



MEMORANDUM
Harvey Ruvin
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Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners
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RCA
Agenda Item No. 7(A)

TO: Honorable Javier D. Souto and Members
of the Recreation and Cultural Affairs
Committee

DATE: April 14, 2008

FROM: Kay M. Sullivan
Director, Clerk of the Board Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Commission
Committee Minutes

The Clerk of the Board Division is submitting the following Clerk's Summary of Minutes for approval by the Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee:

March 17, 2008

Attachment
KMS/jm



Stephen P. Clark
Government Center
111 N.W. 1st Street
Miami, FL 33128

CLERK'S SUMMARY OF Meeting Minutes

Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee

Javier D. Souto (10) Chair; Dennis C. Moss (9) Vice Chair; Commissioners Audrey M. Edmonson (3), Barbara J. Jordan (1), Katy Sorenson (8), and Dorrin D. Rolle (2)

Monday, March 17, 2008

2:00 PM

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

Members Present: Audrey M. Edmonson, Barbara J. Jordan, Dennis C. Moss, Dorrin Rolle, Katy Sorenson, Javier D. Souto.

Members Absent: None.

Members Late: None.

Members Excused: None.

Members Absent County Business: None.

1 MINUTES PREPARED BY:

Report: *Zorana Gainer, Commission Reporter*
305-375-3570

1A INVOCATION

1B PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1C ROLL CALL

Report: *The following staff members were present:*

*~Assistant County Manager Alex Munoz
~Assistant County Attorney Wilfredo Ferrer
~Senior Deputy Clerk Doris Dickens
~Deputy Clerk Zorana Gainer*

1D SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

1D1

080738 Special Presentation

SPECIAL CHECK PRESENTATION TO MIAMI METROZOO FROM THE SAMI FAMILY [SEE AGENDA ITEM NO. 3(D)]

Not presented

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer announced that the foregoing special presentation was cancelled.*

1E DISCUSSION MATTERS

2 COUNTY COMMISSION

2A

080635 Resolution

Katy Sorenson

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE NOVEMBER 7, 2007 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPONSORED BY PALMETTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$716.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE DISTRICT 8 IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

*Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Sorenson
Seconder: Moss
Vote: 6-0*

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing resolution into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

2B

080668 Resolution Jose "Pepe" Diaz

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE FEBRUARY 22, 2008 FCAT TESTING PREP RALLY SPONSORED BY EUGENIA B. THOMAS K-8 CENTER, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,318.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE DISTRICT 12 IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Rolle
Seconder: Moss
Vote: 6-0

Report: Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing resolution into the record.

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

2C

080653 Resolution Sally A. Heyman

RESOLUTION RETROACTIVELY AUTHORIZING IN-KIND SERVICES FROM THE MIAMI-DADE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR THE MARCH 27, 2008 FIELD DAY SPONSORED BY HIGHLAND OAKS MIDDLE SCHOOL, A NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATION, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,146.00 TO BE FUNDED FROM THE DISTRICT 4 IN-KIND RESERVE FUND

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Moss
Seconder: Sorenson
Vote: 6-0

Report: Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing resolution into the record.

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

3 DEPARTMENT

4

3A

080534 Resolution

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF TWENTY-TWO (22) GRANT AWARDS FROM THE FY2007-08 SUMMER ARTS & SCIENCE CAMPS FOR KIDS (SAS-C) GRANTS PROGRAM TO: ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE PRODUCTIONS, INC.; BISCAYNE FOUNDATION, INC., THE; CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI, INC; CREATIVE CHILDREN THERAPY, INC.; ENFAMILIA, INC.; FAMILY & CHILDREN FAITH COALITION, INC; FLORIDA MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY, INC.; GREATER MIAMI YOUTH SYMPHONY OF DADE COUNTY, FL INC; HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHERN FLORIDA; MARJORY STONEMAN DOUGLAS BISCAYNE NATURE CENTER; MIAMI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, INC., THE; MIAMI DANCE PROJECT, INC; MIAMI LIGHT PROJECT, INC; MIAMI STAGE COMPANY/MIAMI CHILDREN'S THEATER, INC.; MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, INC.; MUSEUM OF SCIENCE, INC.; MYSTERY PARK ARTS COMPANY, INC.; NEW WORLD SCHOOL OF THE ARTS; PLAYGROUND THEATRE, INC., THE; SOUTH FLORIDA ART CENTER, INC. (D.B.A. ARTCENTER/SOUTH FLORIDA); THOMAS ARMOUR YOUTH BALLET, INC.; UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI FROST SCHOOL OF MUSIC; AND AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXERCISE CANCELLATION PROVISIONS CONTAINED THEREIN (Cultural Affairs Council)

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation

Mover: Moss

Seconder: Sorenson

Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing resolution into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

5

3B

080741 Resolution

RESOLUTION RATIFYING THE PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT COUNTY-OWNED MARINAS PERFORMANCE-BASED GAINSHARING PROGRAM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (Office of Strategic Business Management)

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation

Mover: Moss

Seconder: Rolle

Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing resolution into the record.*

Commissioner Sorenson questioned how the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) would work and who would be in charge of evaluating employees.

