

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
August 6, 2014

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (109/119)
Katherine Ariens (30/33)
Maria Greenberg (45/49)
Paul Bigness (6/13)
John Hitzel (44/47)
Fred Pazona (29/37)
Roger LePage (6/8)

Present

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

County Representatives

Commissioner Doherty
Tommy Scott, Director
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resources Manager
Mike Koenig, Resource Coordinator
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

Guests

None

Call to Order

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

▪ **Chairman announced opportunity for public input on agenda items**

- None

▪ **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the June 4, 2014, were unanimously approved.

▪ **Division Reports**

June and July reports were distributed by email to members before the meeting.

- John Hitzel – June report ... Parks Master Plan, Tringali, South County staffing of temporary custodian, swim lesson classes filled up quickly. July report ... Employee Appreciation Committee, coyotes on the barrier islands.

▪ **New Business**

- Playground Selection Committee Recommendations – Mike Koenig
 - Mike explained that the committee is made up of a group of staff who are parents. A field trip is planned; maintenance/improvements of existing equipment instead of obtaining new equipment was agreed upon by members of this committee
 - Shade is desired; looking at adding equipment for different age groups to existing equipment. All purchase orders written by end of the year with national companies already on contract; funded through the CIP Program.
 - Katherine Ariens asked if older group equipment is more expensive; it was determined that it is not. Playground catalogues offer multi-age group amenities.
 - Safety inspections of the playground equipment are conducted once a month.

- Paul Bigness asked what types of liability losses have been reported. Mike Koenig stated none that we know of; we are self-insured.
- **Update on 1% Sales Tax**
 - Tommy Scott passed out brochures re: the upcoming sales tax extension which will be distributed everywhere. If interested, speakers can go out to groups with presentations and handouts. Social media is also being used.
 - Bill Dryburgh likes that the City and County are presenting this information jointly.
- **Website Update**
 - The update is being completed by our IT department – our department is revising broken links, missing links, and links to other agencies.
 - There is a schedule with libraries ahead of us, next is Parks & Natural Resources and last to update will be recreation. This is a 6-8 month process and we are looking for a hosted solution which we never will have to upgrade, it will all be done on the backside and will be less expensive than what we are paying currently.
- **Old Business** - none
- **Sports Council Update**
 - Next meeting is August 13, 2014.
 - Maria Greenberg mentioned that she attended last month which was a quick meeting. The group is very happy about the signs that were erected and think they will really help.
 - Tommy Scott mentioned that the group has been asking about lightening detection systems and we are considering for our three pools because there is staff there to implement the systems. It will cost approximately \$25,000 and it is in our budget for this year.
- **Member Issues**
 - John Hitzel was very impressed with a presentation from Tommy White who handles \$500 million dollars of the counties' monies. A comparison of several years showed that the county debt has gone down 19% consistently. John is doing a column on the bonding part of the budget and noted the county isn't going broke, money is well managed, under great control and we are lucky to have all the qualified personnel we have now. Total debt is \$302 million dollars.
 - Katherine Ariens noted that there has been a decreased interest payment on a daily basis for Murdock Village.
 - Paul Bigness asked regarding the Harbor Walk Gateway, is there possibility to exchange property (waterfront for Murdock Village)?
 - Commissioner Doherty stated that land exchanges are options, a lot of things are being looked at now and everyone is trying to solve the problem. The Commissioner also asked about the water quality at the Charlotte Sports Park clubhouse and Tommy Scott explained that the problem is from the internal plumbing system; facilities have tried everything to resolve it.
 - Bill Dryburgh asked how it is going at the Event Center. Tommy Scott stated that we a losing less money and doing more events. Since SMG took over the culinary operations they are generating more revenue than the other two contractors. The outlook is getting better.
 - Maria Greenberg asked the committee to watch her daughter on Fox News, Lisa Greenberg, who is on every night at 6pm live.

▪ **Director's Report – Tommy Scott**

• **Update on Parks Master Plan**

- Tommy Scott mentioned that the needs assessment is completed from FGCU, 199 pages. Information is available for all interested members. This information will go to the consultant and then there will be more public input.
- A survey is still on the website.
- September 9th recommending approval from the BCC; will conclude late spring.
- Katherine Ariens requested a CD of the assessment: Paul Bigness would like to see the top 10 items identified and Maria would like a synopsis.

▪ **Citizen Input**

- None

▪ **Announcements**

- None

Meeting Adjourned

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 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