

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
January 8, 2014

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (106/116)
Katherine Ariens (28/30)
Maria Greenberg (42/46)
Paul Bigness (5/10)
John Hitzel (41/42)
Fred Pazona (28/34)
Roger LePage (4/5)

Present

John Hitzel
Maria Greenberg
Katherine Ariens
William Dryburgh
Fred Pazona
Roger LePage
Paul Bigness

County Representatives

Tommy Scott, Director
Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor
Deborah Forester, Economic Development
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests

Joan Fischer
George Swantek

Call to Order

Chair Bill Dryburgh called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. Chairman announced opportunity for public input on agenda items

- Joan Fischer – Sales tax – Joan does not want the Historical Center sold or torn down.

2. Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

- Bill Dryburgh was nominated for Chairperson and unanimously approved.
- John Hitzel was nominated for Vice-Chairperson and unanimously approved.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December 4, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

4. Division Reports

Reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – Page 4, Evergreen survey, Page 6, BMX numbers declining.

5. New Business

- Joint Meeting Topics
 - Mooring at Chadwick Park
 - Land next to boat ramp
 - Stump Pass – Palm Island
 - Master Plan
 - Bay Heights
- Sales Tax Recommendations from Board Members
 - Softball Complex
 - North County Regional Park upgrades/amenities

- Gateway across 41 on north end of the bridge

6. Old Business

- Update on Bayshore Harborwalk/Bayshore Park
 - Deborah Forester talked about Phase I, which was rebuilding the fishing pier, a parking area and a small kayak/boat launch
 - Monies will be received July 2014, turning dirt in September 2014
 - Phase II, July 2015 funding will be available; they will be ready to start.
 - The BCC has approved the design work for the allocated boardwalk, bridge connect to Melbourne Street, fishing pier, Melbourne Pedestrian Promenade & water taxi's.
 - Charlotte Harbor CRA sent a letter to the BCC asking them to consider the Gateway Project for the sales tax initiative.
 - Phase III will be funded with the sales tax initiative also, but the need is to finish Phase I and II first.
 - 6th Annual Hands across the Harbor, January 25, 2014, long-boarders will be participating this year.
 - A lengthy discussion ensued about vacant properties in this area and how the area could be improved with development.
- Event Co-Sponsorship Procedure Waivers
 - Intend to take to the board
 - John Hitzel mentioned that the difference between 25% and 50% is the amount of people; there wasn't much change. Tommy Scott agreed.
 - The board members unanimously agreed to move this Waiver Procedure forward.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Tour Locations
 - Tommy Scott suggested three locations:
 - The heart of Port Charlotte, Mid-West County and a boat trip of Bayshore and Port Charlotte Beach, visit an artificial reef and go into Tippecanoe Environment Park.
 - John Hitzel mentioned that he would like to tour Englewood Beach, McGuire Park and Lake Betty
 - Katherine Ariens requested a list of parks – the website and Activity Guide were suggested.
 - A third field trip was discussed. Will adjust the schedule to March, October and December for field trips. Tommy Scott will check with the attorney's office regarding the Sunshine Law and our field trips. Locations to be determined.
- FPL Community Investment Program
 - Fred Pazona mentioned this at the December 2013 meeting.
 - Tommy Scott relayed that this program grants money for smaller projects that have an educational aspect. The program is in the works, they also want to involve their staff to help with our projects.
- Cricket Tournament
 - Katherine Ariens has scheduled the meeting for February 4, 2014, 3 p.m., at Peace River Hospital; awaiting confirmation from Dr. Patel.

7. Sports Council Update

- There was no December 2013 meeting.
 - Maria Greenberg mentioned that she was unable to attend today's meeting.
 - Katherine Ariens volunteered to attend in Maria's place.

8. Member Issues

- Fred Pazona – Ray's Spring Training games, having an information booth.
- Katherine Ariens suggested that she felt it was a waste of time; she had to go out and seek people to give the booklets to.
- John Hitzel suggested there wasn't a lot of interest.
 - Joan Fischer suggested a raffle ticket or gift card be attached to the brochures that are handed out at the games to keep people interested.
- Tommy Scott mentioned we are starting an Ambassador Program with the Ray's and it is in the development stages.
- John Hitzel talked about a letter to the editor in the newspaper, El Jobean Christmas parade was a success, read the CAPRA standards and sees it as taking a great deal of time/effort and monies. A financial analysis was suggested.
- Paul Bigness again asked for a financial analysis of the CAPRA process.
- Tommy Scott mentioned that it costs \$3,000 to \$4,000 to get into it; we are well on our way to meeting the standards, but there is a lot that we aren't doing. It is important to deliver a high level of service delivery for our community. It will have an impact on our tourism; this is the gold standard that all parks & recreation agencies strive to get to. 22 of 120 agencies are in Florida.
- Katherine Ariens asked why it is important to Tommy that this department strives for this certification. Tommy Scott replied that it is part of the department's goals, and it started before he arrived in Charlotte County.
- Commissioner Doherty asked when CAPRA certification is achieved, what is the impact, relative to the CIP does. Tommy Scott stated that this is all operational.
- Commissioner Doherty believes his role with this committee is to bring issues to the board and advocate for this board. This is an excellent committee.
- Katherine Ariens suggested lobbying the Commissioners for their support on this certification.

9. Director's Report – Tommy Scott

- Update on Parks Master Plan
 - Tommy Scott reviewed the Scope of Services that will be completed.
 - A Needs Assessment will be completed by the University of Florida and FGCU, starting in February, 2014. On to purchasing, moving forward, starts in February.

10. Citizen Input

- George Swantek talked about the conditions of the existing tennis courts, which are deteriorating. He wanted to know if there are any plans to fix them.
- Tommy Scott mentioned that we have a schedule for replacing tennis courts, usually one or two a year, which he would make available to Mr. Swantek.

11. Announcements - none

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

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, Deputy County Administrator