

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Minutes**  
March 5, 2014

**Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh (108/118)  
Katherine Ariens (30/32)  
Maria Greenberg (44/48)  
Paul Bigness (5/12)  
John Hitzel (43/44)  
Fred Pazona (29/36)  
Roger LePage (6/7)

**Present**

John Hitzel  
Maria Greenberg  
Katherine Ariens  
William Dryburgh  
Roger LePage

**County Representatives**

Tommy Scott, Director  
Marc Solomon, Aquatics Supervisor  
Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resource's Manager  
Roger DeBruler, Natural Resources  
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

**Guests**

Captain Mike DeGenaro

**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**

- None

**2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the January 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and February 5<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting, 2014, were unanimously approved.

**3. Division Reports**

*January and February reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.*

- No comments

**4. New Business**

▪ **Lightning detection for youth sports fields (recommended for discussion by the Youth Sports Council)**

1. Maria Greenberg reported that the YSC members wanted answers on where we are on installing this equipment.
  - Tommy Scott replied we are investigating two companies and have received pricing of \$100,000-105,000 which includes pools and sport fields.
    - There are no staff at the sports fields to monitor these systems
    - Charlotte County Schools is on contract with WeatherBug, which utilizes real-time weather information.
    - We don't have funding but this will be on the list.
    - Tommy will consult with Walt Black, Rick Manager.
  - Katherine Ariens asked if there was an app that could be used.

- It was acknowledged that several members of YSC have WeatherBug on their phones.
  - John Hitzel mentioned that lifeguards on the beach are in the same situation; they can monitor for themselves.
  - Roger LePage feels the teams are trying to shift liability to the county.
  - Marc Solomon added that when the child in Lee County was hit, Lee and DeSoto Counties installed detection.
  - Tommy Scott mentioned that we will explore all possibilities (but there is no funding); we will be back with information when available and look for possible synergy with the school systems.
- **Sales Tax Recommendations from Board Members:**
  1. Gateway to the Harbor
  2. North Charlotte Regional Park Recreation Facility
  3. Myakka Development
  4. Softball Fields in Murdock Village
    - Tommy Scott mentioned all recommendations will first go to the Focus Group, next to the BCC, then to the voters by referendum.
- **Life jacket displays at boat ramps – presentation by Captain Mike DeGenaro & Roger DeBruler**
  - Sea Tow – get grants for life jackets for citizens to borrow currently at the sheriff's office. They are being used on weekends at no cost to the county and being returned.
  - Would like to place stands in all marinas/boat ramps (Capt. DeGenaro makes the stands).
  - Katherine Ariens asked if he was just trying to promote his stands and asked about his commitment to the community.

***MOTION: A motion was made to have Tommy Scott go forward with the process for possible installation of life jacket stands in areas where there is the most boating traffic. Approved unanimously.***

## 5. Old Business

- **Cricket Tournament**
  - Katherine Ariens and Tommy Scott met with Dr. Patel (and friend) on February 4, 2014, 3 p.m., at Peace River Hospital
  - Dr. Patel mentioned that cricket is gaining in interest with tournaments in the Orlando area and the East Coast and he wants to bring them here, to West County
  - Tommy Scott stated we will move through this process, by investigating lighting costs and suggested the field be proposed as a multi-function park. Ann Dever Memorial Park suggested as possible location.
  - Dr. Patel pledged to help with financing with a 50/50 match and try to engage youth for development of cricket.
  - Discussion lead by John Hitzel and Bill Dryburgh surrounded around furthering softball instead of cricket. Katherine Ariens agreed she is warming up to the softball idea also.
  - Katherine Ariens suggested that if we build it, they will come.
- **Recap of Joint Meeting**
  - Tommy Scott suggested we were prepared for this meeting with plenty of back-up.
  - Katherine Ariens mentioned that you cannot prepare for people such as some that attended and disrupted the discussions.

- We will need to discuss this issue (mooring field at Chadwick Cove) again on the next Joint Meeting agenda.
- Possible change in the format to a workshop was discussed.
- The Board agreed to continue with the Joint Meetings (with structure). Tommy Scott agreed to take charge of these meetings.

#### **6. Sports Council Update**

- Next meeting is March 12, 2014.
  - Maria Greenberg mentioned that staff gave away Spring Training tickets to the YSC members for their players and it is always a good meeting.

#### **7. Member Issues**

- Bill Dryburgh asked about finding replacements for boat ramps that have been closed in Charlotte Harbor as he gets many questions about them.
- Andy Stevens mentioned that Bay Heights Park was previously identified; increase of boat ramps are in the Parks Master Plan.

#### **8. Director's Report – Tommy Scott**

- **Update on Parks Master Plan**
  - Tommy Scott mentioned that we are in the middle of scheduling the one-on-one meetings, stakeholder meetings in the next two weeks, and then move into focus groups the last part of March or beginning of April. Public input is next; one in South County, one in Mid-County and one in West County and the survey will be rolled out at this same time. Trying to get as much information on what the community wants.
  - FGCU is doing our analytical information
  - Scope to hire a planning consultant
  - Spring 2015 final document
- **Ambassador Program for Spring Training** games – still have a few spots left
- **Secret Shopper Program** is a Customer Service initiative; let us know if you want to volunteer.
- **Field trip**
  - April 2, 2014
  - Mid-County Tour; Charlotte Sports Park, Tippecanoe, North Charlotte Regional Park and Franz Ross Park
  - 11 am
  - Meeting at the Mid-County Regional Library

#### **9. Citizen Input**

- Mary Sprague, local engineer and developer, asked for a private access to a public park in West County. Ms. Sprague mentioned that the State (FL Community Trust) has no objections to this access and the homeowners will pay for it.
- Tommy Scott pointed out that from a legal standpoint, liability is an issue and it will set precedence. He will confer with the County Attorney's office for direction.

***MOTION: A motion was presented and seconded, that if the County Attorney has no objections, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will support the installation of private access to a public park (Ann Dever Memorial Park). Motion was unanimously approved.***

#### **10. Announcements** - none

**Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 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