



Joint Meeting
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee
Marine Advisory Committee
Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at 1:00PM
Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center

Attendance

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Guests

Tom Ireland
Frank Kudrna
Garland Wilson, CRA

Marine Advisory Committee

Members Present

Len Harris
Captain Ron Blago
Raymond Rose
Charles Gertner
William Kumm
Jay Buckley
John Homer Fleming
Ken Dieffenbach
Mike Quinn
Scott Schermerhorn

Members Absent

Bill Dixon
Gerald Meckenberg
Mel Staudmyer
Cody Vaughan-Birch
Mike Conlon
Captain Maurice Sabourin
Douglas Donovan
Tom Hamilton
Captain Tim Lynch

Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee

Members Present

Clifford Kewley
Dick Whitney
Kevyn Schweim

Members Absent

Robert Pierce
David Nellis
Jack Landis
Tommy Brock

County Representatives

Commissioner Bob Starr, District 1
John Jackson, Director, Community Services
Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resources Manager
Chuck Mopps, Projects Manager
Roger DeBruler, Jr., Environmental Specialist, Natural Resources
Chip Hague, Plans Examiner II
Dianne Quilty, Financial Consultant II
Jim Evetts, Building Official
Bob Halfhill, Public Works
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Asst. II
Pam Alexander, Administrative Asst. II

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Robert Starr at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call/Determination of a Quorum

- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board - quorum
- Marine Advisory Board - quorum
- Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee - no quorum

Old Business

1. Utilization of MAC funds for County Projects i.e. Parks & Recreation, etc.

Commissioner Starr would like to see MAC funding spent on boat ramps, things that are going to provide a return on investment for the boaters. MAC voted on seven items with more discussion at their next meeting.

Discussion topics:

- Catamaran launch for Port Charlotte Beach and Bayshore Park
- Beautification of our side of the bridge
- The need for a more cohesive way to get information on funding projects; funding restrictions and how MAC determines distribution of funds
- Suggestion of possible funding source through the registering of kayaks, canoes, sailboats
- 7% drop in boater registration possibly due to registration in counties with lower fees; suggestion to research fees and possibly lower ours to match other counties
- Boater Improvement Fund, which was approved by voters, can only be used for boaters benefit and artificial reefs
- Dredging materials

2. Update on Parking Meters – John Jackson, Director

The Community Services director spoke about the data that was collected regarding the two proposed systems; replacing existing parking meters with new electronic meters or install the honor system as used by the state. John reported that this item will go to the BCC the second meeting of May.

	Replace Pay & Display System	State Park System
Estimated Capital Expenditure	\$152,000	\$ 15,000
Estimated Annual Operating Expense*	\$ 67,030	\$ 48,370
Estimated Revenue**	\$446,125	\$334,580 based on \$3 a day
Annual Net Revenue	\$379,095	\$286,210

*Estimate is for 70,000 fee envelopes. Usage will determine actual expense. There are 492 total beach parking spaces and 227 total boat ramp spaces.

** Revenue estimate for replacement of the Pay & Display System is actual revenue for FY 08-09. The State Park System assumes 70% payment compliance of same estimated usage.

Total estimated expenses with the current system: \$75,627 – spending \$22,000 on maintenance and repairs

- Enforcement will continue to be by the volunteer arm of the sheriff’s office
- Information to purchase an annual/seasonal parking pass should be printed on the fee envelopes
- Possible two tier system suggested; electronic at the boat ramps and state park system for beaches

- Recommendation approved at last joint meeting (September 2010) to try State Park System for one year

New Business

1. Placing canal dredging material on adjacent empty lots – Chuck Mopps & Chip Hague

- Historically, private lots were used for temporary offload sites when the citizens allowed, a small amount of material was left as compensation for such use. This resulted in complaints from neighbors and at times the lot owners. Currently all material is used at the landfill realizing decreased operating costs. Saves on the cost of testing the material.
- Chip Hague stated that Ord. 98.054 (handout in packet) states you must have a Building permit to fill any property and construct a building. Curtails problems with adjoining lots with drainage. Ord. 2003-020 added support for the permitting process. He also discussed a situation where gopher tortoises were destroyed when a vacant lot was used without a permit to stage and haul away dredging materials.
- The Flood Plane Ordinance is very important to the county and we need to adhere to state, federal and local standards in order to get the 25% discount on flood insurance premiums for our citizens.
- Chuck explained the two page handout in the meeting packet was not written by staff but by Mr. Kudrna, and was discussed at the last Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee meeting. It has a lot of good points but others that were questionable. A survey was done ranking large County properties for future use in Mid and West County to offset trucking costs of spoils to the landfill from those areas.
- Currently there is no permit process for dredging in Charlotte County.
- A survey must be completed to determine any environmental issues before fill could be placed on a private lot and would involve permitting each property, fill, sod, etc. increasing the price of the project.
- Frank Kudrna said he prepared the handout included in the packet, listed his qualifications, is not asking for any money, believes this will be a benefit to homeowners by reducing the cost of fill needed and feels this beneficial demonstration project should go forward.

