

July 28, 2005

To: Sanibel City Council

From: Armand Ball, Chair, Parks and Recreation Committee

Re: Acceptance of the Contract with FRDAP for Grant for Bowman's Beach Park.

The Committee was pleased to receive approval of the FRDAP Grant from the State of Florida for the renovation of Bowman's Beach Park.

We have discovered that the Natural Resources Director has applied for and received grants for replacement of trees downed by Hurricane Charley and the remodeling of the restroom facilities. It seems inappropriate to accept matching funds for the same elements and also use the City's matching funds.

However, some elements included in the original FRDAP Grant proposal are not covered by the other grants: a small playground, replacement of picnic tables damaged by Hurricane Charley and the replacement of the canoe/kayak dock. In addition, the Parks and Recreation Committee has come to realize that though the trees are going to be replanted, it will be some time before any significant shade is created. Therefore, it would be helpful to have several small pavilions with picnic tables. Also the exercise trail originally funded by the Island Seniors was damaged by the Hurricane and we can request funds to replace it in the contract revision. All of this is consistent with achieving the goals of the Council in terms of the Master Plan for Parks and Recreation.

Therefore, we urge the Council to agree to have staff return the FRDAP Grant contract with a suggested change to the elements mentioned, and a relative reduction in the total grant from \$200,000 to the range needed (approximately \$100,000). It is critical that we do not lose this opportunity to secure matching funds for projects that need to be replaced and that will not conflict with major projects underway.