvements at FPR facilities.

John Perrone reported that the upcoming ribbon cutting at Park of Americas is scheduled for Saturday, November 22, 2014. Park of Americas will be the City's first off-leash dog park. The ribbon cutting is scheduled to take place at 10:00 a.m. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Anne Mahar

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Board Secretary