

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
March 2, 2011

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (78/87)
Eugene Leapley (54/60)
Maria Greenberg (16/17)
Lou Spacco (12/12)
John Hitzel (11/13)
Fred Pazona (4/4)
Katherine Ariens (2/2)

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
Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resources Manager
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guest

Dick Whitney

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 February 2, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel asked about the South County Community Garden, the Sunset Cocktail Party at Port Charlotte Beach, and Swim for Scholarships.
- Katherine Ariens asked about a beach patrol and suggested a first aid station

III. New Business

- **Agenda Items for April Joint Meeting**
 - No new items other than those listed last month
- **Background screenings: Summer Camps, Youth Sports Camps and Youth Sports**
 - State has mandated an increased for youth sports camps to Level 2
 - Screening will be done possibly by the schools to implement the fingerprinting

IV. Old Business

- **Parking Meters Update**
 - To the Commission in March
 - A breakdown of costs will be provided to the Commissioners
- **RFP for Sports Park Management**
 - In negotiations with the Ripken/Rays
 - Still far apart on some issues
- **Bill Coy Memorial Park @ Buck Creek Preserve**
 - Andy Stevens brought this to ESLOC yesterday and they were in favor of the naming
 - Will be brought to the Commission the second meeting in March
 - Andy will speak to Mrs. Barbara Coy to clarify the name

Motion to allow flexibility on the name with input from the family by Lou Spacco, seconded by John Hitzel and unanimously approved.

▪ **Skate Park Staffing**

- Commission approved staffing
- In the process of advertising the positions and interviewing

▪ **Vandalism**

- Experiencing increased vandalism
- Maria Greenberg suggested signage; Katherine Ariens suggested education on sports etiquette and ethics; John Hitzel asked about the video cameras
- Suggestion to send a letter to ask for increased vigilance or invite the Sheriff to this meeting

Motion presented by Fred Pazona, seconded by John Hitzel to send letter to the Sheriff about the problem with vandalism in the parks was unanimously carried.

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for March 9 at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-County Library Administrative Conference Room
 - Maria did not attend the last meeting but will be attending next week
 - The Director reported it was well attended
 - Katherine volunteered to be the representative of this board for a possible Official Youth Council

VI. Member Issues

- John Hitzel handed out an article on the festival sponsored by Growth Management
- Fred Pazona – website improvement to make it more user friendly; in the works per Director
- Eugene Leapley – thank you for the new ballast at Harbour Heights Park
- Bill Dryburgh – will not be able to volunteer for the Rays games information booth
- Bob Starr – new sports authority in Charlotte County being formed; National Golden Gloves for Females Event

VII. Director's Report

- Updates
 - PR Table at Rays Spring Training Games
 - Information table at the Rays games are successful – staffing for all games with Parks & Recreation members, staff and the TDC
 - John Hitzel reported he had a pleasant day
 - Caution to look out for foul balls when at the table
 - The Director was interviewed by the Theresa Jenkins from the Herald this morning
 - Snowbird Classic is ongoing this month
 - Kiwanis Park – Army Corp of Engineers
 - Andy Stevens reported that they are finished with the vegetation clearing on 11 acres – usage has increased, no police reports or arrests
 - The boardwalk will start this summer
 - Katherine Ariens mentioned she was interested in the control burns certification process

VIII. Citizen Input

- Dick Whitney, Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee, mentioned that he did not know the extent of the damage to County park amenities and suggested that the public should know about it and a SUN columnist should be contacted to report what type of damages, cost to

the taxpayer, etc.

- The Director suggested that Steve Riley would be a good contact; John will call him.
- Dick Whitney talked about Shell Creek Preserve and that the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee would like some type of facility for kayakers for easier access to the water.

IX. Announcements

- None

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:22 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 Sandrock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator