

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes**

November 7, 2012

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (95/105)
Gregg Marsh (1/1)
Maria Greenberg (30/35)
Vacant
John Hitzel (30/31)
Fred Pazona (18/23)
Katherine Ariens (18/20)

Present

John Hitzel
Maria Greenberg
Fred Pazona
Gregg Marsh

County Representatives

Andy Stevens, Interim Director/Parks & Natural Resources
Michael Koenig, Resource Coordinator
Mike Norton, Harold Avenue Recreation Center
Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests - none

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by substitute Chair John Hitzel at 1:00 p.m.
The board welcomed new member, Gregg Marsh, to his first meeting. A quorum was present.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 3, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved.

2. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – orienteering
- Fred Pazona – church softball league numbers on Mike Norton's report
- Gregg Marsh – asked Mike Norton what is the basis of the numbers for his report
- Andy Stevens - discussion of the Nature Festival and the Tippecanoe 5 and 10K Run. It was determined that 90% of registrants came from the "Activities.com" website.

3. New Business

- Rename Harold Ave. Recreation Center or Gymnasium for Vivian Hall "Coach Cookie"
 - Mike Norton presented background on this request; recreation staff asked Mike Norton to bring this to the Parks & Recreation Board for consideration.
Motion was presented by Maria Greenberg, seconded by Gregg Marsh, to dedicate the gymnasium at Harold Avenue for "Coach Cookie" Vivian Hall and to begin the procedure, which was unanimously approved.
- Pier Inspections
 - Andy Steven noted that it cost \$15,000 from West Coast Inland Navigation for the inspection; issues were identified:
 - Fire damage, piling issues, deterioration
 - From a recreation fishing standpoint the pier is good and heavily utilized
 - Parking is an issue but fisherman love the location, it is a great recreational experience
 - Topic of discussion at the Marine Advisory Committee this Thursday

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- Marine Advisory Committee Update
 - Andy Stevens explained that the Marine Advisory Committee is comprised of 21 members with 2 women members, unprecedented in the past.
 - MAC recommends allocations of \$800 to a million dollars a year from the West Coast Inland Navigation System to the BCC. This money is used for boat ramp projects, dredging projects. It was noted that Port Charlotte Beach Boat Ramp needs dredging. Andy will prepare the applications to ask for funding for PCB.
 - Mike Koenig explained the 5 year CIP budget
 - Andy talked to a MLS group, they want to work together with the Parks & Recreation department
 - Gregg Marsh stated that the amenities of the parks are being sold by the MLS also.

4. Old Business

- Approve the DRAFT Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting schedule
Motion to approve the meeting schedule with two additions: have the April meeting at South County Recreation Center and the October meeting at Bayshore Park, in the Historical Center meeting room, was made by Fred Pazona and seconded by Maria Greenburg: unanimously approved.
- Update on Skate Park & BMX Bikes
 - Andy Stevens reported that the BMX'ers are asking for the skate park to be available to them every Sunday. There have been no problems reported.
 - Consensus was reached by all members to allow the BMX'ers the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month. This will be evaluated again, as needed.
- Field Trip, December 5, 2012
 - After discussion, it was decided to start the field trip at noon, instead of 1pm, and to meet at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex
 - It was noted that Bill Dryburgh offered to buy everyone lunch at a previous meeting.
 - Andy will draft an agenda for this field trip and it will be distributed to members

5. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council's next meeting is set for November 14th at 5:45 p.m. at Mid-County Regional Library, Administration Conference Room.
 - Katherine Ariens attended last month. Maria Greenberg will be attending next week's meeting.
 - Mike Norton reported it was a low key, quick meeting. Elections coming up for Chair and Vice-Chair.

6. Member Issues

- Fred Pazona asked about the expansion of the Community Garden at South County. Lacey Solomon discussed this with Andy Stevens today and determined that possibly Oyster Creek Regional Park has room for a Community Garden.

7. Interim Director's Report – Andy Stevens

- Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor, reviewed board members' questions regarding pool issues.
 1. North Port always had the option of purchasing Charlotte County pool passes at no additional cost.
 2. Resident club team has scheduled twice as many meets this year; former coach is back.
 3. School Board Agreement went to the board January 2010, corrected contracts to reflect new charges, submitted invoice to school board which is offset by our use at

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their facilities. A check from the school board is expected this year.

4. A market analysis and experience/training determined pay scale for lifeguards. Discussion ensued regarding lowering the operating budget by cutting hours of staff not needed when a facility is closed for repairs. Marc Solomon gave the board an update of the work that was completed at the Port Charlotte Beach pool. Energy efficiencies are being considered as the construction is being completed.

Andy Stevens informed the board that marketing is being prepared to fill the Parks & Recreation Manager position.

- Mike Koenig reported:
 - PRIDE Enterprises won the bid for the new Parks & Recreation program guide and they came in with a 50% savings overall.
 - A realtor (who is a volunteer) has produced videos, on his own, of Bayshore Park special events and at Englewood Beach.
 - We are members of two local Chamber of Commerce's,
 - Clear Channel radio has been extraordinarily helpful in getting information out about our programs. Suggestion to ask members to relay their experiences with the board on the radio show. We would like member perception of our advertisements. Fred suggested board members come up with a few ideas to promote for the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting.
 - Possible Comcast inclusion.
 - Included in the Allegient Air In-Flight magazine advertisement for Charlotte County Parks & Recreation.
 - Gregg Marsh mentioned that people have no idea what is in Charlotte County. Mike Koenig mentioned that when the economy was good, the newspapers would be glad to include events, now they don't do it for anyone. Advertising in the Charlotte SUN has become cost prohibitive for us because of the volume of events/programs we have. John Hitzel mentioned we should invite David Dunn-Rankin to a meeting to talk about possible marketing opportunities.

8. **Citizen Input** - None

9. **Announcements** - None

10. **Upcoming Events** - Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:40 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