

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

December 7, 2022

Board Attendance Record

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

Present

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

Absent

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Mike Koenig, Resource Manager
Jill Boyd, Recreation Superintendent
Marc Solomon, Recreation Superintendent
Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor
Ryan Normoyle, Recreation Supervisor
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Robert Alexander – Rotonda West
Tait Holleman - Rotonda West
Nancy Senon – The Daily Sun

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes
Motion to approve the 2022 June Minutes made by Maria Greenberg and Debra Anlauf 2nd and was unanimously approved.
- Division Reports – August, September & October 2022

- Old Business
 - **Smoking ban ordinance change** – Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services gave an update on the Smoking ban ordinance explaining that in July of 2022 the state legislature passed modifications to the state statute which preempted local governments from being able to enact any ordinance, rules, or laws on smoking. Previously they allowed rules to be made on vaping, then expanded on that giving local government the ability to make rules on smoking at parks and beaches, after going through the process of ordinance changes and hearings we presented it to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on October 25, 2022 and ordinance changes were approved and are now in effect which prohibit smoking at county parks and beaches.
 - Kay Tvaroch commented by thanking everyone that worked on getting this change made and stated the Community Health Action Team (CHAT) has been in contact with the Sarasota County Commissioners to urge them to adopt the same policy.

- New Business

- I. **Hurricane Ian** – Tommy Scott gave general recap of details, information and updates of what has happened since Hurricane IAN. Mr. Scott explained we started preparing a week before IAN by preparing our facilities, homes, and community. Over 100 county workers showed up the night before IAN getting four shelters ready to take in people (Kingsway Elementary School, Neil A. Armstrong Elementary School, Liberty Elementary School and Harold Avenue Recreation Center). We set-up cots, prepared food etc and the next day our staff worked the shelters taking care of 1000' of people with nowhere to go during the storm. We also helped set up and tear down a special needs shelter operated by the Department of Health (offering electric and oxygen) by managing all of their resources to help it operate.

All four of our shelters experienced flooding and roof damage as well as the special needs shelter losing power. We were happy to report no incidents, injuries and everyone was kept safe. The day after the storm our staff was out assessing damage at our facilities, they were in our parks with rakes and shovels clearing debris, walking through facilities looking for safety issues and working diligently for over a month to make parks and facilities safe, get them back up and running and get back a sense of normalcy in the community. We put in for and thankfully received a couple of support missions from other agencies who brought their equipment and staff to help clear debris and stump removal.

The county is dealing with insurance companies as is any resident in the county and also waiting for quotes to repair flooring, lighting, fencing, windows, roofing, rebuilding etc. We have had several residents express their displeasure with not having everything back to normal yet, but we hope citizens understand there are some families and individuals still living at our shelters with nowhere to go. We are making it our priority to make sure all facilities and sports fields are safe before they are reopened.

Our staff is amazing and has worked so hard and I am very proud of all of them. We have opened several libraires and recreation centers and staff are working diligently every day to get everything up and running.

Erick Toth asked is it the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that dictates where National Guard, Red Cross etc goes when an emergency is declared. Tommy Scott replied it is MASS Care which I am coordinator of and inevitably Patrick Fuller, Director of Emergency Management, it is a team effort to best service the community.

Commissioner Doherty thanked everyone of behalf of the Board of County Commissioners and expressed his gratitude and how proud he was of how everyone stepped up and handled the hurricane IAN disaster.

- II. **Summer Camp recap** - Jill Boyd, Recreation Superintendent updated of another successful year of Summer Camp that were held at five (5) of our Community Service facilities including Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park (ACDRP), Centennial Park (CP), Harold Avenue Regional Park (HARP), Port Charlotte Beach Park (PCBP), and South County Regional Park (SCRPP). Camp was held May 31st through August 5th and fees remained the same as last year. Registration was available on Active Net, by phone or in person at any recreation facility. There were \$5,625 in scholarships awarded to nine (9) families (total of 12 children).

Field trips this year were at Sun Splash, Stealth Mobile Laser Tag, Spinz, Hammer & Stain, Movie Theater, Water Slide and Slip & Slide, Bisque IT Studio, Sky Zone and Bowling. Guest Speakers included Drug Free Punta Gorda and Charlotte County, UF/IFAS, and Libraries and History.

Each location had wo camp supervisors and 4-12 counselors based on number of campers registered We had a total of 12,010 campers at all five (5) locations compared to 9,326 in 2021.

- III. **Swim Lesson recap** - Marc Solomon, Recreation Superintendent presented a recap of Learn to Swim (LTS) program which ran March 15th through July 29th at the Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Pool (ACDRPP), Centennial Park Pool and the South County Regional Park Pool (SCRPP). Lessons were two-week sessions with one week break between each session.