Assistant County Manager Munoz explained that the standards were not only financially based, but also performance based. He noted the employees and marinas were evaluated on how the marinas looked and level of customer service.

Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department (MDPR), explained that revenue goals were established when marinas were approximately at an 80% occupancy rate. He noted since the establishment of the MOU, the demand for marinas had increased significantly, and revenue had increased as well. He noted the incentives were expanded to include performance based measures, where various surveys were conducted to ensure customer service was provided correctly. Mr. Kardys further noted more aggressive revenue targets were set in transient dockage to manage boat slip usage and achieve higher revenues. He stated the MOU would be effective for a period of four years, with options to renew. He also advised construction costs had increased.

Chairman Souto pointed out the safety hazards of storing boats within neighborhoods and expressed a need for more marinas. He asked Mr. Kardys to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of marinas.

Mr. Kardys referenced two rack dry storage areas, one in Matheson Hammock and the other in Haulover. He said Matheson Hammock's capacity was for approximately 300 boats and Haulover's capacity was being expanded to accommodate 250 more boats. Mr. Kardys further noted the Manatee Protection Act was being

reviewed for possible revision and if amended, the Blackpoint and the Homestead Marinas could also be expanded.

Hearing no further questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

3C

080660 Change Orders

RETROACTIVE CHANGE ORDER NO: ONE (1) AND FINAL FOR HAULOVER PARK FOUR NEW BATHROOMS - PROJECT NO: HAULOVER GOB PROJECT NO. 20, GOB SITE NO. 71630; CONTRACT NO: 222302-02-002 TO ABC CONSTRUCTION, INC. (Park & Recreation Department)

***Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Sorenson
Seconder: Jordan
Vote: 6-0***

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing change order into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

3D

080533 Resolution

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MIAMI METROZOO SAMI TRUST FUND TO ACCEPT FUNDS BEQUEATHED BY THE LATE ALBERT SAMI IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,307,684.36 [SEE AGENDA ITEM NO. 1(D)1] (Park & Recreation Department)

***Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Moss
Seconder: Sorenson
Vote: 6-0***

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing resolution into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

3E

080736 Bid Awards

CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION FOR MIAMI METROZOO IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO: A06-PARK-01 GOB; CONTRACT NO: 592500-06-003-1, URS CORPORATION (Park & Recreation Department)

***Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation
Mover: Moss
Seconder: Sorenson
Vote: 6-0***

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing bid award into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

3F

080707 Bid Awards

CONTRACT AWARD RECOMMENDATION FOR MIAMI METROZOO IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT NO: A06-PARK-01 GOB; CONTRACT NO: 592500-06-003-2, JOHN FORBES INC., D/B/A FORBES ARCHITECTS (Park & Recreation Department)

Forwarded to BCC with a favorable recommendation

Mover: Moss

Seconder: Edmonson

Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing bid award into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

4 COUNTY MANAGER

5 COUNTY ATTORNEY

6 CLERK OF THE BOARD

6A

080708 Report

CLERK'S SUMMARY OF MEETING MINUTES FOR RECREATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING(S): FEBRUARY 11, 2008 (Clerk of the Board)

Approved

Mover: Edmonson

Seconder: Jordan

Vote: 6-0

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing report into the record.*

Hearing no questions or comments the committee proceeded to vote.

7 REPORTS

7A

080540 Report

ADRIENNE ARSHT CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING
ARTS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY MONTHLY STATUS
REPORT (County Manager)

Report Received

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing report into the record.*

Mr. Larry Wilker, CEO/President, Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts, gave a brief report regarding the status of the Performing Arts Center (PAC). Mr. Wilker noted ticket sales were continuously improving, noting ticket sales were over 80% compared to 41% last season. Mr. Wilker reported that the PAC was operating within budget and occupancy costs were lower than budgeted, with an expected return to the County this year. He said a second payment, in the amount of \$375,000, towards the construction acceleration recovery effort would be made on schedule. PAC representatives began discussions with representatives of the Seaport and Miami International Airport (MIA) regarding marketing of the PAC at both facilities, Mr. Wilker advised. Noting that MIA representatives were making time available on their inhouse television monitors for PAC advertisements, Mr. Wilker said places within the airport to affix semi-permanent PAC advertisement signs were being explored as well.

