

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
January 4, 2012

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (86/96)
Michael Brown (7/7)
Maria Greenberg (22/26)
Lou Spacco (20/21)
John Hitzel (20/21)
Fred Pazona (10/13)
Katherine Ariens (10/11)

Present

William Dryburgh
Michael Brown
Maria Greenberg
Lou Spacco
John Hitzel
Fred Pazona
Katherine Ariens

County Representatives

Andy Stevens, Acting Director
John Jackson, Director
Jane Ravella, Administrative Assistant

Guest

Dick Whitney, Beaches & Shores

Call to Order

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

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the November 2, 2011 and December 7, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – Had no issues
- Bill Dryburgh - Welcomed back John Jackson, Director

III. New Business

➤ **Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman**

- Motion was made by John Hitzel to nominate William Dryburgh for Chairman and was second by Katherine Ariens. Passed by unanimous vote.
- Motion was made by Michael Brown to nominate Lou Spacco for Vice Chairman and was passed by unanimous vote.

- Dick Whitney, of Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee, introduced our guests with a short biography. Presentation by Nancy MacPhee, Lee County Tourism Program Director and formerly of Lee County Parks & Recreation Department along with Betsy Clayton on “The Calusa Blueway in Lee County as a Case Study”. Our audience consisted of members of the Marine Advisory Committee, Beaches and Shores Advisory Committee, Port Charlotte Kayak Club, and Grande Tour Kayak Center as well as individual citizens involved in Kayaking.

IV. Old Business

• **South County Regional Park Community Garden**

- Bill Dryburgh was there and was very impressed at the attendance. The garden is laid out well, and plants are growing already. The county was represented by Commissioner Constance.

- **Change meeting**
 - Mr. Bob Peirce, Beaches and Shores Committee, would like to move the joint meeting of Nov. 7, 2012, because of their schedule please change to Oct 3.
- ***Motion by Bill Dryburgh, seconded by John Hitzel, to schedule the Joint meetings for February and November in 2012 per the request of the Beaches & Shores Committee; the rest of schedule was unanimously approved as written.***

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for January 11th at 5:45 p.m. at Mid-County Library Administration Conference Room.
 - No report.

VI. Member Issues

- Lou Spacco –Glad to hear the exposure on the Radio by Mike Koenig on 1580 with Hippo and John Jackson also commented that they have also been on WENG also promoting the activities and upcoming events of Charlotte County Parks and Recreations.
- John Hitzel – read about a Public Hearing on Smoking. Caution – will it affect what’s going on in the State? Not at this time. Commissioner Starr said it will be addressed in the paper when the date is set.
- Fred Pozano – Would like to have information on the budgets for the Pools. Commissioner Starr informed Mr. Pozano to field that question/request to him by an email. He would like to see revenues collected compared to expenditures for all three pools, and he will get him the information he requests and then there can be a discussion at our next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
- Mike Brown and Steve Viera (guest) from Harbour Heights asked us to look at the roadway (potholes) in Harbour Heights Park before an annual event scheduled for February 25, 2012. The Harbour Heights 5K race, which will donate funds to 4 area schools, raised \$10,000 last year. They would like the park spruced up for this event and the potholes in the roadway fixed. Expecting 400 runners, wheel chair athletes and 1000 in attendance.
 - A map of the route was distributed with places for maintenance identified
 - Andy mentioned that he approved the project for drainage
 - Commissioner Starr will ask, through Ray Sandrock, for the potholes to be fixed before this event to ensure the safety of the runners.
 - Bill Dryburgh noted that the park has had ongoing problems with no funding available to remedy them.
 - Andy agreed that the park will be ready for the race.
- Katherine Ariens – Did we make any head way with signs from the High School on “No Smoking” area signs. We hoped to make it a contest or a challenge. I will look into it further and will bring it up at the next meeting.

VII. Director’s Report – John is very happy to be back and feeling good. Fred’s point is well taken on the pools.

VIII. Citizen Input – Douglas Tucker – fields are looking tremendous at the Harold Avenue Park. Rules have changed for the Little Leagues and anyone can play on any team it is not by geographical areas any more. Also Murdock Little league is now known as Cal Ripken League, which leaves Port Charlotte and Punta Gorda Little leagues.

- Parkside – McGuire Park has had a lot of vandalism – can we look into locking the bathrooms at night. John said we don’t have enough staff to cover that but maybe we can contact the Sherriff’s Dept and increase their patrols and maybe have them

lock the bathrooms. We will contact Major Libby and see if we can't get someone assigned. Commissioner Starr mentioned another possibility is asking the Neighborhood Watch Group.

- ***John Hitzel made a motion to have John Jackson draft a letter to the Sheriff's Office***

IX. Announcements

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:55 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