

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
Minutes
January 6, 2016

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh (124/135)
Katherine Ariens (43/49)
Maria Greenberg (59/65)
John Hitzel (60/63)
Fred Pazona (44/53)
Erick Toth (7/7)

Present

Bill Dryburgh
Maria Greenberg
John Hitzel
Fred Pazona
Katherine Ariens
Erick Toth

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Tina Powell, Parks & NR Manager
Bonnie Blair, Administrative Assistant II
Mike Koenig, Resource Coordinator
Pam Phillippe, Extension
Damaris Heinlein, Extension

Guests

Gary Hunter

1. Minutes

- The December 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Division Reports

- John Hitzel had no comments.
- Fred Pazona – locker rooms at South County
- Katherine Ariens – concessions on Englewood Beach

3. New Business

- The Active Demonstration was presented by Mike Koenig.
 - i. Cloud Based Solution, ActiveNet.com – looks better
 - ii. Registration for parking passes and memberships
 - iii. Will utilize one card for pools, libraries, classes, etc.
 - iv. Citizens will need to re-establish their accounts and update account information.
 - v. Katherine Ariens asked about host costs compared to Class; Mike replied the return on investment will be three years.
 - vi. February 1st hopefully this program will be live
 - vii. Plans for a media campaign, commercials, etc., to get the word out
- Youth Community Gardening Program
 - i. Working with extension for a youth initiative are Pam Phillippe and Damaris Heinlein, who is the coordinator for the County, on a joint grant program, based on free and reduced lunches for schools, focusing on family nutrition, gardening will be an added feature.

- ii. Hired Damaris to partner with programs already established in the county
 - iii. Education to client, teach children how to take care of the garden, enrich community with education to make healthy choices, reading labels.
 - iv. The gardening community needs our support.
 - v. In the schools they run "Garden Detective", "Cooking Matters", "Kids in the Kitchen" which is a summer program.
 - vi. Katherine Ariens asked if this is a food stamp based clientele, can no other children be included. They are working in a community of low income based.
 - vii. "Farm to School" state program will come and help groups set up these programs.
- Fee Schedule
 - i. Benchmarking was done to compare fees with neighboring counties
 - ii. We are working through new items on the fee schedule, i.e. instructors will be changed to a rental based program
 - iii. Not a lot of changes will be made; no broad based %'s increase.
 - iv. CAPRA requirement is to review annually for accreditation
 - v. Fred Pazona feels we are underpriced versus the YMCA ... Tommy Scott replied that generating revenue is not our sole focus.
 - Pickle Ball Courts
 - i. Gary Hunter, Peace River Picklers Assn. and its 200+ members with 800+ other pickleballers within Charlotte County, noted that he has read the Master Plan and they are requesting a revision or supplement to the plan to grant them dedicated pickleball courts at the South County tennis courts. They will supply the paints, labor and nets, and a combination lock system to secure the nets. Value of the nets is about \$2500 and they would like to partner with the County on the maintenance of the nets. They chose this location because the Senior Games are played there and it has worked well. South County has adequate parking and low usage of the tennis courts as described on the handout. Dual use courts don't work because of the amount of players that can use the courts, compared to tennis. On paper it looks like it will work, but 4 people playing tennis prevents 16 pickleballers from playing on the courts. Gary did say that he appreciates how much the County has done to try and accommodate them. Since 2009, there were less than 100 players and now an estimated 1000 players.
 - ii. John Hitzel asked what the tennis players are concerned about. Gary said that they feel pickleball players were taking the courts away from them. There are 51 tennis facilities and zero pickleball facilities in Charlotte County; it's time to recognize the growing demand of pickleball.
 - iii. Tommy Scott stated that when Gilcrest was busy, they could have gone to South County, but didn't. We try to blend the courts when they are resurfaced using blended lines. We are using a balanced

- approach.
- iv. Katherine Ariens asked what is the problem with the blended lines, Gary said blended lines are hard to see; wants equally visible lines.
 - v. Bill Dryburgh stated that if you can make the pickleball lines bolder, it would solve the problem.
 - vi. Katherine Ariens asked Tommy can't you deviate the color of the lines so they can see them? Tommy answered yes, we could change the color of the lines, but tennis people would be here complaining about them as they are not as sensitive to the pickleball players.
 - vii. Commissioner Doherty said this will have to go thru a process, staff talk to administration, convey this request, develop options and work to better utilize the facilities, which would be attractive to the BCC. Commissioner Doherty mentioned to experiment at South County with different colored lines for pickleball to see how it works and he would be happy to meet with Tommy Scott when he presents this request to Administration, to further the cause.
 - viii. Gary mentioned that if they had dual lines with different colors they will be happy. Some people play pickleball 6-7 days a week ... the general public is very aware of pickleball. He is grateful for the county trying to keep up with the demand.
 - ix. Fred Pazona mentioned minutes from May 2014 where Mike Norton gave a presentation on pickleball, when there were 500 players and Naples brought in \$300,000 in revenue from tournaments. Tommy mentioned at that time he will look to the Master Plan for direction.
 - x. Gary also mentioned that pickleball is a noisy sport and that South County is separated from housing, so sound would not be a problem. Almost all tournaments are played outdoors, thus the importance of dedicated courts.
 - xi. Maria Greenberg stated we all understand there is a need.
 - xii. Fred Pazona asked what it would cost for a new facility at South County. Tommy Scott replied that over \$300,000 was spent to rebuild 2 courts to bring them back to good quality. Fred mentioned that somewhere along the line we will need to build a pickleball facility because the need will be there.
 - xiii. Tommy Scott stated that the community will decide where the facilities will be built per the Master Plan to adjust to the trends.
 - xiv. It was determined that this topic will be discussed at the March meeting and put on the agenda.
- Agenda items for the Joint Workshop in February
 - i. Update on Stump Pass
 - ii. Bay Heights
 - iii. Charlotte Harbor Gateway Harbor Walk Update
 - iv. Water Taxi
 - v. Fred Pazona ask that we include Lifeguards at the beach
4. Old Business – none
 5. Sports Council Update – no meeting in December 2015

6. Member Issues

- Commissioner Doherty mentioned the financial workshop – joint meeting with Commissioners
- Bill Dryburgh asked if the Wildlife Center in Punta Gorda will move to a county park. Tommy Scott replied that it is early in these talks.

7. Old Business – none

8. Sports Council Update

9. Director's Report

- Comparison of our Programming Report - Handout

10. Citizen Input – none

11. Announcements – none

12. Adjournment @ 2:45pm

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 Sandroek, Administrator
Kelly Shoemaker, Deputy County Administrator