

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
February 2, 2011**

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (77/86)
Eugene Leapley (53/59)
Maria Greenberg (15/16)
Lou Spacco (11/11)
John Hitzel (10/12)
Fred Pazona (3/3)
Katherine Ariens (1/1)

Present

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

County Representatives

John Jackson, Director
Bob Starr, Commission Liaison
Mike Koenig, Resource Coordinator
Andrew Bott, Recreation Coordinator
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guest

Dick Whitney

Bill Dryburgh, Chair, welcomed Katherine Ariens to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Call to Order

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

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the January 5, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting. There were no comments.

III. New Business

• **Agenda Items for April Joint Meeting**

- Items that MAC can fund
- Utilize MAC funding for boat ramps, etc.
- Funnel monies into Parks & Recreation projects
- Utilization of Charlotte Harbor - more specific ideas
- Harbour Heights area

• **Land Water Conservation Fund Grant application - Tippecanoe Environmental Park**

- Mike Koenig, Resources Coordinator, explained this grant application
 - Application deadline February 15
 - Federal matching grant (up to \$200,000) for an observation deck with 360 degrees view
 - Bill Dryburgh mentioned that the trails already exist and the benefits are a new nesting pair of scrub jays and threatened plants
 - Commissioner Starr feels this is an ideal time with Murdock Village and birding is so popular which could bring in huge amounts of tourism monies
 - Design of the deck is already completed

• **Recreation Trails Program Grant Application - Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park**

- Mike Koenig, Resources Coordinator, explained this grant application

- Repackaging a previous grant application - transportation enhancement project
 - Charlotte Flatwoods in Punta Gorda
 - Matching grant up to \$200,000/looking for \$100,000
 - Used for observation areas
 - Funding from impact fees, fiscal year 2012
 - Also a huge birding area and it is on the Great Birding Trail
- **Andrew Bott, Recreation Coordinator, Oyster Creek Regional Park Pool**
 - Background given on the 337,000 gallon pool which has 2 sand filters and a chlorinic system. Yearly passes are available for \$75, reports track pool usage, summer day camps, swim lessons, and events.
 - A geothermal system keeps the temperature at a constant 82 degrees year round
 - Part-time lifeguard staff now oversee the Skate Park since December 2010
 - Decrease in incidents because of staff presence, now families with young children are participating
 - Discussion ensued regarding advertising of the park facilities
 - Staff announced our new Facebook page “CharlotteRecreation”; Channel 20 was also suggested; notice in the water bills; county website needs to be updated
 - Mike Koenig explained the new Guide & Map that is being distributed at the Tourist Information Center on Jones Loop Road with our information inside that directs people to our website; \$1,200 worth of advertising of no expense to us; we are stocking these guides at our locations; this guide possibly to be distributed at the airport also.
 - Email list was suggested to disseminate advertising of events as being most cost effective
 - Information tables at the Rays games was discussed; Commissioner Starr received permission for the tables; the Rays want to be involved with the signage

IV. Old Business

- **Parking Meters Update**
 - To the Commission in March
- **RFP for Sports Park Management**
 - In negotiations with the Ripken/Rays
 - Contract is for year round management
- **Bill Coy Memorial Park @ Buck Creek Preserve**
 - Not being well received by folks in Englewood; do not know what the issues are
 - Decision to move ahead; Commission will make the decision

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for February 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-County Library
 - Director is making a short presentation to the PG Little League on ethics, positive approach

VI. Member Issues

- Katherine Ariens spoke on tobacco free beaches; feels we can approach from the no-litter law aspect. The Director said we are looking at this from a littering aspect, working with the Florida Department of Health, and proposing designated smoking areas.
- Fred Pazona proposed a beach patrol at Englewood Beach on a trial basis; Director stated that this would be very expensive; Commissioner Starr stated this increases of liability; Director will work up some numbers.

- John Hitzel asked about particulars of volunteering to man the information tables at the Rays games; working with tourism; parking pass will be given; specific information available soon
- Lou stated he likes the Facebook idea; staff to send link to members
- Bill Dryburgh mentioned that if we see the movie *Jaws II*, in the scene where they are putting a body in the back of the ambulance, he is the man that walks around the fire truck.

VII. Director's Report

- Rays games on TV: March 10th, March 15th, March 18, evening game, March 21st evening game, March 23rd
- JM Berlin Skate
 - February 22nd, going to the Commission, asking for staffing; need \$40,000
 - Member support needed at the meeting
 - Moving ahead with *Friends of the Skatepark* - last meeting had 6 people; group has dwindled
- Kiwanis Park
 - No permit yet; expecting soon
- Sailing Regatta; this weekend; launching out of Port Charlotte Beach; 36 catamarans expected

VIII. Citizen Input

- Dick Whitney, Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee, as a possible subject for the joint meeting ... talk about kayaking at three locations in Pirate Harbor, the Harborwalk, and Tippecanoe State Park

IX. Announcements

- Kayak and Water Wildlife Festival
- River Run, 16 mile kayak event; like a poker run
- Director mentioned that the Myakka River Park belongs to us
- Tonight at Tringali Recreation Center meeting regarding the budget; 6 pm

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:50 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Robert Skidmore, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Robert Starr, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandroock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator