

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

November 1, 2023

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh 2/2
Maria Greenberg 2/2
Don McCormick 2/2
Kay Tvaroch 2/2
Debra Anlauf 2/2
Erick Toth 2/2
Steven Leskovich 2/2

Present

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

Absent

County Representatives

Joseph Tiseo, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manager
Mike Norton, Recreation Superintendent
Jill, Boyd, Recreation Superintendent
Leah Williams, Recreation Supervisor
Chad Campbell, Aquatics Coordinator
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Robin Cyphert

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes
Motion to approve the 2023 June Minutes made by Maria Greenberg and Debra Anlauf 2nd and was unanimously approved.
- Division Reports – August & September 2023

- Old Business
None
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- New Business
Squatch Watch – Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manager shared a new program within Parks and Natural Resources called Squatch Watch that started on October 1st. Our environmental staff is hiding pink Squatch Watch handprints throughout our environmental parks for people to find, if you find one you can submit a photo and will get a sticker, if you do all of the environmental parks in west county you receive a small prize and if you continue and do mid-county and south county the prizes will grow and get bigger. This is an effort to get people out to our environmental parks that they may not have ever visited before. Our social media campaign has reached over 28,000 people.
- **Summer Camp Recap** – Leah Williams, Recreation Supervisor went through the Summer Camp Recap stating the camp ran from May 30th through August 9th, the price stayed the same and the camp locations this year were Centennial Recreational Park (CP), South County Regional Park (SCRPP), Harold Avenue Regional Park (HARP) and Tringali Park Community Center (TP). Registration was available via Active Net, in person at SCRPP, HARP and CP.

\$5,011 in scholarships were awarded to seven (7) families (total of 12 children). Field Trips and included Jumpin' Fun, Pirate Cruise, Laser Tag, Port Charlotte Movie Theatre, Headpinz, Sun Splash Canoe Outpost, Escape Room, IMAF Science Center, Big Splash, Do the Happy Bounce and Bisque It Studios. Guest Speakers included Drug Free Charlotte County, Drug Free Punta Gorda, Libraries, UF-IFAS, and the Tampa Bay Rays.

Attendance numbers decreased from 2022 to 2023 due to the lower occupancy levels based upon the limited available amenities at each facility (caused by Hurricane Ian). We received good feedback from parents that were happy with the program and grateful we were able to offer camp due to limited facilities this year.

- **Swim Lesson Recap** – Chad Campbell, Aquatics Coordinator went through the Learn to Swim (LTS) Recap stating this year lessons were held from March to July at the Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park Pool (ACDRPP), Centennial Park Pool (CPP) and the South County Regional Park Pool (SCRPP). Lessons were two-week sessions with a one week break between each session, break week was used for make-up lessons.

There was a total of 321 participants in 2023 compared to 289 participants in 2022. There were 94 scholarships awarded that were valued at \$3,760. The LTS lessons generated \$14,445 in operating revenue to Community Services. The total expense for this program was \$1,500 for the three (3) LTS locations. Each facility paid a \$300 annual registration fee to the American Red Cross and spent \$200 on equipment and program materials.

- **Economic Impact Numbers from FY 22'-23'** – Mike Norton, Recreation Superintendent went over the numbers from the Economic Impact which generated just over \$28M through a wide variety of programs including softball, baseball, and colag swim teams and snowbird classic generated revenue.
- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth
 - We reviewed the field lighting time schedules with the time change in October.
 - Finished our Youth Council Applications and ordered record updates for the clubs.
 - Changed management reporting to monthly.
 - Facility and field updates on Hurricane Ian.
 - Club election and nominations.
 - Field and facility Q & A's.
- Member Issues

Maria Greenberg expressed her concern for the negative comments she has heard people making regarding their frustration with county facilities and different programs not being back to normal after Hurricane Ian damages. Maria understands and sees how hard everyone is working at the county to get the repairs made and all the challenges that they face and wished that the people making these unkind remarks and assumptions could see the whole picture and be more patient, and if there was a way the county could get status updates out to people so they are aware of the progress being made.

Tommy Scott replied, he is aware as well of people's frustrations, and stated the majority of people don't realize how long it takes to get everything back to normal, and stated that it has taken over a year to finally get a FEMA representative to come out and start reviewing our parks, our paperwork was turned into them in January 2023, now FEMA will go back and do an evaluation and assessment of the damages before making any decisions on giving funds. We have had a variety of articles in the newspaper, we have had interviews on news stations, and we give weekly updates to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) on the progress, but the process is slow and it's hard to give the public specific dates of when things will be completed, but we are working on repairing all of the damage and progress is being made.

Commissioner Tiseo commented when he is out at county events or at the parks with his children, he hears the negative comments as well and has people approach him all the time asking for answers, people want to know when everything will be back to normal, and asking if work is being done. I reassure them that the work is being done, we want the parks open as well, and we know it's your tax dollars and are working hard to get everything repaired, but it has to be done correctly to assure safety for the community and there is a process to follow which will take patience from everyone.

Debra Anlauf announced that she will not be seeking a reappointment for her District 4 position with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB). Debra stated that although she has enjoyed her time on the committee and the experience she has gained, she has decided to do some traveling with her husband in the upcoming year but will really miss everyone!

- Directors Report
Tommy Scott gave an update on Hurricane Ian repairs stating the BCC approved three contracts since the last meeting for insurance companies to start doing the insurance repairs, the contracts range from \$3M-\$5M a piece. Parks where repairs will start are South County that include Bissett Park, Carmalita Park, West County that include Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, Rotonda Community Park, Chadwick Park, Englewood Beach, Tringali Park and GC Herring Park and Mid-County that include Deep Creek Park, Centennial Park, and Lake Betty Park.

There is also a program with the federal government called the Hazard Mitigation Grant program where they assign a value of funds that each community receives based on damages, the County's initial entitlement was to receive \$102M at 75/25 split which the county will have to have money for. This will be for mitigation projects.

We are also working on damage from Hurricane Dahlia where there was more than \$1M in damages, so we are filing additional insurance claims for that as well.

- Announcement
None
- Upcoming events
None
- Adjourned at 3:48p.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