

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**  
**Minutes**  
September 3, 2014

**Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh (110/120)  
Katherine Ariens (31/34)  
Maria Greenberg (46/50)  
Paul Bigness (7/14)  
John Hitzel (45/48)  
Fred Pazona (29/38)  
Roger LePage (6/8) resigned

**Present**

William Dryburgh  
Katherine Ariens  
Maria Greenberg  
Paul Bigness  
John Hitzel

**County Representatives**

Commissioner Doherty  
Tommy Scott, Director  
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager  
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 August 6, 2014, were unanimously approved.

▪ **Division Reports**

*August report was distributed by email to members before the meeting.*

- John Hitzel – Port Charlotte Beach Recreation Center interviews, seasonal recreation specialist, increase in volume of users at the skate park, Musketeer Soccer Program.
- Katherine Ariens stated she is willing to volunteer for Special Olympics

▪ **New Business**

- October 1<sup>st</sup> Field Trip – East Mid-County Tour
  - i. McGuire Park in Parkside
  - ii. Lake Betty
  - iii. Harold Avenue Recreation Center
  - iv. Deep Creek
  - v. Possibly Bayshore Live Oak Park HarborWalk – possibly review of the design
  - vi. 11am to 1pm, meeting at the Mid-County Regional Library
- Next Field Trip in 2015 – West County
  - i. Rotonda
  - ii. Boca Grande
  - iii. South Golf Cove

- District V Representative Expired Term October 2014
  - Member whose term was expiring resigned previous to this meeting.
  - Discussion of recruiting guidelines for a District appointment.
- **Old Business**
  - John Hitzel asked Katherine Ariens what was going on with cricket. Katherine responded that it is at a standstill because we weren't ready to make the commitment to do it; Katherine hasn't heard from the doctor recently.
  - Tommy Scott suggested that we are in the master plan process now and will need to implement the list of priorities identified.
- **Sports Council Update**
  - Next meeting is September 10, 2014.
    - Maria Greenberg was unavailable to attend the last meeting.
- **Member Issues**
  - John Hitzel is discouraged with all the negative letters to the newspaper about the penny tax. He plans to send a letter of support for the penny tax soon to the newspaper.
  - A lengthy discussion ensued.
    - Katherine Ariens spoke about discussions at the Charlotte Assembly earlier in the year and the negative letter that circulated, which contained misinformation about the tax.
    - Commissioner Doherty reported there have been discussions with Administration regarding this tax.
    - Paul Bigness said if there is such a big movement, there must be something to it. It's a hard sell for seniors on fixed incomes.
    - Maria Greenberg stated that this controversy might be what gets people to the polls.
    - Bill Dryburgh stated that the city (Punta Gorda) will be endorsing the tax this time.
    - John Hitzel said the Curmudgeons may have a forum, to give the public a chance to voice their opinions.
- **Director's Report – Tommy Scott**
  - **Update on Parks Master Plan**
    - Tommy Scott reported that this Tuesday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, the final rankings for consultants to do the Master Plan will go to the BCC. A lot of good people will be working on this plan and there will be plenty of time to bring it to the public. We are on track.
- **Citizen Input**
  - None
- **Announcements**
  - The director reported that bids closed today for lightening detection equipment at our three pools.
  - Bill Dryburgh asked for information on the "Trip to the Trop" event listed on the agenda. Tommy Scott replied that it is a bus trip to Tropicana Field to see the Yankees, which includes a t-shirt, hat, ticket and bus fare to the game. This trip is now sold out, per Maureen Broderick. It was advertised on our website, press releases, Facebook, our Class database and the newspapers. This is the second bus trip to the Trop this summer and we hope to make it a continuing event.

**Meeting Adjourned**

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 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