



We are almost at the end of summer! Where did the time go? I trust everyone has made it through the dog days of summer unscathed and had some relaxation and fun along the way. Thanks to our generous sponsors, Pyrotecnico and Winn-Dixie, this year's Fourth of July Spectacular was just that. I was happy to see that many of you attended and I hope you enjoyed the festivities.

As you know, the commission will break for the month of August but I will be here crunching budget numbers to identify areas where we can find savings. While these times require lean governing, we can also use these tough economic times to plan for a future when the budget allows growth.

Staff is working on finishing the zoning pieces of the SABA master plan. We are initiating some planning for the Hott School property in Shady Banks. The association has formed a subcommittee to review the Hott closing documents and is planning for the transition from school facility to a park.

Staff is also formulating some ideas for the Gore Nursery property on SW 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. To date the sprinkler system and grass have been installed. Jeff Suiter and Rebecca Bradley, from EDSA, are volunteering their service to this project and have met with city staff regarding the proposed improvements and prepared a few conceptual drawings for the park. These concepts are being reviewed for general conformance to City's design guidelines and will be published after the internal review is complete. If you have an interest in contributing your thoughts, time and energy to completing this project in the near future please contact Terry Rynard, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director.

Speaking of planning, the Commission has discussed engaging in a visioning process in the fall. Look for more info to come.

As you know, we are in the midst of contract negotiations with the Police and Fire Unions. Since public safety is a priority and represents 60% of the City's operating budget, a lot is riding on the outcome. We are hopeful of positive good faith negotiations that result in a fair contract.

Finally, don't forget to attend my District IV Pre-agenda meetings here at City Hall on the first and third Mondays at 5:30pm. As always, you can contact me by phone at 954-828-5028 or by email at: [RRogers@fortauderdale.gov](mailto:RRogers@fortauderdale.gov).