

**MIAMI-DADE COUNTY  
FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES  
Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee  
(RCAC)**

**Board of County Commissioners**

Stephen P. Clark Center  
Commission Chambers  
111 N.W. First Street  
Miami, Florida 33128

Monday, March 17, 2008  
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk  
Board of County Commissioners

Kay Sullivan, Director  
Clerk of the Board Division

Zorana Gainer, Commission Reporter  
(305) 375-3570





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

## FINAL OFFICIAL

### 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)

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Monday, March 17, 2008

2:00 PM

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

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**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.

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#### 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**

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*

*Secunder: 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.*

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*

*Secunder: 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 increased significantly, and revenue increased as well. He noted the incentives were expanded to include performance based measures, and various surveys were conducted to ensure customer service was adequate. Mr. Kardys further noted more aggressive revenue targets were set in transient dockage to manage boat slip usage and achieve higher revenues; and the MOU would be effective for a period of four years, with options to renew.*

*Chairman Souto asked Mr. Kardys to explore the possibility of increasing the capacity of marinas within the County.*

*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 would be expanded to accommodate an additional 250 more boat slips. 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 over 80% compared to 41% last season and were continually increasing. The PAC continued to operate within budget, and the occupancy costs were lower than budgeted, with an expected return to the County this year, he pointed out. Mr. Wilker noted a second payment in the amount of \$375,000 would be made towards the construction acceleration recovery effort, and PAC representatives had engaged discussions with representatives from the Seaport and Aviation Department to market the facility and this effort included plans to air PAC advertisements throughout the airport on television monitors and to place semi-permanent advertisements throughout the airport as well, he added.*

*Mr. Wilker noted the PAC would continue its partnership with WMBM radio station to provide free Gospel Sunday performances, and 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 continuing to move in a positive direction. He noted he was encouraged by the 80% ticket sales and the fact that payments were made on scheduled, the full summer programming and other free activities provided for the community, and the low occupancy costs.*

*Commissioner Jordan commended Mr. Wilker for an outstanding progress report on the PAC. She said she was hopeful The Miami Herald would report the PAC's accomplishments, particularly the fact that revenues were generated and returned to the County sooner than projected.*

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 to discuss advertising in the airlines' onboard magazines as well as informational materials onboard featuring scheduled programs/performances at the PAC.

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 the department, in conjunction with Dade County Public Schools (DCPS), would host an educational session on Friday, May 16, 2008; that the aim of this event was to get students involved in the expo. The Department was also developing educational and nutritional programs geared toward seniors on May 16th, and a series of technical and roundtable discussions by agricultural experts and business regulation experts, would be held at Tamiami Park. Mr. Kardys noted. A welcoming reception would be held that evening for the exhibitors, State and local representatives and elected officials to network and discuss issues surrounding the community's agriculture. Mr. Kardys pointed out that separate shows were scheduled on Saturday, May 17th and Sunday, May 18th to showcase Brangus, Brahman, Red Brangus Cattle, and possibly Santa Gertrudis Breeds. He said both days would be filled with activities and demonstrations 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 that reserves were established for this area to repaint walls 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; that full maintenance service provided.*

*Commissioner Jordan noted she had seen the maintenance crews in the area; however, she expressed concern that the sprinkler system was inoperable*

*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; that it did not include any structural work. □*

*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 the fences and walls.*

*Commissioner Jordan asked Mr. Kardys how the sprinkler system would be addressed since the report reflected there were not enough resources.*

*Mr. Kardys responded to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding the inoperable sprinkler system, noting that a few years ago he received an estimate of approximately \$120,000 to replace the*

entire sprinkler system. He noted the estimated price to repair the system today was approximately \$130,000.

Commissioner Jordan questioned whether the entire system was inoperable.

Mr. Gil Delgado, Park & Recreation Special Tax District Manager, responded, noting although a portion of the system was operable, it had to be manipulated manually and there was an electrical problem within the system, which was the primary issue.

Commissioner Jordan noted that the residents of District 1 requested that lighting improvements be made along the three mile walking path, and noted former County Commissioner Betty Ferguson was in the audience and wished to address the Committee regarding this matter.

Former County Commissioner Betty Ferguson said she was happy that Miami-Dade County was in charge of the Dolphin Center Multipurpose Special Taxing District (STD) and that many residents of the community were utilizing the walking trail. Ms. Ferguson noted that she had concerns regarding the sprinkler system as well.

In response to Commissioner Ferguson's inquiry regarding the formula used to assess the Dolphin Center Multipurpose STD, Mr. Kardys explained that the various maintenance costs were combined to form a Commodities and a Salaries Budget for which the Dolphin Center Multipurpose STD was billed.

Responding to Commissioner Ferguson's inquiry whether the Dolphin Corporation could be billed if sufficient funds were not available within the budget to repair the sprinkler system, 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 as opposed to installing a new sprinkler system.

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

In response to Commissioner Ferguson's inquiry

regarding the amount of funds currently in the STD's account, and whether the MDPR 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. He noted that the STD had an obligation to maintain the irrigation system and maintenance pursuant to the implementing ordinance. Mr. Kardys 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, Commissioner Ferguson expressed appreciation to Commissioner Jordan and Committee members. She noted that she had received many inquiries regarding the Snake Creek Canal Project and asked for clarification on this project via a meeting with the community.

Commissioner Jordan noted that she had already scheduled a meeting regarding the Snake Creek Canal Project.

Commissioner Rolle asked Mr. Kardys to ensure that lighting improvements were made at Arcola Lakes Park, particularly on the north end of the walking path where the lighting was insufficient. He also asked that the panels on the scoreboard at Gwen Cherry Park be replaced.

Commissioner Sorenson noted that the bases of the trees at the Black Point Marina were being destroyed. She asked Mr. Kardys to ensure that the trees near the entrance of the Marina were not destroyed by weed whackers during efforts to maintain grass. She also asked the director to have trash picked up at the marina more frequently.

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

Chairman Souto noted he attended the inauguration of the walking path at the Women's

Recreation & Cultural Affairs Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 17, 2008

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FINAL OFFICIAL

*Park. He asked Mr. Kardys to place a photograph(s) of the late Ms. Luisa Toledo at this park.*

7D

**080704 Report****DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET PRESENTATIONS (County Manager) Presented****Report: ~LIBRARIES~**

*Mr. Raymond Santiago, Director, Miami-Dade County Libraries provided an overview of the Department's budget. He noted although even with proposed budget reductions, the library branch facilities would remain open and the hours of operation and basic level of services would be maintained. Additionally, Mr. Santiago noted four new library branch facilities would open within the next two months, and that the primary focus was to renovate aging facilities.*

*In response to Commissioner Moss' inquiry regarding the opening of the Kendall Lakes Branch Library, Mr. Santiago responded that the facility was almost complete and was 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 a number of grants primarily in the Arts and Cultural area were being considered for significant reduction.*

*Mr. Santiago pointed out that Libraries were 100% funded by property taxes and any changes to property tax could have adverse affects on the library system.*

*Commissioner Sorenson apprised committee members that she had received information that the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission passed a proposal to swap the required local effort for schools for a one 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.*

*Commissioner Sorenson questioned whether automated check out systems installed in libraries impacted employees. Mr. Santiago responded that automation had never affected personnel adversely, and that the automated self check out units moved patrons through the check out process faster.*

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

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 that the General Services Administration (GSA) was considering the feasibility of rehabilitating a two storey building in North Dade that had a parking lot. He noted this facility was larger in size and would double the capacity of the Little River Library Branch.

In response to Chairman Souto's concerns regarding libraries in multi-lingual communities, Mr. Santiago noted that based on Chairman Souto's previous direction, staff had began meeting with Miami Dade College regarding teaching different languages at libraries

~PARK & RECREATION~

Mr. Jack Kardys, Director, Park & Recreation Department (MDPR) provided an overview of the MDPR's budget. He noted that 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 during the spring.

Mr. Kardys noted the following key initiatives for MDPR:

- ~The Open Space Master Plan
- ~The completion of a recreation plan
- ~Securing partnerships through Adopt-A-Park and corporate funding programs
- ~Managing of an effective capital program and
- ~Pride program to achieve all accreditation standards

Maintenance and programming were challenges that the Department faced, Mr. Kardys said, and the Adopt-A-Park Program created a new Website where interested volunteers could apply online. In addition, he said MDPR was working with the representatives from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to augment the maintenance staff with qualified community service workers. As a result of passing on background check expenses to Community Based Organizations the number of community service workers was reduced, noted Mr. Kardys. He said the Department was also working with the Homestead Correctional Institute to form a supervised labor force to perform lawn work, tree trimming and litter pick-up throughout parks in Miami-Dade County (MDC).

Mr. Kardys noted that a playground was dedicated to West Perrine Park by Kaboom. He said to build a playground normally cost the Department in excess of \$100,000; however, due to corporate sponsorship the total cost was approximately \$7,500. Mr. Kardys noted volunteers from the community and MDC employees helped build the playground in one day.

Mr. Kardys said MDPR was preparing to advertise a series of Request For Proposals (RFP) to outsource some of the recreational centers and other services such as the maintenance on small golf courses. He also noted the identifying County-owned properties for a multiple variety of uses.

Mr. Kardys noted the Recreation Management System (RMS) would be in place by the end of the year, and people would be able access the system to book picnic shelters, register for programs, and access all other services provided by the department, which would enhance marketability and increase revenues.

The Department's contract management staff was negotiating the lease on a dry storage area for \$600,000 per year with anticipated revenues of approximately \$900,000 per year, and that the department was actively pursuing efforts to generate additional revenue from existing contracts.

Mr. Kardys noted the department imposed freezes on travel, hiring, and certain requisitions for various commodities and placed several projects on hold in an effort to stay within budget. He said the current base budget reflected a growth of

approximately nine (9%) percent or approximately \$9.4 million over last year, and staff was working to reduce the base budget by \$3 million dollars to allow a 6% growth. Mr. Kardys said the department faced uncontrollable items such as personnel costs which represented approximately 63% of the budget and accounted for approximately 4.5% of increases. He said the General Funds Subsidy, excluding Metro Zoo increased by 13% and that the expenditures exceeded revenue growth due to these uncontrollable factors. Mr. Kardys noted that approximately 34% of the department's budget was allocated to park operations, ground maintenance represented 14%, administration represented 10%, programming represented 8%, arts and cultural programs represented 5% and pools represented 3%.

Mr. Kardys summarized Metro Zoo's budget. He referenced the \$50 million capital program for the Amazon and Beyond attraction, and noted this project would cost approximately \$5 million to operate. Revenues from this new attraction were projected at approximately \$500,000 in the first year, with a projected fee increase of up to \$900,000. Mr. Kardys said that Zoo attendance was over 600,000, the highest attendance since 1992 and this resulted in \$1.2 million in additional revenues; and 41% of the operating expenses were recovered through revenues. Mr. Kardys said additional subsidy will be needed at the Zoo this year in order to make Amazon and Beyond work in its first year. He reported that two Requests for Proposals (RFP) were prepared for the water theme park and the family entertainment zone, and these would generate significant revenues in the future. Mr. Kardys noted it would take approximately three years before any revenues would be realized from those operations. He said the department was considering increasing the entrance fee at the Zoo from \$13.95 per adult to \$15.95 per adult.

Mr. Kardys said 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 enhancements that would pay for themselves via revenue generation or those that have zero impact on funding.

Mr. Kardys said the Facility Life Cycle

*Maintenance was an important program. He noted in the past the department allocated \$4 million dollars to this program and was looking to maintain the momentum of maintenance to sports facilities.*

*In response to Commissioner Sorenson's inquiry regarding the facility life cycle maintenance, Mr. Kardys explained that instead of funding the maintenance with Capital Outlay Reserve funding, it would be funded via operating funds.*

*In response to Commissioner Sorenson's concern regarding budget cuts to after school programs, Mr. Kardys said that although budget hearings had not occurred, he anticipated that budget cuts would be directed towards after school programs. He noted the department would conduct a review to determine whether or not they could continue to deliver after school programs at the existing enhanced levels.*

*Commissioner Sorenson suggested that 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 his disagreement and expressed dismay regarding the suggestion of closing any parks. He said he would rather see the grass a bit higher in some parks as opposed to 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's concern regarding park closure. She expressed concern regarding the miniscule 8% of funding spent on after school programs.*

*In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding the total amount of budgets cuts to M DPR, Mr. Alfonso explained that the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 figures were preliminary; however, they were lower than the revenues of 2007-2008 which was lower 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 M DPR restructuring and increasing fees. She asked about potential*

*options for minimizing cuts.*

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

*Responding to Commissioner Jordan's request for Mr. Munoz to discuss the Commission's limitations in 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.*

*In response to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding the archeological park fencing project, Mr. Kardys said the project was scheduled to be completed in June.*

*Responding to Commissioner Jordan's inquiry regarding Ives Dairy, Mr. Howard Gregg, Assistant Director for Planning and Development, MDP, noted the estimated completion and opening of Ives Dairy was approximately 45 days.*

*Commissioner Moss inquired about the 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 MDP programs, and asked if MDP 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 included in this year's budget for the Children's Trust, which funded children's 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 the Museum's 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 specialist's 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.

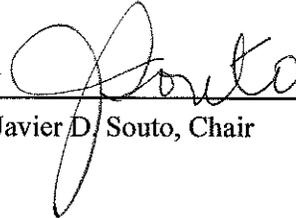
Mr. Hoffman responded he was uncomfortable accommodating large events due to the likelihood of damage occurring.

~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, and 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**



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Javier D. Souto, Chair