

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
May 4, 2011**

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (79/88)
Eugene Leapley (55/61)
Maria Greenberg (16/18)
Lou Spacco (13/13)
John Hitzel (12/14)
Fred Pazona (5/5)
Katherine Ariens (3/3)

Present

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

County Representatives

John Jackson, Director
Bob Starr, Commission Liaison
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant Administrator
Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resources Mgr.
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guest

Dick Whitney
Chris Taylor

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 March 2 and April 6, 2011 meetings were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

III. New Business

• **Recycling in Parks**

- Agenda topic suggested by Maria Greenberg – Andy Stevens stated that an audit of all parks was completed in March and many improvements were identified in regard to recycling. Education of staff and citizens is needed; meeting with Waste Management is scheduled for next week; the County Recycling Coordinator is working with us.

• **Dogs in Parks**

- John explained the survey results report of voluntary responses
 - 79.8% of all responders (including email & phone calls) in favor of dogs in certain areas of certain parks; nine parks have been identified; separate trails will be designated for dogs and runners.
 - Rules will be enforced; dog stations will be installed; possibility that Animal Control will increase their presence at the parks; multiple citizen workshops are planned
 - Katherine Ariens talked about courses to education dog owners that award certificates. AKC holds the certificates on file, which results in lower owner home insurance prices; there is money to be made by offering these classes.
 - Donations letters for dog stations have been sent; 6 donations have been received
 - Liability was discussed

Motion presented by Katherine Ariens, seconded by Fred Pazona to approve the concept of walking dogs in certain sections of certain parks and send to the Board of County Commissions for discussion. Motion was approved with one dissenting vote by Eugene Leapley.

IV. Old Business

- **Parking Meters Fees**
 - Recommendation already approved by this board for the State Park system of collection of parking fees on a trial basis for one year.
 - This item is on the May 10 BCC agenda; a decision will be made on which system to use
 - John Jackson said he will bring the rate of \$4 a day to the attention of the Commission suggested by John Hitzel
 - Commissioner Starr feels revenue will be about the same; citizen satisfaction will improve
- **RFP for Sports Park Management**
 - Still in negotiations; meeting last week; no finished product yet
- **Bill Coy Memorial Park @ Buck Creek Preserve**
 - Andy Stevens stated that Mrs. Coy suggested the name ***Dr. Willard (Bill) Coy Preserve on Buck Creek***; ESLOC has approved the naming.
- **Vandalism**
 - Members were concerned at the amount of vandalism that occurred last year; \$113,000.
 - John Jackson reported a copper theft at a CHEC/Cedar Point Environmental Park last week that resulted in \$3,100 in damages. John will send this report to the Sheriff's office.
 - Commissioner Starr said he will speak to the Sheriff regarding the vandalism.

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for May 11 at 6:30 p.m. at Mid-County Library Administrative Conference Room
 - Due to Maria not attending this meeting – no report
 - John Jackson mentioned that he is getting requests from folks outside the county that want to use our athletic fields for games and practices; a policy and fee schedule is being established to accommodate these requests based on availability.

VI. Member Issues

- Fred Pazona – beach patrol/first aid station; this item will be on the agenda for next month
- Katherine Ariens – asked about the youth group which was to be a spin-off of this committee; John Jackson stated we are still putting this together
- Lou Spacco asked about the effectiveness of the information booth at the Ray's Spring Training games. John Jackson thanked the members for their participation in manning the booth and stated that there will be additional features next year. Lou also talked about the Placida Boat ramp and the problem of cars parking in trailer spots. John Jackson relayed that there was a public input meeting on the expansion of the Placida Boat Ramp parking area which was held at the Oyster Creek Pool; neighbors expressed concern about increased lights/noise at night.
- Eugene Leapley suggested the need for training of the volunteers for the information booth.
- Katherine Ariens stated she was chastised for giving away too many tourism brochures and talked about the abuse of the situation with people making copies of the pass so they could bring multiple cars/children to the games.

VII. Director's Report

- Updates

- John Jackson gave updates on recent events: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, April Pools Day at Oyster Creek and South County pools, the Kayak Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt, Senior Games and Soccer and Baseball Tournaments. Interest has been expressed for an Ultimate Frisbee Tournament with 20-30 teams at North Charlotte Regional Park
- Kiwanis Park – Army Corp of Engineers
 - Permit received – park work moving ahead
 - Kiwanis Club did a great job on the landscaping a month ago
- Working with the YMCA for joint programming opportunities

VIII. Citizen Input

- Chris Taylor of Punta Gorda, re: non-smoking policy ... stated that at the pools and the front doors of the libraries there is a problem with having to walk through the smoke to get into the building; suggested designated areas for smoking.
 - John Jackson said he would revisit if members agree; this committee turned it down last time. Of 67 counties in Florida, the majority do not have any smoking legislation.
 - Fred Pazona wants to know why we don't have a policy for a designated area
 - Katherine Ariens wants to revisit; Commissioner Starr stated he will not put this on the BCC agenda.
 - Mike Norton stated that he is seeing a problem with smoking at athletic facilities and with people standing in back of the dugout during a game. There needs to be a compromise; he is seeing that second-hand smoke is a big focus now for youth. Non-smokers do need to have the right to not be exposed. John Jackson agreed we can designate areas for smoking
 - Lou Spacco said this has been brought up twice before and it was voted down.
 - Bill Dryburgh noted that enforcement is a problem
 - John Hitzel is concerned about the rights of the smokers; he is willing to listen again.
 - Consensus to add this to the agenda for next month

IX. Announcements

- None

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:26 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