Motion by Dick Whitney (for an advisory committee with a quorum) that the Charlotte County Board of County Commissioners be advised that it is recommended that a Small Lot Dredge Fill Committee be appointed to oversee a pilot project to place dredge material on individual residential lots and to establish procedure that would meet the requirement of Charlotte County Code of Ordinances, Part 11, Land Development and Growth Management Chapter 3-2, Article V111 (Flood Damage Prevention). This motion was not seconded and a vote was not taken because the Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee did not have a quorum.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board – no recommendation

Marine Advisory Committee – no recommendation

- Suggestion for this item to be put on MAC's next agenda for discussion
- Jim Evetts stated he does not agree with planting sod down to the water's edge because it dies in dry season and would like to see it planted behind a seawall. Internet research revealed that fill for a lot is the worst case scenario for dredge spoils.
- Bob Halfhill stated he lives on a canal and would not want the dredge spoil on his lawn due to the smell.

2. Dogs on Beach: Control and Enforcement

- Dick Whitney spoke regarding dogs on beaches and our current ordinance, which he feels needs to be tightened. Dogs come ashore by boat and disturb nesting birds, dig up turtle nests and contaminate the beaches. Recommends informational brochures be distributed when registering a dog.
- The director suggested calling the sheriff's office if a dog is noted on the beach.
- **Dogs in Parks** - Code allows the director of the Parks & Recreation department to designate if dogs are allowed in some areas of parks. 9 parks have been identified.
- Results of the two public meetings held on March 22 and 23rd and Survey Monkey: 590 responses: 471 in favor of dogs in certain areas, 116 against and 3 other, resulting in 79.8% in favor of allowing dog walks in some areas of some parks. They do not belong on playgrounds, athletic areas or beaches.
- Meetings regarding Kiwanis Park revealed many in favor of walking dogs at this park.
- Issues of people not picking up after their dogs addressed in the ordinance with fines of up to \$500 or 60 days in jail or both.
- Cost of implementing this program has been addressed; letters have been sent asking for sponsorship for the dog waste stations that will be needed.

3. Regional Environmental Impact Study (Action/Recommendation)

- Bob Starr stated that Charlotte County has been left out by Congress of the Army Corps of Engineer study that is investigating phosphate mining and strongly feels that we should be included. Charlotte County has spent \$14 million dollars for an Environmental Impact Study.
- Andy Stevens gave background on the phosphate industry. Horse Creek is an area of concern. This is a huge deal which will impact Charlotte County for many decades. If not included we will never be able to address the questions on the impact that phosphate has on our County. A comprehensive list of concerns to submit to the Army Corps of Engineers is being finalized. Now they are only looking at 4 mines primarily in Hardee and Polk Counties. Mosaic is funding the EIS and brought in many experts who could provide no data that phosphate mining harms the environment. This EIS is very important; starts March 25 with public comments.
- Fred Pazona feels this is a federal matter and that our representatives need to be involved.

Motion from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board by John Hitzel, seconded by Lou Spacco to support inclusion of Charlotte County in the Regional Environmental Impact Study and have Andy Stevens draw up the resolution, was unanimously carried.

Motion from the Marine Advisory Committee made by Mike Quinn, seconded by Jay Buckley to support inclusion of Charlotte County in the Regional Environmental Impact Study and have Andy Stevens draw up the resolution, was unanimously carried.

Beaches & Shores did not have a quorum and could not make this motion but members present also agreed to have Andy Stevens draw up the resolution.

4. Utilization of Charlotte Harbor: more specific ideas

- John Hitzel noted that events on Charlotte Harbor are difficult to find online. He feels people are visiting and looking for things to do.
- Dianne Quilty stated that the Tourist Development Department's official web site, which covers all tourism for Charlotte County, including Charlotte Harbor, is <http://www.charlotteharbortravel.com/>.

- Jay Buckley noted that the Regatta is a huge draw for the harbor and the Boaters Alliance Team encourages different groups to join them. Eugene Leapley suggested a grandstand be erected for better participation of the public for the Regatta.
- "Waterline" in the Sun Herald also provides information on events.
- Cliff Kewley feels it would be good to reach out to people on Gasparilla Island and Boca Grande because they impact the harbor also.

5. Other items of interest from the floor

- Lou Spacco spoke re: BP fund for claims to make the Gulf of Mexico whole; Commissioner Starr put in a bid and so far we have received \$26,000.
- Commissioner Starr asked everyone to email him their thoughts on this meeting to see if one is needed later in the year.

Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 3:03 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