

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board  
Minutes  
December 2, 2009**

**Board Attendance Record**

Bill Coy (58/69)  
William Dryburgh (69/75)  
Eugene Leapley (43/48)  
Maria Greenberg (5/6)  
Marcus Norman (1/1)  
Lou Spacco (1/1)  
John Hitzel (1/1)

**Present**

Bill Coy  
William Dryburgh  
Maria Greenberg  
Marcus Norman  
Lou Spacco  
John Hitzel

**County Representatives**

John Jackson, Director  
Joanne Larson, Recreation/Athletics Manager  
Michael Koenig, Business Services Manager  
Angie Patteson, Cultural Resources Manager  
David Milligan, Support Services/Parks Manager  
Jacqueline Vazquez, Business Services Supervisor  
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

**Guests**

Gwin Whitney, Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee  
Bruce Ziegelbauer, Half Century Softball

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.  
Eugene Leapley and Commissioner Bob Starr did not attend.

**I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the October 7 and November 4, 2009 meetings were unanimously approved.

**II. Division Reports**

***Administration/Business Services*** – Michael Koenig, Business Services Manager

- Negotiating with new concession vendors for ice vending machines at several locations
  - Working with CCU for the individual water meters and permitting
- Kayak rental contract is signed and they will be starting soon. They will also need a water hook-up.
- The independent contractor form for special interest classes (70/30's) is being revised to provide for greater flexibility
- Working with the SUN newspaper on advertising - they are now charging for a classified ad instead of providing the space for free.
  - Researching internet sites; MSN, Yahoo, Google, etc.
  - We may have to pay for some event advertising

***Cultural Resources*** – Angie Patteson, Cultural Resources Manager

- Angie gave an update on their programs and hours changes
  - Computer use count increased

- Visitor and circulation count is down
- Positive feedback on the new hours, especially at the Mid-County Library
- Historical Center *Symphony of Trees*, the Stroll on Friday, auction on Saturday
- December 15 - "Florida Boys, Girls & their Toys" a rented exhibit with added local pieces
- The Big Read Event with Steven King opening the event March 20

**Recreation/Athletics/Aquatics** – Joanne Larson, Recreation/Athletics Manager

- November 21 - 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Nature Fest, 1,500 participants
- Sponsorship is needed for the Kayak Festival at Port Charlotte Beach, April 10, 2010
- April Pools Day, April 10 and 17, 2010
- A letter is going out around December 18 highlighting all sponsorship levels
- Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool will re-open December 5

**Support Services/Parks** – David Milligan, Support Services/Park Manager

- El Jobean boat ramp renovation project, bids will be out this week
- North Charlotte Regional Park - the BCC pulled this item off the agenda; hopefully it will be back on soon
- Major renovations to the stadium field and seasonal work which will continue for 60 days
- David talked about the Trail Assessment training he recently attended
  - Need volunteers to help with the assessments; no costs involved, just time
  - Great service project for organizations; training of volunteers takes a few hours
  - We have 50 miles of trails; 30-40 separate trails that are managed in segments

**III. New Business**

**Parking Passes**

- Adding a 3 month pass for \$25 + tax and a 6 month pass for \$35 + tax
  - Could result in more frequent use of our beaches and boat ramps which will be good for business; going to the BCC for approval January 2010
  - Local merchants around the beach area will be able to sell the passes, which will make it easier for our citizens

**Review of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Resolution**

- Let us know if you have any ideas

**IV. Old Business**

**Skate Parks**

- Mike reported that the bid is on hold because the Commissioners have questions
- The contract is ready; the goal was to have the vendor in place by January 2010
- We are waiting for final approval

**PRCR Staff**

- Another significant reduction in staff - 22 people who performed the mowing/custodial work
- The sports fields will lose an additional 8 full-time and seasonal staff
- When we lose staff, we also lose the equipment, which is sold at public auctions
- The Facility Department will be responsible for overseeing the mowing and landscaping
  - Level of efficiency is a concern

**Adopt-a-Park**

- A draft program agreement went to the board and was approved
- Citizen concern over Bay Heights Park reduction in service was the subject of the restart of

this program; in place possibly by the end of this month

**Gift Catalogue**

- Brochure produced for items such as park benches, life vests, or anything that we would normally buy, could be purchased through the county by the citizens and donated

**South Gulf Cove Park**

- Great opening, a beautiful day with lots of participation by area citizens
- Rave reviews were received

**V. Sports Council Update**

- Youth Sports Council next meeting for December has been cancelled
  - Members were invited to attend the YSC meetings
  - Little League Opening Ceremony will be at the Stadium this year
- Adult Sports Council next meeting is January 20, 2010 at 6 p.m.

**VI. Member Issues**

- Election for Chair and Vice-Chair scheduled for January 6, 2010
- Lou Spacco asked why the sign at the Event Center is turned off. We will have the answer at the next meeting.

**VII. Director's Report**

- Webinar by Ian Hill "*Leading Heart of the Community*" December 11 at 11 a.m. If not available to attend, we can provide the log-in and password to view from another location.

**VIII. Citizen Input**

- Dick Whitney, Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee, handed out an article from the Wall Street Journal regarding a hearing today on the Destin, Florida dredging project where property rites will be discussed. The outcome will have an effect on Charlotte County.

**IX. Announcements**

- John informed the members that he is having surgery and will be out for 2 – 3 weeks

**X. Upcoming Events**

No other events were added to those listed on the agenda.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:23 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Robert Skidmore, District 1  
Commissioner Adam Cummings, District 2  
Commissioner Robert Starr, District 3  
Commissioner Richard Loftus, District 4  
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5  
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator