

## **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

March 2, 2022

### **Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh 6/6  
Maria Greenberg 6/6  
Don McCormick 4/6  
Kay Tvaroch 6/6  
Debra Anlauf 6/6  
Erick Toth 6/6  
Vacant – District 1

### **Present**

William Dryburgh  
Maria Greenberg  
Don McCormick  
Kay Tvaroch  
Debra Anlauf  
Erick Toth

### **Absent**

### **County Representatives**

Joseph Tiseo, Commission Liaison  
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services  
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager  
Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manger  
Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor  
Greg Steinberg, Aquatics Coordinator  
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

### **Guests**

**Residents** - South Gulf Cove  
**Betsy Calvert** – Charlotte Sun

Chairman William Dryburgh welcomed members, staff, and visitors to the meeting.

- Roll Call
- Minutes  
Motion to approve the 2022 February Minutes made by Maria Greenberg, Debra Anlauf 2<sup>nd</sup> and was unanimously approved.
- Division Reports – January 2022
- Old Business

- **Staffing Challenges**– Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services gave an update on the vacancies in Community Services stating as of last Friday we are at 109 up from 103 last month, 70 are in Recreation and 20 are in Parks & Natural Resources. Lifeguard positions are our biggest challenge, along with a mix of recreation specialist and maintenance workers. Recreation has been having approximately 150 hours of overtime per week to meet the challenge. We have closed Tringali Recreation Center and reduced our hours of operation as well to adjust, and continue to put safety first

- New Business

- I. **College swim team training recap** – Greg Steinberg, Aquatics Coordinator gave updates on the College swim team winter training and explained the Area 5 swim meet the weekend of February 26 & 27 was the largest swim meet the county has ever had with an estimate of 2000 people coming through our facility including 700 swimmers.

The summary of the Collegiate/Club training we hosted were 4 separate teams, 3 Collegiate and 1 US Club team in the months of December and January at Centennial Park, Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park hosted 1 team in the months of December and January as well. The four teams in total were George Fox University from Oregon at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, New Jersey Rays Club a US Club team at Centennial Park, Milligan University from Tennessee and Hope College Swimming and diving Team from Michigan. The economic impact was estimated to be \$621,547 for Charlotte County during their stay.

The Survey results came back overwhelmingly positive which included questions on a scale of met expectations to exceeded expectations regarding facilities, staff and cleanliness. Several positive comments were made of the facility and staff members. Mr. Steinberg had an interview with the coach from Hope College on Facebook Live that received over 1000 views which will help in our marketing and also noted he will be working with Sean Walter in Sports Tourism going forward to reach out to collegiate teams and club teams to recruit for next winter.

- II. **Annual attendance comparison** – Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor gave an update on Recreation Division's Annual Attendance Comparisons. Mike explained that we are seeing some trends coming back after COVID.
  - Commissioner Tiseo asked with the Cultural Center closing do you see more inquires to use facilities or requesting space at Centennial Park? Tommy Scott replied he doesn't know of anything noticeable as of yet but will check with Libraries.
  - William Dryburgh asked Mr. Scott if there is more pressure on him to keep these numbers up with the shortages of staff that's going on now? Mr. Scott responded that Maureen Broderick and Tina Powell's crews are amazing but also tired, coming off of multiple years of COVID and all those changes and adjustments we made, along with facility hours and closing of Tringali, and then now to deal with the staff shortages tears

at our hearts to not be able to provide for the community because that's what we do, we want to be a resource for them to utilize our facilities.

**III. Wayfinding signage** – Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manager showed the new signage which was part of the County wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan to develop a Wayfinding system directing people to amenities. Ms. Powell showed the standards for signs and where they will go within the parks. The next phase will be to consolidate and redesign our non-regulatory signs.

- Tommy Scott added the signs have been standardized using one system of symbols to be consistent on our park signs, in our facilities, in our guides and on our website to be more user friendly.

**IV. Dogs in parks criteria** – Tina Powell explained in 2000 the Board passed in ordinance that made a select number of parks dog friendly and deferred future dog friendly parks to the decision of the Director of Community Services. Ms. Powell showed the *Dogs in parks criteria* required when assessing if a park is suitable for changing from a non-dog friendly park to a dog friendly park, which would also be on-leash, there is no criteria for off-leash parks.

