

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
April 4, 2012**

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (89/99)
Michael Brown (10/10)
Maria Greenberg (24/29)
Lou Spacco (23/24)
John Hitzel (23/24)
Fred Pazona (13/16)
Katherine Ariens (13/14)

Present

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

County Representatives

Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator
Andy Stevens, Acting Director/Pks. Nat. Manager
Jane Ravella, Administrative Assistant
Bob Starr, Commission Liaison
Roxanne Read, Comm. Dev.
Michael Koenig, Resource Coordinator
Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor

Guest

Dick Whitney, Beaches & Shores
Chris Constance, Commissioner
Mike Norton, Rec. Coordinator
Douglas Tucker, Candidate #5
Debrah Forester, Char. Harbor CRA

Call to Order

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

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 14, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

II. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – Had questions:
 - Hobie Cats - Mike K. has been working on a vendor for the Hobie Cats that should be coming forth in the next couple of weeks.
 - BMX – Mike has attended meetings and all is looking good and we should have some news by July 2012. Everyone is backing Amanda Carr in getting this here.
 - Mapping – there are QR Codes that we are adapting to show maps of an Environmental Parks and trails, pictures of animals, information on species to view on phones, ipads, etc. tying into Eco Tourism.
 - Citizen Concerns – neighbor who owns property across from PCB asking for landscaping to buffer the lights that shine onto his property from the boat ramp, also asked for a gate at the Coast Guard dock, but we will try putting signs up first.
- Bill Dryburgh asked :
 - What constitutes a No Charge rental? It was explained that if Charlotte County uses a room for a meeting with county employees - that would be a no charge rental.

III. New Business

- Roxanne Read, of Community Development, presented to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board her Event for Earth Day about a proposal for an Environmental Park and urban wetland in the making. It is located at Rickardway Avenue, one of the entrances, and she developed a coalition

which involve the School Board, National Estuary Program, Charlotte Harbor Environmental Center, Charlotte Desoto Building Association are working very closely with us as we work to get volunteers to help us move ahead with the project. This will take place on April 23rd, 80 students being schooled on invasive, water quality testing, and air potato roundup, starting at 8am.

IV. Old Business

➤ Review Pool Revenues

This presentation was given by Mike Koenig and Marc Solomon. Mike spoke of his Benchmarking and where we fall into place. He shared handouts as well as a table from our Fiscal division. Marc Solomon gave brief descriptions of each pool, classes, and events that are held at each of the facilities. We have a club similar to little leagues, just that they do swimming and hold tournaments, meets and they are called Blue Fins. Camps and Special Olympics are just a few of the events held at our pools.

- Fred Pazona – Revenue – low numbers? This was a nice presentation but it needs to be presented to the public – I don't find the pools to be that visited. We need to bring the deficit down from 802 thousand. I find the cost of labor to be too high, compared to the rest of SWFL. Possibly closing our pools during the winter or lessening the hours. Marketing is a big problem as I find my own neighbors don't know we have pools here or where they are.
- School Board? – do we get funds for their use of our pools? Kelly said we will have to take a look at that contract again for the future.
- We are a traditional aquatics center, where as the trend these days are now going into aquatic parks with other activities besides just the pool.
- We need to have a Performance Based Budget - to help us to make a comparison to bring the numbers closer. We can bring this back again next month to brain storm like a question answer session, keep the rest of the agenda free.
- Commissioner Constance made the suggestion that they come to the BCC Meeting and make their presentation to the public. He also asked for a copy of the School Board agreement.

V. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council next meeting set for March 14th at 5:45 p.m. at Mid-County Library Administration Conference Room.
 - Good meeting last month, Maria will not able to attend as she will be supporting her son in an Athletic Event. Maria asked for a substitution and Katherine came to the rescue.

VI. Member Issues

- Mike Brown – suggested we use the school system to advertise our pools and programs.
- Mike K. just popped in to let us know we received a Check for \$2000 to help support our Employee Swim for Wellness Program from the Dept. of Health.

VII. Director's Report –

- Bill was very excited to welcome Andy, we are glad to have you here!
- Snowbird Classic Baseball went extremely well, some new teams and even bigger ones coming in next year.
- Take a look at the new web site, any suggestions are helpful; we also have Birding, there has been a big interest in our area for Birding and we are working with tourism on this as well. There are maps and descriptions of the birds for viewing. Reports indicate that there were 15,000 hits on the computer last month.
- CIP updates, we will need to bring in a project manager from facilities to bring you all up to date on all the projects. Englewood beach was a great project.

VIII. Citizen Input –

- Deborah Forester, on behalf of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency handed out invitations to the Ribbon Cutting and Dedication of the Dick Loftus Bridge which will take place on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 9 a.m. (at the southeast corner of US 41 and Melbourne Street)
- Dick Whitney, Beaches and Shores Advisory Board, shared information about a presentation that will be held at the meeting tomorrow on “Sea Level”, as it relates to the Natural Environment and Charlotte County Beaches.
- Follow up on the contact for the Blue waterways for free advertising in Lee County sharing our waterways information– John Hitzel made the suggestion to contact Lorah Steiner from Tourism.
- Mr. Doug Tucker was present and asked that you come out and support our Little Leagues. And our Stone Crabs will be having their opening night on Thursday April 5th.

IX. Announcements

- John Hitzel contributed to the Christmas Tree fund! I encourage you all to donate.

X. Upcoming Events

- Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:20 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