Mr. Wilker noted the free performances for the community had been quite successful, and that the partnership with radio station WMBM was continued with the free gospel Sunday performances. He mentioned that upcoming performances at the PAC included the State Symphony Orchestra of Russia, Commissioner Edmonson's State of the District Address, Pink Martini, Forbidden Broadway, Gloria Gaynor, and the Cleveland Orchestra.

Commissioner Moss commented that he was pleased that the PAC was moving in a positive direction. He noted he was encouraged by the 80% ticket sales, the free activities for the community, and making payments on schedule, as well as the low occupancy costs and full summer programming.

Commissioner Jordan commended Mr. Wilker regarding the outstanding progress report on the PAC. She said she was hopeful the Miami Herald

newspaper would report the PAC's accomplishments, with particular regard to the funds being returned to the County earlier than scheduled.

Chairman Souto suggested Mr. Wilker place PAC advertisements in magazines on board American Airlines flights.

Mr. Wilker responded to Chairman Souto's suggestion, noting he was scheduled to meet with American Airlines' (AA) Marketing Director later this the week, not only to discuss advertising in their onboard magazines, but to provide packages to AA customers detailing the PAC's summer programs.

7B

080541 Report

ORAL REPORT RE: MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE MIAMI INTERNATIONAL AGRITECH & LIVESTOCK EXPO (County Manager) *Report Received*

Report: *Assistant County Attorney Ferrer read the foregoing report into the record.*

Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Miami-Dade Park & Recreation (MDPR) gave an update regarding the Miami International Agritech & Livestock Expo. Mr. Kardys said on Friday, May 16, 2008, in conjunction with Dade County Public Schools (DCPS), an education session would be held to get DCPS' students involved. He also said they were working on programming geared toward seniors, containing part educational and part nutritional information. Also on that date (5/16), a series of technical and roundtable discussions by agricultural experts and business regulation experts, would be held at Tamiami Park, noted Mr. Kardys. An welcoming reception would be held that evening for the exhibitors, State and local agency representatives and elected officials to network and discuss issues surrounding the community's agriculture, he said. Mr. Kardys advised that on Saturday (5/17) and Sunday (5/18), separate shows were scheduled to showcase Brangus, Brahman, Red Brangus Cattle, and possibly Santa Gertrudis Breeds. He said both days would be filled with activities and demonstrations, for the public, related mostly to agriculture and consumer affairs.

Chairman Souto noted the invitations for the show were complete and asked Mr. Kardys to provide individual commissioners with an invitation to the show.

7C

080706 Report**REPORT ON WALKING TRAILS/PASSIVE AREA IN
DISTRICT 1 (County Manager)****Report Received
Mover: Jordan
Seconder: Moss
Vote: 6-0**

Report: *Commissioner Jordan expressed appreciation to Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Miami-Dade Park & Recreation Department (MDPR), for providing the detailed report regarding the walking trails/passive area adjacent to the North Dade Regional Library in District 1. She inquired about the cost to operate and maintain this area.*

Mr. Kardys explained reserves were established for this area to fund the cost to re-paint walls approximately every four to five years, and the carry-over was kept in reserves to take care of long-range recurring capital expenditures. He noted that the department was close to spending most of the funds acquired and pointed out that a full-time maintenance crew was at the area five days per week providing full maintenance services.

Commissioner Jordan noted she had seen the maintenance crews in the area, however, she expressed concern that the sprinkler system was inoperative. She also asked about the report listing the cost for painting at \$50,000.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding \$50,000 for painting, Mr. Kardys responded the \$50,000 included full pressure washing, scraping, patching and any cosmetic repairs associated with painting. He noted the \$50,000 did not include any structural work, advising this work was currently out for bid.

Commissioner Jordan said the fencing surrounding the subject area was installed by the Greater Miami Service Corps. She pointed out that the Service Corps had provided its services to paint public housing units, and asked Mr. Kardys to explore using the Service Corps to paint in an effort to save money.

Commissioner Jordan asked Mr. Kardys how the inoperable sprinkler system would be addressed, since the report reflected insufficient resources.

