

Joint Workshop
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Marine Advisory Committee
Beaches & Shores Advisory Committee
February 4, 2015

Mid-County Regional Library, Meeting Room C
Minutes

BOARD MEMBERS:

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD:

Maria Greenberg, District 1
Katherine Ariens, District 2
Paul Bigness, District 3
John Hitzel, Vice Chair, District 4
Lou Agosto, District 5
Bill Dryburgh, Chairman, Member at Large
Fred Pazona, Member at Large

MARINE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Len Harris	William Kumm
Raymond Rose	Charles Gertner
Gerald Meckenberg, Secretary	Jake Dye
Sara Buck, Vice-Chair	John Davidson
Ronald Ludvig	Jay Buckley
George Bobko	Richard Hoagland
Scott Schermerhorn	William Hoffman
Tom Ireland, Chairman	Susan Bareither
Captain Ron Blago	Tom Hamilton
Captain Ralph Allen	Larry Hofmeister

BEACHES & SHORES ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Dick Whitney, District I
Cliff Kewley, Member at Large, Chairman
Katherine Ariens, District II
Thomas Brock, District III, Vice Chairman
Rich Parchen, District IV
Vacant, District V
Robert Pierce, FL Shore & Beach Preserve Assn.

STAFF:

Tommy Scott, Director Community Services
Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resources
Janette Knowlton, County Attorney
Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II

1:00 p.m. - CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL – Bill Dryburgh, Chair, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, gave opening remarks. No Roll Call was taken – please see sign in sheets attached.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Government in Sunshine Refresher – Janette Knowlton, County Attorney
 - Sunshine comes in two segments
 - “Open Meetings” were explained
 - Public Records is handled by staff
 - The Board of County Commissioners and any advisory board are governed by the Sunshine Law.
 - Communication
 - In-Person Public Meetings – any 2 people from the same board talking about issues on a current or future agenda.
 - Non-In-Person Communication – email, phone calls, letters, internet, blogs, social media, staff polling
 - Meetings
 - Open, noticed, location and minutes taken
 - New Requirement ... The public needs an opportunity to be heard on a proposition (agenda item).
 - Open - All members must be able to attend including the press
 - Participation

- The public can record – audio or video, as long as it is non-intrusive or disruptive
 - Reasonable Notice – emergency or controversial topics – must be posted where they can be seen by the public. Seven days advanced notice for public meetings is required.
 - Location – a room adequate for expected attendance and open to the public
 - Minutes – need to be taken, not verbatim but an accurate summary
 - Sunshine becomes effective as soon as you start your election.
 - What if you mess up? Meeting was not noticed?
 - All issues are voided
 - Can cure it by reconsidering the matter fully, again, including public input.
 - Civil and Criminal Penalties
 - Voids actions
 - May need to pay a fine up to \$500 or spend 60 days in jail
 - May be prosecuted
 - Janette Knowlton stated that this information is meant to inform, not scare ... the County will defend. Commissioners are not part of the advisory board, they do not vote or advise members; they are liaison's to report back to the BCC at their board meetings.
 - Questions were asked and answered by Ms. Knowlton.
2. Sales Tax Update – Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
- A hand-out was distributed that listed all the projects scheduled for the sales tax monies.
 - Tommy gave the same presentation to the BCC at their workshop in January 2015.
 - The hand-out is being updated; several quality of life issues included.
3. Parks Master Plan – Jason Green, Weiler Engineering
- Our Parks Master Plan has not been updated in several years and with the sales tax passing it is important to do.
 - The plan will be completed in five months
 - Create plans in 6 year increments
 - Parks and how you get to the parks will be reviewed i.e. sidewalks, trails, and bike paths.
 - Purpose, objectives, what we want to accomplish
 - Needs assessment was completed by the County, looking at trends.
 - Pickleball keeps coming up and is exploding as an activity.
 - Looking at duplication of services
 - Objectives – Steering committee meetings in several sections of the county
 - Level of service evaluated.
 - Timeline of what we are doing.
 - Data collection is ongoing
 - Needs assessment completed
 - Public involvement of workshops and surveys
 - Mapping and level of services reviewed
 - Master Plan Development
 - Public input and final wrap-up to the Board
 - It is a very aggressive schedule with a great team of National, Statewide and FL Gulf Coast University people involved. Park Assessment findings in two weeks.
 - Countywide Master Plan – reaching out to the community and on Facebook to interest the younger people to our parks, technology is important to the plan.

