

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

June 7, 2023

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh 6/6
Maria Greenberg 5/6
Don McCormick 6/6
Kay Tvaroch 5/6
Debra Anlauf 3/6
Erick Toth 5/6
Steven Leskovich 4/6

Present

William Dryburgh
Don McCormick
Erick Toth
Steven Leskovich

Absent

Maria Greenberg
Kay Tvaroch
Debra Anlauf

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Bill Mack – Englewood Soccer Club

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

- Roll Call

- Minutes

Motion to approve the 2023 May Minutes made by Erick Toth and Don McCormick 2nd and was unanimously approved.

- Division Reports – April 2023

- Old Business
Staff vacancies – Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services reported as of June 2nd we are at 77 vacancies. We are working with Human Resources doing marketing and promotions on the benefits of working for Charlotte County to recruit lifeguards and also are offering to hire individuals as lifeguards first and then train them so they can work as a lifeguard. We are down to needing 24 lifeguards bringing that down from 65. In addition, we went through staffing rates of pay which has made a significant difference which we thank the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for that. We also have 10 more people coming aboard in the next few weeks, just waiting on background checks.

- New Business

- I. **Snowbird Classic (SBC)** – Mike Norton, Recreation Supervisor gave a recap of the Snowbird Classic for February and March of 2023 at the Centennial Park (CP) and South County Regional Park (SCRP) ballfields, and stated it was another successful event. The total economic impact was \$13,641,756.00 by comparison in 2022 that number was \$11,103,810.

Division I had 10 teams and Division III had 19 teams totaling 29 teams in 2023. In 2022 Division I had 13 teams and Division III had 19 teams totaling 32 teams.

The attendance was:

Out of state participants were 1,500

Out of state adult fans were 8,500

Out of state youth fans were 100

Out of state media were 32

Playing fields at CP and SCRCP were booked for 92 different games or practices for the event.

The Snowbird Classic generated \$3,828 in operational revenue to Community Services, which included fees for field rentals, field prepping, lights and staff time.

Total expenses for this event were estimated to be \$56,374. The total estimated team expenditures were \$6,962,268 (information provided by Tourism).

Community Services total staffing hours to support the event were 1,188 hours.

- II. **NACo Awards** – Tommy Scott handed out a presentation on the National Association Counties (NACo) that the County belongs to and explained that every year NACo has a program that recognizes innovative programs by County government agencies. When we started in 2020 Community Services had 4 awards, in 2021 we had 7 awards and went to 12 awards in 2022, but this year 2023 we received 19 awards ranging from LG training scholarship program to Walking Fitness program; from Operations Manual & Plans Program to Emergency Shelter Ops. We continue to be recognized for being a leader in our field.

Commissioner Doherty asked if it will be presented at the National Association of Counties Conference, Tommy Scott replied yes it will be.

- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth
 - Reviewed the field and facilities scheduling reminders for all the sports clubs.
 - Master schedules were requested for all the seasonal sports.
 - Reviewed concession and facility updates for hurricane repairs.
 - We did a facility roundtable from all the clubs and comments from staff of what we are seeing in the fields.

- Member Issues
 - Don McCormick asked about an announcement of sports directors coming to the Sunseeker and asked if they would be bringing the teams as well. Tommy Scott replied no it would be just the sports directors and they will be making decisions of where they will go for the national and state tournaments and will be exposed to what Charlotte County has to offer in comparison to our neighbors and we hope it generates into future opportunity for us.
 - William Dryburgh inquired on the status of the Charlotte County Sports Park repairs. Tommy Scott responded by saying we have weekly owners' meetings between the construction company Wharton Smith, Tampa Bay Rays and our staff. They are working lead time with lighting plans, HVAC, lockers, carpeting and painting and we are still on track for meeting all inspections for the end of the year.

- Directors Report
 - Tommy Scott updated on Camp and stated it is going great, we have increased our capacity to about 300 kids, we changed from signing up for the whole year to by the week to accommodate the schedules of families that may be on vacation or other summer events going on etc.

Also Mr. Scott reminded everyone that there are no Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) meetings in July or August, and meetings will resume in September.

Commissioner Doherty reminded everyone during the summer the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) will be working on budgets.

- Citizens Input – Bill Mack from Englewood Soccer Club voiced concerns soccer fields not being operational. Mr. Mack stated Centennial Parks soccer fields have been vacant since the covid pandemic and now after Hurricane Ian still not operational. Mr. Mack stated he has a lot personally invested into his soccer teams and no fields to play on. Mr. Mack has used indoor fields at Ann & Chuck Dever Recreational Park before the Hurricane and he has used the utility field on San Casa, but was advised by Parks and Recreation that there is an agreement between Charlotte and Sarasota County that there can never be a soccer field in that complex and asked if this agreement can be waived until Centennial Park fields are back in operation?

Tommy Scott responded by saying Charlotte and Sarasota do not have an agreement in writing regarding fields, but an understanding that they run soccer and we run football to not duplicate services. We have no plans to put soccer fields in and we don't blend fields, we have primary uses for every field. We are working on getting the fields back to pre-hurricane condition, but it is a process and takes time and we ask for your patience and understanding.

- Announcement
None
- Upcoming events
None
- Adjourned at 3:40 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