Mr. Kardys responded to Commissioner Jordan's

inquiry regarding the inoperable sprinkler system, noting that, a few years ago, he received a price quote of approximately \$120,000 to replace the entire sprinkler system; however, the current price was approximately \$130,000. He explained that if next year the department added additional funds to an assessment, the sprinkler system might be replaced by approximately 2010.

Commissioner Jordan inquired as to whether the entire system was inoperable or whether a portion of the system was still operable.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry, Mr. Delgado explained that a portion of the sprinkler system was operable; however, it required manual manipulation due to an electrical problem existing within the system.

Commissioner Jordan noted that the residents of District 1 expressed the need for more lighting within the area of the 3-mile walking path. She invited former Commissioner Betty Ferguson to come forward.

Ms. Betty Ferguson, former Miami-Dade County Commissioner (District 1), appeared and noted she was happy that Miami-Dade County held jurisdiction over the Dolphin Center Multipurpose Special Taxing District (STD), and that many residents of the community were utilizing the walking trail. Ms. Ferguson noted she had concerns regarding the sprinkler system as well. She asked what formula was used to assess this STD.

In response to Ms. Ferguson's inquiry regarding the formula used to assess Dolphin Center Multipurpose STD, Mr. Kardys explained that, based on historical maintenance cycles, the commodities and salaries budgets were combined and billed to the STD.

Ms. Ferguson said that if there were insufficient funds, in the budget, to repair the sprinkler system, would it be possible for the department to charge the Dolphin Corporation.

Mr. Kardys said he could approach the Dolphin Corporation representative regarding accelerating an assessment to repair the sprinkler system within the next year. He asked Mr. Delgado to explore the current cost of repairing the electrical problem with the sprinkler system rather than installing a new sprinkler system.

Commissioner Jordan noted she would schedule a meeting with the representatives of the Dolphin Corporation regarding expediting this matter.

In response to Ms. Ferguson's inquiry regarding how much money was currently in the STD's account and whether M DPR had a certain amount set to bill the Dolphin Corporation per year for maintenance, Mr. Kardys responded that the current balance was approximately \$59,000, adding that the STD was obligated to maintain the irrigation system and maintenance according to the ordinance that created it. He said, traditionally, those costs were budgeted to avoid assessing a large fee at one time.

Commissioner Jordan asked the County Attorney to review the language contained within the Dolphin Center Multipurpose STD to determine whether or not maintenance service was included as a part of that agreement.

Chairman Souto said this was the perfect cause for the Dolphin Corporation to donate lights to the area.

In closing, Ms. Ferguson expressed gratitude to Commissioner Jordan and committee members, and noted she had received many inquiries regarding the Snake Creek Canal Project. She asked for clarification on this project via a meeting with the community.

Commissioner Jordan noted she was already scheduled for a meeting regarding the Snake Creek Canal Project.

Commissioner Rolle noted a blind spot existed at Arcola Lakes Park. He said this was dangerous and asked Mr. Kardys to ensure lighting fixtures were installed in blind spots on the north end of the walking path at Arcola Lakes Park. He also asked that the panels on the scoreboard at Gwen Cherry Park be replaced.

Commissioner Sorenson noted the base of the trees at the Black Point Marina were being destroyed and asked Mr. Kardys to ensure that the trees near the entrance of the Marina were not destroyed by weed whackers during lawn maintenance. She also asked Mr. Kardys to have the trash picked up at the marina more frequently to prevent trash overflow onto the ground.

Commissioner Edmonson asked Mr. Kardys to correct the press release information regarding Jefferson Reeves Park.

Chairman Souto said he had attended the inauguration of the walking path at the Women's Park and asked Mr. Kardys to include a photograph of the late Ms. Luisa Toledo at the Women's Park.

15

7D

080704 Report

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS (County Manager)

Presented

Report: ~LIBRARIES~

Mr. Raymond Santiago, Director, Miami-Dade County Libraries gave an overview of the Departments proposed budget. He noted, although a budget decrease had occurred, none of the library's branch facilities were closed, no hours were reduced, and basic services were maintained. Mr. Santiago stated four new library branches would open within the next two months and the focus was currently on renovating aging facilities.

In response to Commissioners Moss' inquiry regarding when the Kendall Lakes Branch would open, Mr. Santiago responded that the facility was almost complete and scheduled to be turned over to the Library Department within a few months.

Responding to Commissioner Moss' inquiry regarding libraries at the State level, Mr. Daniel Alfonso, Office of Strategic Business Management, explained that several grants, primarily in the Arts and Culture area, were being considered for significant reduction.

