

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Minutes**  
January 5, 2011

**Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh (76/85)  
Eugene Leapley (52/58)  
Maria Greenberg (14/15)  
Lou Spacco (11/11)  
John Hitzel (9/11)  
Fred Pazona (2/2)

**Present**

William Dryburgh  
Eugene Leapley  
Maria Greenberg  
Lou Spacco  
John Hitzel  
Fred Pazona

**County Representatives**

John Jackson, Director  
Bob Starr, Commission Liaison  
Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor  
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

**Guest**

Dick Whitney

John Jackson, Director, explained why Sarah Wamack, from District 2, would no longer be attending because she is not a registered voter. He also recommended the development of a Parks & Recreation Youth Committee to obtain input from a youth perspective on Parks & Recreation issues.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Nominations/Election of Chair and Vice-Chair**

- Bill Dryburgh and Lou Spacco were nominated and members unanimously approved as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively.

**I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the December 1, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

**II. Division Reports**

*Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.*

**III. New Business**

- **Jennifer Robertson, M.S., Florida Department of Health, Tobacco-Free Parks Presentation**
  - Jennifer explained about the 2 year grant program that she is working on through the CDC and one of the goal objectives is trying to increase the number of tobacco-free parks throughout Florida. The handouts provided were explained and Jennifer noted that the City of Venice, last month, adopted a tobacco free ordinance for their beaches. She asked the board to support a tobacco free ordinance for Charlotte County and provided example ordinances from across the state. She relayed that the Department of Health has funding for signage. Jennifer passed around pictures of a cleanup that was conducted at the playground area of Chadwick Park at Englewood Beach at the end of December. Five volunteers picked up cigarette butts for an hour and collected 5 quarts around the playground equipment, noting that on the sign it says "smoking is prohibited in the playground area".
  - A poll of members was taken with the following comments:
    - Fred Pazona asked why we don't have a policy and it was explained that several times this discussion has come up before the Commission, but they did not adopt. He feels we should at least have a designated area for smokers at each recreation location.

- Commissioner Starr defended the liberties of the 18% of people in Florida (2.5 million people) that do smoke and asked how this would be enforced.
  - Bill Dryburgh noted that it was the former director that initiated the language of “no smoking in the playground area” on the signage displayed at Englewood Beach; there are no actual ordinances in the County.
  - Lou Spacco agreed with Commissioner Starr but will support it from the littering aspect.
  - Maria Greenberg agrees we should not take peoples rights away but agrees others are free to not have smokers affect their health. Designated areas would support everyone’s liberties. Feels signage needs to larger, more prominent.
  - Eugene Leapley agrees that we should not tread on smokers rights but when it infringes on others we need government to protect the majority.
  - John Hitzel feels it would make everyone happy to have designated “non-smoking areas”, and a plan is needed for appropriate disposal of butts.
  - The Director stated that he supports designating non-smoking areas and will put together a policy to bring to the members and then to the Commissioners.
  - Marc Solomon explained that as a smoker he expects not to be able to smoke in certain situations.
  - Commissioner Starr asked if the legislature is talking about this issue. Jennifer explained there is a lot of talk around the state.
- **South County Regional Park Pool Construction - Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor**
    - Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor, explained that December and January are slow months for aquatics, but the pools are open. Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool is steady during the week and slow on the weekends. South County Regional Park Pool will be closed for part of December and all of January.
    - Several problems were identified at South County Regional Park Pool: areas sinking, leaks, tiles chipping and coming up, and poor quality of grout application. These problems have resulting in several minor injuries and needed to be repaired, so the pool is closed. Jackhammers were used to open up the deck; anticipated reopening 1-26-11.
    - Gasparilla Construction is the County contractor, Nautilus Pools is a sub-contractor and a tile company is involved in the repairs/reconstruction.
    - Fred asked who would be responsible to oversee the construction and John explained that we do not have a construction manager to designate to this site and are relying on the integrity of the contractors and the warranties they issue.
    - Marc explained that research revealed a better grout to work in this application and is hopeful the repairs will hold; cost of reconstruction is \$54,000 with a one year warranty on materials.

#### IV. Old Business

- **Parking Meters Update**
  - Approved by the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee
  - To the Commission in February
- **RFP for Sports Park Management**
  - Administrator is in negotiations with the Ripken/Rays
  - Contract is for year round management
- **Bill Coy Memorial Park @ Buck Creek Preserve**
  - Going to the Commission in February

#### V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for January 12 at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-County Library

- No meeting in December, cancelled because of the holidays.

#### **VI. Member Issues**

- John Hitzel re: staff report - JM Berlin Sports Park, RFP resulted in one response but they were expecting the county to supplement their income so that they could pay for staff. 2<sup>nd</sup> RFP came in one day late and also had the same impression that the county would be supplementing their income. John asked about the grant re: pickleball from Walmart and the Director noted that pickleball will be included in the Florida Senior Games with approx. 100 participants expected. This is the first grant received from Walmart.
- Fred Pazona asked about having a booth at the Sports Park to distribute County literature. Fred agreed to coordinate the volunteers. Commissioner Starr said he would inquire if this is possible.
- Eugene Leapley asked about the golf carts he has observed at Harbour Heights Park, feels it is unsafe; John will continue to research.
- Bill Dryburgh talked about the usage number at the County airport; 10,000 visitors last year and stated this is an incredible marketing opportunity. The Director said new marketing ideas will be presented at the next meeting.

#### **VII. Director's Report**

- JM Berlin/Rotary Skate Park
  - The Director visited the skatepark and reported everyone was wearing helmets and he saw no problems. He feels this skatepark needs to be staffed.
  - Don Cerbone Skate Park has closed because of issues with the ramps; resurfacing did not take the screws provided, contacted the manufacturer of the ramps.
- Kiwanis Park - Army Corp of Engineers
  - Have heard from the Army Corp of Engineers that they have our stuff; they didn't say that we could move ahead.
  - Work continues in the other areas of the park

#### **VIII. Citizen Input**

- Dick Whitney, Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee, at their meeting tomorrow they will probably be talking about the Tobacco-Free Parks proposal and information garnered on their field trip to Fort Myers in relation to Stump Pass.

#### **IX. Announcements**

- None

#### **X. Upcoming Events**

- Events as listed on the Agenda

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:12 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  
Raymond Sandrock, Administrator  
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator