

## **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

September 6, 2023

### **Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh 7/7

Maria Greenberg 6/7

Don McCormick 7/7

Kay Tvaroch 6/7

Debra Anlauf 4/7

Erick Toth 6/7

Steven Leskovich 5/6

### **Present**

William Dryburgh

Maria Greenberg

Don McCormick

Kay Tvaroch

Debra Anlauf

Erick Toth

Steven Leskovich

### **Absent**

### **County Representatives**

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison

Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services

Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources Manager

Mike Koenig, Resource Manager

Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

### **Guests**

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes  
Motion to approve the 2023 June Minutes made by Don McCormick and Erick Toth 2<sup>nd</sup> and was unanimously approved.
- Division Reports – April, May, June & July 2023
- Old Business

- **New Business**

**Purposed Parks & Recreation Ordinance changes** – Tina Powell, Parks and Natural Resources Manager went over the changes to the Ordinance that will be proposed to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The larger part of the changes was updating and adding to definitions making them more consistent. No overnight mooring of vessels was added as it has increasingly become an issue. We added a few prohibitions to the rental of our park pavilions including no glitter, balloons, nails, screws, and confetti as it creates clean up issues and introduces microplastics to the environment. Also, limiting people to do recreational activities such as golf and archery where it is not designated for safety issues.

We added some consistency to our environmentally sensitive ordinance we use for our park's introduction to species, protection of wildlife, using metal detectors other than sandy beaches. A specific ordinance was added for litter and dumping which enables us to enforce it, a vandalism ordinance and process for abandoned property was added as well.

Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services explained the process for this county ordinance will be to take it to the BCC for a set public hearing and then conduct a public hearing. Tommy Scott asked the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) if they would like to make a motion of recommendation.

Motion to revise and update the existing ordinance made by Erick Toth and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steven Leskovich and was unanimously approved.

- **Tennis leagues** – Tommy Scott explained that Tennis in Charlotte County Parks and Recreation used to be self-run by the leagues, but it became a struggle and they asked the county back in 2010 if we could take it on as an organized program, which we did. Since that time we have had user group issues and it's a risk and liability issue as we carry it and the users do not. Our recommendation is to give them two options with plenty of notice, one they can go back to an organized league on their own and they pay their own insurance, get a tax ID with the state, and book with us, or option two they can rent the sport court as a rental agreement as a regular citizen would and skip all of those steps.

William Dryburgh asked if this would be just tennis courts or blended courts. Mr. Scott replied this would be for all of our courts.

Maria Greenberg asked if the leagues decide to organize on their own can they book the courts months in advance to assure they have the courts when needed. Mr. Scott replied yes, that is what we do now.

- **Discuss Placida parcels** – Tommy Scott explained a handout he provided of the Placida area parcels that were purchase by Charlotte County. Two parcels on Placida Road across from the Placida Boat Ramp were purchased and we have discussed with the BCC and are looking to acquire the two parcels next to it as well. The seller is asking just under \$9M, the last time an appraisal was done they were \$4.5M, so we have had conversations with the BCC to find additional ways to fund the acquisition and we identified two grant

opportunities, one is through the community trust and the other is through the land water conservation fund. We believe we can get approximately \$4.3M through these grants which would leave \$4.6M county funding would need to come up with. We would use these parcels for trails and education. We will bring the grant opportunities to the BCC and get their permission to move forward and also have a public meeting.

Motion to approve the recommendations to the BCC for grant opportunities in the purchase of the Placida parcels made by Maria Greenberg and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don McCormick and was unanimously approved.

- **October tour locations** – The PRAB agreed on touring the Charlotte Sports Park (CSP) for the October tour to see the progress of repairs from Hurricane Ian. Time and date were discussed and it was agreed to meet Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup> at 3PM (instead of the previous date of October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11am). The PRAB will meet in the main parking lot by the playground entrance at Charlotte Sports Park.
  
- **Sports Council Update – Erick Toth**
  - Went through concession stands, maintenance, installation questions. We also went through hurricane Ian updates with facilities. Every club was required to go through heat related illness and emergency plans for the kids.
  
  - We handed out a volunteer project survey clubs to demonstrate how much volunteer work was completed.
  
  - Field and facility questions to make sure all clubs were up to date.
  
- **Member Issues**

Debra Anlauf shared a text message she received from a resident stating their observation was that some of the recreation staff were standing around doing nothing and wanted to know why pickleball was not being offered at Tringali when they are being told it is due to the hurricane and/or staffing issues.

Tommy Scott replied, we know we are having some struggles with only having 2 gyms that are operational when we are used to having 6 gyms. We are still in the process recovering and making repairs from hurricane Ian, staff had to be shuffled around to other facilities due to 3 of our facilities are still closed down. Our staff is still working hard on programming, various activities and summer camp, but yes there are more staff members than what there would normally be due to shutdowns. Actually, today we just had our first meeting with FEMA nearly one year after the hurricane, so the process is ongoing. We are trying but some things are out of our control.

Don McCormick suggested that a staff member write an article explaining that we are in the process of working with and waiting on insurance companies to get the repairs needed to be fully functional, and it is the same long and frustrating process for the

county to work with insurance companies and contractors than it is for individual residents that had damage to their homes.

Tommy Scott replied, that is a good thought. We do Hurricane Ian updates with the BCC monthly, but we have had ongoing complaints where people are impatient and don't understand. So yes, I will speak with Brian Gleason in the Public Information Office (PIO) and see about crafting an article.

- Directors Report

Tommy Scott gave an update on the vacancies stating we have over 70 vacancies, we were lower than that, but some high school and college kids left to go back to school.

For Hurricane Idalia we were prepared and had a shelter set up at Centennial Recreational Center. We had some damage at Bayshore Live Oak Point, and some specific damage at Port Charlotte Beach Park, other than that we had some clean up at several parks.

Regarding Hurricane Ian, we had our first meeting with FEMA project at Englewood Beach, next week at Port Charlotte Beach and then a third meeting at South County Regional Park (SCRIP), which are top three priorities. We will discuss everything that is not covered by insurance that needs repaired. Our facilities department has broken the county down into three zones that we have a contractor responsible for fixing the insured items in those areas, after we have a contract price identifying those repairs we take it to the BCC for approval authorizing for the work to be completed.

- Announcement  
None
- Upcoming events  
None
- Adjourned at 3:55 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