Mr. Santiago pointed out that Libraries were funded totally by property taxes and any changes to property taxes could have an adverse affect on the library system.

Commissioner Sorenson advised committee members that she had received information that Taxation and Budget Reform Commission passed a proposal to swap the required local effort for schools for a one per cent sales tax increase and a five per cent cap on commercial properties. She noted that a five percent cap on commercial properties would affect Miami-Dade County.

In response to Commissioner Sorenson's question of whether automated checkout systems installed in libraries would affect personnel, Mr. Santiago noted automation had never affected personnel adversely, and that the automated self checkout units moved patrons through the checkout process faster.

Commissioner Jordan commended Mr. Santiago for the re-opening of the Opa-Locka Library Branch, and noted that she was impressed with how the small space at the facility had been utilized. She expressed her concerns regarding the usage increase at the Opa-Locka Library versus the limited space within the Library facility and asked Mr. Santiago to meet with her concerning additional space for computers at this branch.

Commissioner Edmonson asked Mr. Santiago to provide her with an update on the Little River Library Branch.

In response to Commissioner Edmonson's request regarding the Little River Library Branch, Mr. Santiago noted staff was considering adding a 2 story building in North Dade that included a parking lot. He further noted the General Services Administration (GSA) was researching the feasibility of rehabilitating this site. Mr. Santiago indicated this facility was a better space in terms of size and would double the capacity of the Little River Library Branch.

Chairman Souto expressed his concerns regarding libraries in multi-lingual communities. He suggested promoting language classes that were being taught at libraries.

Mr. Santiago noted that based on Chairman Souto's previous direction regarding teaching different languages at libraries, staff had began meeting with Miami Dade College concerning this issue.

~PARK & RECREATION~

Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Park & Recreation Department (MDPR), gave a report regarding the budget for the Park & Recreation Department. He noted MDPR was the third largest County-operated Park department in the country. Mr. Kardys pointed out that last year the operations budget had been reduced by \$7.5 million and that the impact would be realized this spring.

Mr. Kardys noted the following key initiatives for MDPR:

- ~The Open Space Master Plan
- ~The completion of a recreation plan
- ~The establishment of partnerships through Adopt-

*A-Park and corporate funding programs
~The management of an effective capital program and
~The Park & Recreation Improving the Delivery of Excellence Program's (PRIDE) achievement of all accreditation standards*

Maintenance and programming were challenges that the department faced, noted Mr. Kardys. He stated the Adopt-A-Park Program had established a new website where people interested in volunteering could do so online. In addition, he said, MDPR was working with the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (C&R) to augment the maintenance staff, using qualified community service workers. As a result of passing on background check expenses to Community Based Organizations (CBO), a reduction in community service workers had occurred, noted Mr. Kardys. He said MDPR was also working with the Homestead Correctional Institute to form a supervised labor force to perform landscaping, tree trimming and liter removal at parks countywide.

Mr. Kardys noted that a playground was dedicated to West Perrine Park by Kaboom. He said building a playground would normally cost the department over \$100,000, however, due to corporate sponsorship, the cost was approximately \$7,500. He noted volunteers from the community and County employees helped build the playground in one day.

Mr. Kardys said MDPR was preparing to issue a series of Request For Proposals (RFP) to possibly outsource some of MDPR's recreational centers. He stated the Department was also considering outsourcing services, such as maintenance of small golf courses.

Mr. Kardys pointed out that the department was currently researching County-owned properties for a variety of uses.

Mr. Kardys referred to the Recreation Management System (RMS), and noted it would be in place by the end of the year. He advised this service allowed online reservations of picnic shelters at parks, registration for programs, and access to all MDRP services. He noted this would enhance marketability and pick up additional revenue.

Mr. Kardys said MDPR's contract management staff was negotiating the lease on a dry-dock storage area. He noted the current deal being renegotiated was for \$600,000 per year, with anticipated annual revenue between \$900,000 and \$1 million. He stated that the department was actively pursuing every measure to gain additional revenue from existing contracts.

Mr. Kardys noted the department had a freeze on travel, a reduction in fleets, a freeze on hiring and certain requisitions for commodities, as well as several projects on hold to make it to the end of the year using the existing budget. He said the current base budget reflected an approximate nine percent growth from last year, approximately \$9.4 million, and staff was working to reduce that by \$3 million dollars to allow 6% growth. Mr. Kardys noted the department faced uncontrollable issues, such as personnel costs, which represented approximately 63% of the budget and accounted for approximately 4.5% of increases. He pointed out that the General Funds Subsidy, excluding Metro Zoo, had increased by 13% and that the expenditures exceeded revenue growth due to these uncontrollable factors. Mr. Kardys noted approximately 34% of the department's budget was allocated to park operations; he added that ground maintenance was 14%, administration 10%, programming was 8%, cultural arts programs were 5% and pools were 3%.

Mr. Kardys summarized Metro Zoo's budget. He said the \$50 million capital program for the Amazon and Beyond attraction would cost approximately \$5 million to operate. Revenues from this new attraction were projected at approximately \$500,000 in the first year, and with a fee increase, projections went up to \$900,000, he stated. Mr. Kardys said Metro Zoo's attendance was over 600,000, which was the highest attendance since 1992, resulting in \$1.2 million in additional revenues. He advised that 41% of the operating expenses were recovered through revenues. Mr. Kardys said additional subsidies would be needed this year, in order to make Amazon and Beyond successful in its first year. He reported that two RFPs were prepared for the water theme park and the family entertainment zone, which would generate significant revenues in the future; he noted it would take approximately three years before any revenues would be seen from these operations. Mr. Kardys said the department was considering increasing the entrance fee at the zoo from \$13.95 per adult to

\$15.95.

Mr. Kardys advised that, in an effort to maintain revenues, the department was considering increasing all fees by 10 to 20%. He noted some areas, such as the marinas, could withstand increases. Mr. Kardys said the only enhancements that would be brought forth were those that would pay for themselves via revenue generation or those with zero impact on funding.

Mr. Kardys noted that the facility lifecycle maintenance was an important program. Mr. Kardys noted the department previously allocated \$4 million dollars to this program and was looking to maintain the momentum of maintenance to sports facilities.

(3:40:50)

In response to Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry regarding the facility lifecycle maintenance, Mr. Kardys explained that instead of funding the maintenance with capital outlay reserves, it would be funded via operating funds.

Commissioner Sorenson expressed her concern regarding budget cuts to after school programs.

Responding to Commissioner Sorenson's concern, Mr. Kardys said that, although budget hearings had not occurred, he anticipated budget cuts would be directed towards after school programs. He said the department would conduct a review to find out whether delivery of the after school programs could be continued at the current enhanced levels.

Commissioner Sorenson said perhaps a few parks should be closed in the worst case scenario, rather than to dilute and degrade the existing park system.

Chairman Souto noted he disagreed and expressed his opposition to closing any parks. He said he would rather see the grass a bit higher in some parks rather than closing a park. Chairman Souto asked Mr. Kardys to consider partnering with universities, colleges and public schools in an effort to make parks successful.

Commissioner Jordan concurred with Chairman Souto regarding not closing any parks and noted her concern with the miniscule (8%) funding spent on after school programs.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry

regarding the total amount of MDPR budgets cuts, Mr. Alfonso explained that the fiscal year 2008-2009 figures were preliminary, however, they were lower than the revenues of 2007-2008 by approximately \$60 million. He said it was not just the \$60 million reduction in revenue, but also the normal growth that would occur to the rest of the budget.

Commissioner Jordan expressed concern regarding the possibility of MDPR restructuring and raising fees, and asked whether there were any other options in terms of minimizing cuts.

In response to Commissioner Jordan's concerns regarding the possibility of raising park fees, Assistant County Manager Munoz stated one method was to find community groups and Community Based Organizations (CBO) to provide programming.

Responding Commissioner Jordan's request for Mr. Munoz to discuss the Commission's limitations with regard to the budget, mandates and millage rates, Mr. Munoz explained that overriding the millage and making it higher was an option. He further explained that to override the millage required a vote of 10 of 13.

Commissioner Jordan inquired about when the opening of the Ives Estate Park would be celebrated and inquired about the RFP for the archeological park fencing.

Mr. Kardys said that the archeological park fencing project was scheduled to be completed in June.

Responding to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding Ives Estate Park, Mr. Howard Gregg, Assistant Director of Planning and Development, MDPR, noted completion and opening of Ives Dairy would occur in approximately 45 days.

Commissioner Moss inquired about funding source used for park systems in other cities.

Mr. Kardys noted most parks were funded in the same manner as Miami-Dade; however, Chicago's park system had an alternative funding arrangement with a series of districts whereby the districts chose the level of service and were taxed accordingly.

Commissioner Moss discussed outsourcing MDPR

programs, and asked if MDPR staff had considered outsourcing services to other departments within the County.

Mr. Kardys explained that staff had considered outsourcing to other County departments; however, he had no hard data on the costs or shifting costs of outsourcing to another department.