An estimated 274 staff hours were devoted to the LTS. Total participation was 289 in 2022 compared to 393 in 2021, this decrease was largely due to staffing challenges which we are continually working towards recruiting and training lifeguards. A total of 70 scholarships were awarded totaling \$2,800. Revenue generated \$13,005 in operating revenue to Community Services. Total expenses for the LTS program were \$1,500 for 3 locations.

- IV. **Englewood Beach parking** - Tommy Scott gave an update on Englewood Beach parking stating a presentation was given to the BCC on gated parking at Englewood Beach which would involve getting a ticket when entering and paying at gate when leaving based on time spent at the beach. The gate system cost would be \$675,000 just for the infrastructure without the actual internet system to operate it which would cost another \$75,000 to \$175,000 depending on which system. And the biggest cost

would be the complete redesign of Beach Road. The BCC accepted the presentation but gave no direction on next steps or when to bring it back.

Kay Tvaroch asked what the advantage of charging for beach parking is, Tommy Scott replied it is revenue generation just like any other fees we charge such as using the pool you pay a fee which does not cover the costs of the maintenance and repairs, but it does help offset the costs.

- V. **Fee Schedule** - William Dryburgh asked if Tommy Scott could put the Fee Schedule recommendations on next month's agenda and give an update, Mr. Scott agreed.
 - VI. **Reaccreditation** – Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor gave update on the Reaccreditation project stating the BCC recognized our Reaccreditation last month, we satisfied all the standards for reaccreditation for another 5 years as a CAPRA accredited agency. Mr. Norton thanked everyone for all their support.
 - VII. **Awards Summary for 2022** – Tommy Scott explained the Awards Summary acknowledges the great work that the Community Services staff does throughout the year and gave the Board a recap of this past year which included receiving Reaccreditation, received Best in Category from the National Association of County Awards (NACO) for Sam & Charlotte's Super Safari, NACO Parks & Recreation Officials Award, Employee of the Month Award (which also recognizes employees from other departments as well), Exceptional Service Award where our County Administration recognizes employees out in the field, quarterly Customer Service Award from the BCC and Employee Service Awards (ESA's) received from the County Administration for the Libraries & History Division. Community Services is being recognized state and nationally for the great work they do to support this community.
- **Sports Council Update** – Erick Toth
 - Worked on post Hurricane Ian status of facilities
 - Discussed with Lonnie Moore which facilities are opened/closed
 - Went through member stats and announcements, clubs
 - Went through nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman
 - Reviewed the meeting schedule for 2023
 - Took facility and field questions
 - **Member Issues**
 - Erick Toth asked if Fee Schedule was online to be able to relay that to promoters wishing to rent space. Tommy Scott replied yes.
 - Don McCormick asked if any room was available at South County Regional Park (SCRIP) for Silver Sneakers to run their program since the building they were running it out of was damaged by Hurricane IAN. Tommy Scott replied, the multi-purpose rooms are operational, and space is available to rent.

- William Dryburgh asked the PRAB if the time of the monthly meeting could be moved up to 3:00pm because he will now be serving on the City of Punta Gorda City Council which has their meeting the same day. Tommy Scott said it will be on the agenda as an item in January 2023 where the new time can be officially adopted.
- Commissioner Doherty announced that Steven Leskovich has filled the District 1 PRAB vacancy and will be attending the January 2023 meeting.
- Directors Report
 - Tommy Scott thanked everyone for their patience in getting back to the regular scheduled meetings due to the last two meetings being canceled because of the Hurricane.
- Citizens Input
 - Robert Alexander and Tait Holleman came to discuss the G.C. Herring RC Track and what could be done to rebuild it after being damaged by Hurricane IAN because it has become a great hobby enjoyed by people of all ages. Mr. Alexander and Mr. Holleman offered to help rebuild the track and asked for the PRAB input and if there are plans to rebuild in near future.
 - Tommy Scott, responded by saying that we are working through all of the damage from the hurricane, and the G.C. Herring and RC Track has been part of our Parks and Recreation Master Plan that started 5 years ago and there have been three rounds of public interest meetings specific to the RC Track that included a dirt track and RC drag strip. It is a sales tax project that has a funding mechanism by which to implement the design and construction of it. Funding will not be available until the end of 2023 or beginning of 2024 to start the process. Master planning has been completed, but we are waiting for the funding to become available and cannot reopen until it is safe and ADA compliant.
 - Mr. Holleman asked where he could view the plan design and Mr. Scott referred him to the Community Services website under park development where there is a visual representation of the Master Plan for G.C. Herring. Mr. Scott then introduced Mr. Alexander and Mr. Holleman to Mike Koenig, Resource Manager so they could exchange information and stay in touch.
- Announcement
None
- Adjourned at 3:25 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