RESOLUTION 08-11937

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2007; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Community Services Advisory Board is tasked with reviewing and making annual recommendations to the City Council concerning programs, services, projects and funding for public parks and recreational facilities within the City; and

WHEREAS, the Community Services Advisory Board voluntarily provides citizen advocacy and stewardship of public properties on behalf of City residents in support of programs, services, projects and funding for public parks and recreational facilities within the City; and

WHEREAS, the quality of programs, services, projects and funding for public parks and recreational facilities within the City is a direct result of the voluntary participatory efforts of each member of the Community Services Advisory Board;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NAPLES, FLORIDA:

Section 1. That the Annual Report for calendar year 2007 submitted by the Community Services Advisory Board as required by Section 2-504 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Naples, a copy of which is attached hereto, is hereby accepted.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.


Bill Barnett, Mayor

Attest:
Tara A. Norman, City Clerk

Approved as to form and legality:
Robert D. Pritt, City Attorney

Date filed with City Clerk: 2/13/08
TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

FROM: Lois Selfon, Chair, Community Services Advisory Board

DATE: January 3, 2008

RE: Annual Report to the City Council 2007

On behalf of your Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB), please accept our Annual Report of the 2007 accomplishments supporting the Community Services Department (CSD). We are a voluntary board made up of dedicated and knowledgeable citizens. It has again this year been my privilege to preside over these members, each contributing a special niche and personal involvement in the broad topics in which we support and advise.

The Board is established to support the CSD which has the responsibility of developing and maintaining all city recreational facilities, providing learning and recreational programs and activities. Additionally, we serve as the Tree Board addressing care, plantings and right-of-way issues including ordinances and penalties and a report to Council.

City facilities serve diverse groups with activities created for all ages. As the demand for services grows there is more competition for dollars. We have our eyes open and we have our ears to the ground representing many residents who never come before you but have interesting points of view and to share their good ideas. Also, individually we converse with many city officials digging for answers attempting to bring a better understanding of complicated issues to the Board.

We also scrutinize and "nit-pick" the voluminous documents we receive each month for the purpose of brainstorming with CSD what is working, what is not and what we need to do to serve the community better and within our City budget.

Under the direction of the CSD team, facilities are buzzing with activity and brimming with participants. Many of the facility supervisors come to CSAB to review their progress and discuss their issues. We renew our request for your
continued support for The Norris Center's cultural activities. The Center was designed with a focus on music and theater. This complements the other cultural centers located in the immediate old Naples vicinity, the von Liebig Art Center and Sugden Theater. We know that with Jennifer (Palmer) Fox at the helm this Center will continue to evolve and we thank and support her. We were proud to read in N Magazine February 2007 edition: "The Norris Center comes into its own". The center has evolved from the Naples Daily News calling the center "Naples Best Kept Secret".

The Board unanimously congratulates you for having the courage of your convictions to make Gulf Shore Boulevard safer for pedestrians and casual bicyclists by providing a sidewalk on the west side. We specifically wish to acknowledge our CSAB Member Douglas Finlay for being our tireless advocate and spokesperson on this issue.

Not everything last year went well. We were elated that our presentation before the Collier County Advisory Board ended in their vote to recommend to the County Commissioners that the City receive $2.5 million to restore Fleischmann Park Recreational Center. We were equally as disappointed to hear that the County Commissioners rejected the funding in full. This now requires us to focus on how to sustain our future programs and obligations at that center. And speaking of fee structures: We would like to review the fees paid by the various vendors participating in events using Naples street and park venues. These matters have not come before us in over a year. We are hoping to get this on the calendar after this season.

The Tree Board, as ex officio the CSAB, has worked to support Joe Boscaglia in his colossal and never-ending task. There are tough issues begging thoughtful answers, which require inter-departmental/ Boards co-operation. Also, we always enjoy working with Dr. Mike Bauer. Mike is unsurpassed in his continued endeavors to pump new energy into caring for our eco-system and cleaning our waterways. He has given us hope for the future.

Finally, the Board is encouraged by the respect and increased participation we have received in Council matters that fall within the scope of our Board. We thank the Mayor and City Council Members for their personal commitment to allow us to serve the council and CSD in a more meaningful way.

In closing, we wish to thank our CSD directors, supervisors, and their staff. We hope to always work as a team within the guidelines of the Sunshine Law. I personally thank all the CSAB members for the value they add to Naples today and for the future.

Sincerely,

Lois Selfon
Chair, Community Services Advisory Board

Ethics above all else... Service to others before self... Quality in all that we do.
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2007

1) Review and make recommendations regarding procurement, development, and alterations of any park or city recreational area.
   • Provided input on the annual Level of Service Report.
   • Participated in the review and recommendations of fee schedules for city parks and facilities. Community Services Advisory Board, in an effort to have a successful relationship with the County, agreed that all recreational fees be the same for city and non-city residents.
   • Reviewed and supported the Community Services Department Ambassador Program.
   • Discussed and made recommendations on the safety and security of those using city parks and recreational areas.

Anthony Park:
   • Review needs assessment and programs. Continue to follow the planning and development of the new tennis courts.

Cambier Park:
   • Norris Center: Reviewed Norris Center's exceptional new marketing campaign and made suggestions for future activities and the upgrading of the Art Room. Encouraged a treatment of plantings to minimize the visibility of numerous air conditioner units facing 8th Street South.
   • Bandshell: Discussed parking issues and the possibility that the uses were growing beyond the capacity of the space.
   • Other courts: Followed the success of the Bocce Ball courts.
   • Allen Tennis Center (Enterprise facility): Briefly reviewed the programs and finances, endeavoring to find a balance between membership needs and generating funds. Encouraged trimming or replacing existing bushes with lower foliage.
   • Brought Community Services Advisory Board member comments to the attention of Community Services Department.

City Dock (Enterprise facility)
   • Participated in discussions pertaining to commercial leasing and encouraged City Council to provide long term relationships with those existing "watermen" who are ordinance abiding.
   • Mike Klein, Waterfront Operations Manager kept Community Services Advisory Board apprised of developments which included Naples Landing and responded to technical questions or procedures regarding commercial/charter boats, fuel spill response, boats on the beach program, payment in lieu of taxes as in operating expense, taxes to the General Fund as revenues, Insurance costs for property damage, etc.
   • City Dock is currently 100% leased.

Fleischmann Park:
   • Reviewed programs and equipment needs.
   • Master Plan on hold awaiting funding. Community Services Advisory Board successfully reached out to County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board requesting $2.5 million to assist in the construction of a new Teen/Multi-use Center. Funding rejected to date by Collier County Commission.

Ethereas above all else... Service to others before self... Quality in all that we do.
Naples Pier
- Discussed penalties and enforcement for illegal shark fishing at the pier.
- Recommended increased beach patrol at the pier, which has occurred.
- Vandalism has been a growing issue - working with Chief Morales and the Beach Patrol to resolve increased vandalism.
- Supported the installation of a second Volleyball Court.

Naples Preserve
- Support and review Hedges Family Eco-Center regularly updated by Member Carol Olsen.
- Reviewed compliance of the Florida Communities Trust (FCT) grant for $3 Million for educational programs on site.
- Discussed mission statement and whether the park/center is passive or active. $100,000 was spent to fund its educational exhibits and support its 21 eco-partners in communities throughout Collier County.
- Kept apprised of status on roofing project and other maintenance issues.

River Park
- Kept posted on pool filtration equipment to maintain functionality.
- Discussed the future of the pool.
- Reviewed Day Camps, Specialty Camps and Water Programs.

Other parks and recreation areas
- Alligator Lake - worked with Community Services Department to make the small lake area more visible to the passersbys on Gulf Shore Boulevard and park users. Recommended low maintenance, low height plantings to protect against possible water erosion.
- Gordon River Greenway Stake Holders Meeting
- Debated the acquisition of undeveloped property on Naples Bay abutting the City Dock.
- Reviewed summer park programs at all City facilities.
- Discussed and supported collaboration/partnering with YMCA to allow high quality programs at a fair cost to local residents.

2) Review and make recommendations to the CIP Report.
- Ann Marie Ricardi, Finance Director discussed the 5-year CIP. Discussed property valuation.
- Ms. Ricardi emphasized that city residents pay about 3 times as much in taxes to the County as they pay to the City of Naples.
- Asked to consider renewable energy sources where applicable. Member Diane Mayberry-Hatt is the champion for making Naples "green".

3) Review and make recommendations to the Community Services Department operating budget.
- Discussed related areas of the budget including Naples Beach Fund and increase in funding for Security Specialist Position at Pier.
4) Agreed to host meetings in 3 community facilities for 2008.
   • Norris Community Center Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.
   • Fleischmann Community Center Monday, February 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.
   • River Park Community Center Tuesday, March 11, 2008 at 5:30 p.m.

5) Other duties requested by City Council
   • City Attorney Pritt gave a presentation and answered the Board’s questions regarding the Sunshine Law.
   • Worked with Natural Resources Department and discussed seaweed removal from the beach and red tide. (Funded by TDC)
   • Reviewed Dr. Mike Bauer, Natural Resources Manager’s update on Keewaydin, Naples Bay, Clam Bay and storm retentions lakes. Discussed water quality and pollution incidents, code enforcement and the city’s efforts to clean up our waterways with oyster reef constructions and plantings.
   • Considered the advantages of rip-rap over retainer wall and requirements.
   • Dealt with high nutrients from fertilizer runoff and suspended sediment, and poor flow, which are major contributors to poor water quality conditions.
   • Reviewed plan for Broad Avenue Water Quality Park.
   • Promoted beach cleanup and recycling at parks and beach. (e.g. improving accessibility of receptacles.)
   • Reviewed regulations for the use of lawn blowers including information regarding noise and environmental impacts. (in progress at report time)
   • Reviewed best practices of vegetative debris and prevention of introduction into the storm water system.
   • Gregg Givens, Grant Coordinator, was encouraged to approach the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program for the safety of school children. (Lead time up to 2 years in most cases) Mr. Givens was also encouraged to pursue $200,000 annually for improvements to parks and recreational facilities.
   • Mr. Givens is coordinating with Ron Wallace, Construction Management Director to obtain the applications for funding of other phases of the City Pathways Plan completed in a timely fashion.
   • Years of collective effort resulted in City Council Action which will provide safer pathways for pedestrians and casual bicyclists by providing sidewalks and filling in missing links. Community Services Advisory Board initiated and pursued for this for over 3 years. Members participated in the Pathway Plan as a Board and individually.
6) Ex officio City Tree Board:

- Develop a written plan to City Council for the care, preservation, pruning, planting, replanting, removal or disposition of city trees presented annually.
- Participated in and recommended City Council approval of the 2007 Naples Urban Forestry Plan. Make recommendations as requested by City Council.
- Right-of-way issues have been a major part of our work this past year. Promoted safer ROW for pedestrians and casual bicyclists. Supported a higher level of enforcement of ROW abuses including damaging of trees (e.g. "hat racking"); blocking pedestrians refuge/recovery area from the street caused by overgrown of plants and large rocks; unsafely impeding view of pedestrians. Community Services Advisory Board made recommendations to be included in the ordinance. The Community Services Advisory Board urges more effective ordinances that can be promulgated quickly and that will include a penalty that will command compliance. Also, Community Services Advisory Board recommended that those penalized repay the city for administrative costs in processing or hearing of their case.
- Encouraged more effective inter-departmental collaboration between Public Works and Code Enforcement on ROW issues/violations. ROW parking areas for condos, truck parking, and used to protect grounds.
- Discussed enforcement measures against residents who do not obtain required City permits for ROW use and plantings.
- Many specific tree violations were discussed throughout the year for contemplation of future restrictions and enforcement.
- Reviewed various municipal tree ordinances demonstrating a range of approaches to regulating tree trimming and removal.
- Gregg Strakaluse, Engineer Manager, and George Archibald, Traffic Manager for the City's Public Works Department made a presentation providing an overview on privatized paved parking areas and protection of greenscape within the right-of-way. Discussed landscaping encroachment, impact on drainage, safety issues and esthetics.
- Supported annual service programs such as the exotic plant and tree removal, tree memorial program, tree initiatives, lethal yellowing initiatives, trees in decay from weather and age. Recommended treatment or removal of any tree that is infectious or diseased on private or public properties.
- A community beautification committee was considered but it was decided that the Tree Board currently has required authority and more bureaucracy was unnecessary.
- Reviewed FPL pole relocations, underground wiring, tree trimming and contractual agreements regarding tree plantings and FPL's Vegetation Management Program.

Ethics above all else... Service to others before self... Quality in all that we do.
7.) Ongoing and future opportunities to support Community Services Department
   - Will review leaf blower and garden maintenance issues and make recommendations.
   - Continue to keep a watchful eye on pathways and sidewalks and possible grants.
   - Continue to review ROW areas per the Tree Board's mandate.
   - Review the plan for use and development of the Pulling Property as requested by Mayor Barnett and Council.
   - Review and make a recommendation to City Council regarding landscape noise of public and private areas.
   - Continue to monitor the development of Anthony Park to ensure maximum utilization of recreational opportunities.
   - Support the expansion of Land Conservation Preservation Program.
   - Continue to monitor and encourage Naples Bay Restoration and all waterway efforts.
   - Continue to support Best Management Practices Certification Program.
   - Continue to work on improving relations with the County Advisory Board and schedule periodic joint meetings.
   - Continue to discuss the opportunity for additional parking as they relate to public recreational demands including the need for additional parking to accommodate the educational programs at the Naples Preserve.
   - Support increased recycling within the City Parks

8) Awards
   - 2007 Agency Excellence Award under Category V - serving populations at or below 34,999. This award is considered to be a prestigious recognition of municipal efforts in developing and maintaining quality parks, services and staffing for City residents and visitors and the staff is commended for all their efforts in achieving this award.
   - Florida Recreation and Park Association, Inc. 2004 and 2006 Media Excellence Award Print Category for the City of Naples Community Services Department Program Guide.