- Member brought up the subject of neighborhood parks that have been closed due to lack of maintenance – it is a Board decision to open them again.
- Members of the committee are volunteers with 12-15 organizations represented.
- Next meeting is February 17th with three meetings to follow.
- Questions were asked and answered by Mr. Green.

4. Charlotte Harbor Gateway –Debrah Forester, Redevelopment Manager

- Update
 - Advisory Board in 2004 rewrote the redevelopment plan – how to bridge the connection between East and West side of US 41.
 - Crossing US 41 is dangerous
 - Plan is to build the Boardwalk under the bridges
 - Concept plan of the Harbor Walk creating a space to come and fish and enjoy the area will be completed in three phases.
 - FDOT is helping to fund part of the project.
 - Seawall replacement
 - Pedestrian promenade
 - Sidewalk connection
 - Small boats launch using Boater’s Improvement Fund and WCIND funding.
 - Parking and restroom facility
 - FDOP has a work plan involving waiting over 5 years for the money to become available. In July of 2015 the monies will be available to use and the project will begin.
 - An outside construction management company will come in to oversee all construction – consultant groups bids came in considerably higher than budgeted.
 - February 24, 2015 it will go to the BCC to approve the construction contract - the construction phase will take 300 days.
 - April 2016 for Phase I to be completed
 - Phase II – Boardwalk (sidewalk) to connect both sides of 41.
 - Looking for other sources of funding to bridge the shortfall.
 - Sales tax monies are for Phase Ic with includes land acquisition, upper deck and cover.
 - The Harbor Walk will be part of the Community Services Department when completed.
- Questions were asked and answered by Ms. Forester

5. Mooring Field – Andy Stevens, Parks & Natural Resources Manager

- Andy stated that Betty Staugler put together the PowerPoint Presentation
- Andy’s background is permitting and land management.
 - A mooring field includes anchoring, harbor management; a lot of people will be involved (Federal and State).
 - The field cannot prohibit navigation.
 - Sanitation could be a problem in Chadwick Cove.
 - Sea Grass disturbance and lighting is an issue.
- From the 2009 Mooring Field Study
 - There will be some challenges with permitting because this is in an aquatic preserve.

- One key item is it must be self-sustaining, have access to public waters and promote tourism. Also it must enhance real estate values
- Navigation safety is paramount.
- This area is an aquatic preserve.
- Deter improper storage and abandonment of derelict vessels, a gray legal issue.
- Must emphasis on oversight of water resources
- Could be an economic benefit to the county
- Local Harbor Management plan required based on consensus and provides amenities and signage. A harbormaster should be identified but can be a problem because of the small size of the field (11 slips).
- Need for funding mechanisms; WCIND is reviewing for possible funding.
- Submerged lands permitting confirm ownership and are not easy to obtain, but doable.
- Safe Harbor Act
 - All mooring fields must be open to the public on a first come, first served basis.
 - Manatee education needs to be part of the management plan
 - Mooring fields can be private, municipal or non-profit (but non-profits have not been found in Florida).
 - Could take longer than five years
- Deputy Lyle stated that he is on Manasota Key daily. In 2009 it was enacted that counties can intervene with anchored or derelict boats. Statute is they can stay 10 days but they can just move to another location.
 - Sanitation is important and there have been complaints of fecal matter floating in the waters. Several boaters have porta potties onboard and throw the waste in Waste Management garbage cans.
 - There are 11 boats in Chadwick Cove; 85% of the boaters fight on every step, but some have complied.
 - Deputy Lyle does feel the need for a mooring field at this location; there are enforcement issues
 - Coast Guard regulation is that a vessel over 26 feet must have a sanitation device and if you can prove you are in compliance, he doesn't have to board the vessel.
- Questions were asked and answered.

Workshop adjourned at 3 pm.