Commissioner Moss asked Mr. Kardys to ensure that the Community Image Advisory Board was involved in the parks master plan. He also asked Mr. Kardys to explore the feasibility of partnering with schools to utilize park spaces and to ensure that approximately \$100,000 was set aside for the Gold Coast Railroad and Military Museum portion of the Miami Metro Zoo's Entertainment District and Master Plan.

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry regarding expanding the wireless pilot program, Mr. Kardys noted that if funding and corporate sponsorship were possible, the program would continue to provide free wireless access; however, if there were no sponsors, the costs would be approximately \$12,000 per park to continue operating.

Commissioner Moss suggested identifying five to ten budget priorities that had a common theme among committee members. He noted the most common theme heard at today's (3/17) meeting was the opposition to closing any parks.

Commissioner Sorenson suggested scheduling a special meeting to allow committee members to reach an agreement on budget priorities.

Commissioner Jordan concurred with Commissioner Sorenson's suggestion and noted eight departments were under this committee's purview. She asked committee members to consider limiting their priority submissions to three (3) priorities per department.

~CULTURAL AFFAIRS~

Mr. Michael Spring, Director, Cultural Affairs Department, expressed his appreciation to Chairman Souto for his recommendations regarding sustaining funding for grant programs for Community non-profit groups, and for supporting dedicated funding for maintenance of the Art in Public Places Program (APP).

Mr. Spring noted the impact of Miami-Dade County's cultural community. He reported the department had completed an economic impact study on the local arts community and documented more than \$922 million of local impact on the economy from arts groups and artists. Mr. Spring said that the arts community provided a competitive edge for tourism and business development within the community. He noted an article in the New York Times referred to Miami as a cultural oasis.

Mr. Spring highlighted the impact of the current budget. He said the department had a 15% reduction in property tax allocations which represented a loss of \$1.74 million from grant programs, as well as elimination of two grants programs. Mr. Spring said funding had been modestly reduced from 357 local non-profit groups.

Mr. Spring reported that for every dollar the County invested in non-profit cultural organizations, the department leveraged \$27. Mr. Spring noted it was a priority for the department to maintain funding support for non-profit cultural groups as strong as possible through grants programs.

Mr. Spring said construction of the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center was nearly completed and the facility would be the first one that the department would operate. He noted the table of organization would grow modestly to include the staff that would operate the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center.

The department was aggressively implementing Cultural General Obligation Bonds (GOB) projects, noted Mr. Spring, and the projects were being implemented as grants through non profit organizations. He said currently six (6) projects were being implemented.

Additionally, the APP activities were being fully integrated into the department, and this month marked the sixth month of the transition of APP into the Cultural Affairs Department's budget. He said this fiscal year the APP positions were reduced from six (6) to three (3), however, the workload had increased. Mr. Spring requested restoration of one APP staff position. Mr. Spring noted that staff was aggressively pursuing maintenance and repair initiatives and working on

an annual inventory of the artwork within the APP.

Mr. Spring said the initiatives to increase participation were continuing to grow, and noted \$1.5 million was in this year's budget for the Children's Trust, which funded kids' programs. In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry about State-funded grants to cultural programs, Mr. Spring said the FY 2008-2009 budget had been released and arts might be removed from the school system.

Discussion ensued among Committee members regarding the APP guided tours.

Mr. Spring noted the department tours were being considered, as well as guided tours, using the Miami-Dade Transit system.

Commissioner Moss inquired about the request for additional APP staff support for the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center and asked if programming support was included in next year's budget.

In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry, Mr. Spring explained that the proposed budget included all costs associated with operating the South Miami Dade Cultural Arts Center.

Chairman Souto spoke about cultural arts programs launched in Medellin, Columbia, and asked Mr. Spring to explore the possibility of instituting a cultural arts program to reduce crime within high crime areas, similar to the programs in Medellin, Columbia.

Commissioner Jordan commended Mr. Spring and the department's staff members for the maintenance of the APP's artwork. She asked Mr. Spring to explore the possibility of the County partnering with violence intervention programs to receive additional resources from the Children's Trust.

~VIZCAYA~

Mr. Joel Hoffman, Executive Director, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, noted Vizcaya's major goal revolved around improving the maintenance, the care of its collections, and making Vizcaya more accessible to the community. He noted phase one of the General Obligation Bond (GOB) programs were out for bid, which included significant

renovations to Vizcaya's basement, café, and two of the Vizcaya Village buildings. Mr. Hoffman said next year, phase two of the GOB programs would revolve around other aspects of Vizcaya's main house and the gardens. He indicated, with support of the County, he was able to hire a horticulturist. Mr. Hoffman said Vizcaya staff was continuing with the free summer Sundays this year.