The criteria consist of an application and three different levels of scoring. The criteria will be used in the Master Parks Plan and by request for existing parks. If the application and scoring are acceptable a notice will go out to surrounding property owners, and public notice would be sent out.

- Maria Greenberg asked how many parks are dog friendly? Ms. Powell replied, we have 64 parks and 11 of them are currently dog friendly.
- William Dryburgh asked if additional amenities would be put in a park if made dog friendly? Ms. Powell replied, yes dog bag dispensers, additional trash cans if needed, and when existing water fountains come up for replacement, we would replace them with a dog water fountain.
- Citizens from South Gulf Cove were present and many raised concerns about a South Gulf Cove Homeowners Association (SGCHOA) desire to create a 'dog park' in South Gulf Cove. After discussion with citizens and board, it was discussed that the criteria being presented today is to establish a process to evaluate current County Parks and if they should be 'dog friendly', not to establish a dog park. And that if the SGCHOA was interested in creating a dog park on a County owned parcel, that would require an agreement that would be brought before the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

A discussion between board members was had on whether the final decision for dog friendly parks being approved should be passed on to the BCC or remain as the current ordinance being the decision of the Director.

Motion to approve the *Dogs in park criteria* as presented made by Erick Toth, Kay Tvaroch 2<sup>nd</sup> and was unanimously approved.

- V. Carmalita Skate Park expansion public input** – Tina Powell discussed the Carmalita Skate Park expansion, stating since 2020 the staff has been working on implements to the park, and some deteriorated equipment was replaced. A survey will go out next week to the public for their input on some additions we want to add in two phases. A Survey Monkey showing two options will be posted on our website, social media and in the South County Recreation Center as well as Carmalita Skate Park, this will run for one month to get feedback of what options and additions residents want for the park.
- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth
    - Reviewed all athletic partnerships with different clubs volunteering to help with including the Easter Egg Hunt and Pitch Hit & Run
    - Went through facility field questions with Monty Rodriguez and staff
    - Reviewed spring field schedules
    - Reviewed volunteer forms
    - Had meeting with Gulf Coast Boosters on the benefit to help clubs with fundraising
  
  - Member Issues
  - Maria Greenberg mentioned she read Facebook comments regarding more seating needed at William R. Gaines Jr. Veterans Memorial Park playground. Tina Powell responded some benches were removed for the installation of equipment, but seating is being replaced.
    - Tommy Scott added that with the next round of sales tax dollars will be phase 3 which will include an additional larger pavilion with more seating.
  
  - William Dryburgh shared that he attended the C.A.R.E Ball with 670 others at the Charlotte Harbor Event Center and said the parking was not a good situation.
    - Commissioner Tiseo asked if there was a shuttle service from the existing parking garage for these one-time events? Mr. Dryburgh responded no, there was not a shuttle service nor is there a way of entering the Event Center without getting wet when it's raining, and with Event Center attendance numbers returning to pre-covid it was something needing to be addressed.
    - Tommy Scott explained the county went through a 20-year Capital Needs Assessment that shows on a map all the capital needs of every department, and the Event Center parking garage is on the list, but it is not in a category that received funding yet.
    - Commissioner Tiseo added that it is in the plan as Mr. Scott stated, but we prioritize sales tax projects to best meet the needs at the time, but nothing prohibits the BCC as sales tax dollars come in to look at surplus and we have the ability to look at surplus funds for tier 2 projects.

- Directors Report
- Tommy Scott asked the board what parks they wished to visit for the annual April PRAB field trip, and after giving his recommendations of Franz Ross Park, Ollies Pond Park and Audubon-Pennington Nature Park the board chose to visit all three on the April field trip and agreed to meet at 11:00 am at the Mid-County Library on April 6<sup>th</sup> to start the tour.

Tommy Scott gave an update on Rays Spring Training stating the first 5 games were canceled and possibly a few more games to be canceled due to the Baseball Players Association did not reach an agreement. Snowbird Classic is going on now with the next game on March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Scott handed out the new 2022 Charlotte County Guide available at all of our facilities, libraries, recreation centers, chambers and Murdock Administration building as well as online.

The Tringali Hockey Rink has completed all of its renovations, the Hockey Association will be having an open house on March 5<sup>th</sup> and thanks to the Board it will be up and running again.

- Citizens Input
- Announcement  
None
- Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1  
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2  
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3  
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 4  
Commissioner Joe Tiseo, District 5  
Hector Flores, County Administrator  
Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator

