

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
April 3, 2013

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (100-110)
Gregg Marsh (5/6)
Maria Greenberg (35/40)
Paul Bigness (2/4)
John Hitzel (35/36)
Fred Pazona (23/28)
Katherine Ariens (23/25)

Present

John Hitzel
Maria Greenberg
Fred Pazona
Gregg Marsh
Katherine Ariens
William Dryburgh

County Representatives

Tommy Scott, Director
Mike Norton, Harold Avenue Recreation Center
David Milligan, Director of Facilities
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests

Christine Taylor

Call to Order

Chair Bill Dryburgh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. @ South County Recreation Center.

1. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 6, 2013 were unanimously approved with one correction. On page 3 of the minutes, Katherine Ariens noted that she did not bring up the issue of reciprocity, it was Fred Pazona, but she did make comment on it.

2. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – nothing today, it is tax season.
- Katherine Ariens - Dog Show Comedy at Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center, Zumba Gold classes, better way for the public to get information re: programs; BMX usage at Oyster Creek Park Skate Park.
- Tommy Scott talked about the marketing plan he is proposing for the department.
- Commissioner Deutsch – BMX Nationals Event, commented on the 2-3 year olds.
- Greg Marsh – Port Charlotte Beach Complex, what does the county do to promote this facility? John Hitzel commented there were price increases after the hurricane to rent the facility. Tommy Scott agrees that some facilities are under-used. Tommy is also reviewing the price sheet for rentals.

3. New Business

- Abandoned Vessel Program Discussion – Roger DeBruller
 - Program started in 2007, ordinance created in 2007, Lee County led us in the learning process for this program.
 - 140 boats have been pulled out so far – boats belong to the State if abandoned or derelict. The county has spent \$350,000 so far on this program.
 - Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that the Marine Advisory Committee puts aside WCIND monies for abandoned boats. There is value for scrap metal from these boats.
 - Katherine Ariens wondered why the county hasn't created a program for people to turn their boats over to us, if they don't want/need them anymore, to be auctioned off.

- Clarification of Coach Cookie Naming – Tommy Scott
 - Name proposed is the “Vivian Hall Gymnasium” confirmed by the members. Maria Greenberg suggested including an additional “Coach Cookie” plaque that describes her work and has a picture.
- School Board Interagency Agreement – Follow-Up – Tommy Scott
 - Tommy Scott met with Mike Riley, from the school board to clarify the agreement. All that is needed is to obtain permission to use a school facility. There was nothing in the agreement that directed on how to obtain permission.
 - Tommy Scott will work through the process and bring back the results.
 - The Snowbird Classic is an event that can be scheduled with the school board for next year, in order to obtain permission to use school facilities.

4. Old Business

- Placida Boat Ramp Follow-Up – David Milligan
 - David supplied the members with an updated plan/map.
 - Conceptual plans are to move the proposed boat launch closer to the Harbor, construct a small boat basin to ease the traffic flow, a kayak/canoe launch separate from the boaters, a mitigation area, a pavilion, picnic areas, trails, and restrooms. This property will be multi-purpose.
 - Just now starting the Parks Master Plan process.
 - Guest Chris Taylor mentioned that she attended the Bay Heights meeting and stated that she would like to see more kayak inputs from the south to Lee County in the Master Plan. She was very happy with David Milligan’s expertise.
 - Discussion of where to launch in Alligator Creek.
- Recap of the Snowbird Classic – Mike Norton
 - Excellent feedback from participants from an operational standpoint; parks staff were awesome.
 - Tourism is estimating a 5 million dollar economic impact; actual figures forthcoming.
 - All teams returned good reports, lists of items suggested were nominal, and they were happy and planning on coming back. Noted that they were not happy with treatment received in Sarasota County
 - Al Hausman, Charlotte Softball, approached the department with an opportunity of a softball tournament structured like the Snowball Classic.
 - Discussion ensued about the possibility of adding fields for baseball and softball tournaments in Murdock Village, cost of fields.
 - Commissioner Deutsch mentioned that he attended a meeting with SWFMD and they said to come forward with a conceptual plan for Murdock Village and they will work with us. They are being more cooperative than in the past.
 - Gregg Marsh remembers the first conceptual plan and feels you have to have a concept for the whole property. Commenting on another subject, landscaping in the county is not being maintained.

5. Sports Council Update

- Youth Sports Council’s next meeting is set for April 10th at 5:45 p.m. at Mid-County Regional Library, Administration Conference Room.
 - Maria Greenberg attended last month; quick meeting.

6. Member Issues

- Greg Marsh noted the lack of reporting on local events in the newspapers and that the general populations is missing out on this information. The Director said he will work on this item within the proposed marketing plan.
- Fred Pazona commented that he would like to do a commercial for the South County Recreation Center facility. In the summer there are many programs and 100's of kids participating.
- Bill Dryburgh mentioned that he had trouble with the new parking meters at Englewood Beach. Tommy Scott mentioned that this is an evolving situation and he has a list of items to speak with the vendor about.

7. Director's Report – Tommy Scott

- Tommy Scott mentioned that the County is doing an environmental review of all facilities. Many changes are in the works in order to obtain efficiencies. Karen Huff is the person working for the county to identify items that need correcting.
- Fred Pazona asked about increased security in the parks, i.e. cameras. Tommy Scott reported that it is in the works. Tom Scott, Security Coordinator, is working on the big issues so he can report back to the BCC. Tommy Scott will report to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on items identified.
- Bill Dryburgh talked about the Englewood Library Achieve.

8. Citizen Input

- Given earlier in the meeting by Christine Taylor.

9. Announcements - None

10. Upcoming Events - Events as listed on the Agenda

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2:55 p.m. and unanimously approved.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Commissioner Stephen Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Raymond Sandrock, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Assistant County Administrator