Mr. Hoffman said the County's current allocation to Vizcaya represented approximately 25% of the budget. The current fiscal year was \$1,407,000, which represented a cut of \$249,000 from last year's budget, which resulted in two (2) full-time positions and three (3) part-time security positions being eliminated. Mr. Hoffman said Vizcaya was under funded, and there was not enough staff to take proper care of collections or the facilities. Mr. Hoffman pointed out that the carryover reliance was \$556,000, which was a full 10% of Vizcaya's budget. Vizcaya relied on volunteers and new opportunities for partnerships.

Mr. Hoffman reported modest fee increases to local residents were being proposed. He requested one additional security position, one care specialists position, one custodial position and one administrative position within the business office.

In closing, Mr. Hoffman expressed his appreciation for the Committee's support and consideration.

With regards to events held at Vizcaya, Commissioner Sorenson inquired whether patrons holding events had to pay an insurance security deposit.

Mr. Hoffman explained that he was uncomfortable accommodating large events due to the likelihood of damage occurring to collection pieces. He noted a security deposit was assessed, however it was impossible to trace every incident that occurred.

In response to Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry regarding rather Vizcaya received Tourist Development Tax (TDT) funds, Mr. Hoffman responded that Vizcaya did not receive any TDT funds, but did receive General Funds support and Community Development Tax support was received.

Commissioner Souto asked Mr. Hoffman about the fees to host an event at Vizcaya.

Mr. Hoffman noted during the week a base fee of \$7,500 up to 125 people \$25 per person there after and on weekends \$12,500 up to 2,000 people.

~MIAMI ART MUSEUM~

Mr. Terence Riley, Director, Miami Art Museum (MAM) gave a brief report regarding MAM's budget. He noted that the 2007-2008 annual operating budget was \$5.8 million, which included \$1.7 million as a county operating brand approximately 25% of the total. He said the other three quarters was made up principally of earned income and private donations. He pointed out that the \$1.7 million received from the county was received after last years budget cuts, and private giving was increased in an attempt to keep all of MAM's programs in tact. Mr. Riley requested \$300,000 to offset last years losses and to maintain all programs.

Regarding the new MAM building Mr. Riley said they were well underway with the capital campaign. He said MAM was doing very well and had enough money to build the new building. \$10 million was received from the Knight Foundation.

~MIAMI SCIENCE MUSEUM~

Ms. Gillian Thomas, CEO, Miami Science Museum (MSM) expressed appreciation to committee members for their support of MSM. Ms. Thomas noted that the priority was to deliver a high level of service to visitors of the Museum. She said there were cut backs on everything else including eliminating the collection manager, reducing one education manager, also eliminating the science content person. Ms. Thomas said the museum staff was dynamic regarding securing grants to support the museum. She said the MSM's grant portfolio represented 32% of income revenue for operations, excluding the new museum site. Ms. Thomas noted that fundraising was difficult and the MSM staff was anticipating the county to release General Obligation Bond (GOB) funds.

In response to Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry regarding the request for additional funding of \$451,000 to continue the same level of service, Ms. Thomas explained that last year due to state

reductions and difficulty with fundraising to support operations.

Commissioner Sorenson inquired regarding the GOB funding for both MAM and MSM, Assistant County Manager Munoz responded that the GOB grant agreement slated for committee in January has not been heard by this committee in order for the museums to receive their GOB funding the GOB grant agreement with the companion Memorandum of Understanding had to be considered and approved by the full Board.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Mr. Robert McCammon, President/CEO, Miami Historical Museum of South Florida, provided a brief overview of the department's budget. He noted a need to request additional funds to continue doing projects, such as bringing the Miami Circle back to the County. He advised a lease had been signed and the Circle would be opened as a general park early next year. Mr. McCammon added the educational programs were continuing and would be expanded with the school system. He explained that with the lack of school funding, the department would locate funding to continue the children's fourth grade program. Mr. McCammon noted attendance continually increased with the department's cooperation with other institutions such as Miami Art Museum, Performing Arts Center, the Parent's Academy for Children's Programs. He noted the department's funding would continue the ability to expand and asked that the Commission would continue supporting its efforts.

Commissioner Sorenson asked the Budget staff to take a look at Tourist Development Tax funds to help transition from the General Funds.

8 ADJOURNMENT