

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February 7, 2024

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh 5/5
Maria Greenberg 5/5
Don McCormick 3/5
Kay Tvaroch 5/5
Robin Cyphert 2/2
Erick Toth 5/5
Steven Leskovich 4/5

Present

William Dryburgh
Maria Greenberg
Kay Tvaroch
Robin Cyphert
Erick Toth
Steven Leskovich

Absent

Don McCormick

Guests

Frank DiFiore – PC Daily Sun

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Mike Norton, Recreation Superintendent
Jill Boyd, Recreation Superintendent
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes
Motion to approve the 2024 January Minutes made by Maria Greenberg and Kay Tvaroch 2nd and was unanimously approved.
- Division Reports – December 2023
- Old Business
None
- New Business

Lou Agosta retirement – Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services shared Lou Agosta chairperson of the Sports Youth Council has officially decided to retire.

Erick Toth recommended that we get some ideas together, such as a field naming or plaque on the field for Lou Agosta, since he has made such an impact in the community and has been the chairperson of Port Charlotte Little League for so long, as well as an ambassador.

Maria Greenberg suggested having a plaque at the concession stand honoring Lou Agosta since he spent a lot of time there and loved interacting with the children.

Motion to name the concession stand facility at Harold Avenue Regional Park Baseball fields in honor of Lou Agosta made by Maria Greenberg and Kay Tvaroch 2nd and was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Doherty asked Tommy Scott to look into also doing a proclamation in honor of Lou Agosta.

Tommy Scott added that we are also nominating Lou Agosta for the Florida Recreation Parks Association (FRPA) Volunteer of the Year award and will keep the board posted on that.

- **Fee Schedule – Recommended Revisions** – Tommy Scott explained the Fee Schedule handout stating every year we go through this and look for any potential opportunities for improvements. The changes made this year were non-fee related, but all clarification changes when working with our attorney's office to ensure everything is clearly written for what the fees are intended for.

Commissioner Doherty asked on the cancelation policy if the security deposit was refundable. Tommy Scott replied we have always required a \$100 security fee for rentals over 30 people, but it is refundable.

Tommy Scott added that at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) direction we have been working diligently for an online solution where a customer can go online and rent a pavilion without a two weeks' notice, and we happy to say we are now offering this option.

Motion to recommend Fee Schedule for approval made by Erick Toth and Stephen Leskovich 2nd and was unanimously approved.

- **Spring Training Update** – Jill Boyd, Recreation Superintendent went over Spring Training updates. The Tampa Bay Rays are back and we are thrilled to start the 2024 Spring Training games! Charlotte Sports Park (CSP) will host 13 Spring Training home games in 2024. We went through a recent hiring event and just finished training 94 event staff members. Jill went over the renovations that have been completed at CSP and everything is ready to go. There is a lot of excitement out there in the community and we are happy to have the Rays back!

Tommy Scott added that last week we hosted a Media Day at CSP, there were 15 media outlets there from Fort Myers to Tampa there and Jill Boyd and her team did an amazing job walking everyone around. Dan Moeller of the Tampa Bay Rays was in attendance as well as facilities and myself giving interviews.

Jill Boyd informed everyone of the *USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards* survey coming out February 12th. In 2014, the Charlotte Sports Park was recognized as the *Best Spring Training Facility* by the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards. As part of the 10 year Anniversary for this prestigious accolade, this Reader's Choice Award has been offered again and we want to do everything in our power to defend our "crown" and continue to be the BEST Spring Training Facility in all of baseball, and asked everyone to Please Vote! The website is **www.10best.usatoday.com/awards**

- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth
 - Went through Youth Council Sports meeting schedule for 2024.
 - Went through 2024 field scheduling for spring season and regular season games.
 - Reviewed Snowbird Classic that begins February 16th through March 24th.
 - Some of our fields are being prepped for use.
 - We did a Q & A session with field and facilities.
- Member Issues

Robin Cyphert asked about Ollies Pond fish count and stated it dried up about two years ago and she has noticed no birds are there anymore and there used to be several species.

Tommy Scott replied that Ollies Pond is only a retention pond and not an actively managed environmental area, it's primary purpose is to provide storm water retention for the area and we do not manage a fish count there. The issue with the birds not present is due to the hurricane and we have experienced this across the county, the birds are very good at knowing when a hurricane is coming and know when to move on, they will come back but it takes time.

Maria Greenberg asked what her reply should be when asked by residents when the replacement of shade structures will be. Tommy Scott replied that shade structure replacements fall under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Thirteen months after the claim was submitted, FEMA came out and walked through the damaged areas and sent us back a report. This is a process, and we are actively working on 58 project sheets with our consultants they have sent back to us, from here we can challenge the report, ask for an extension or add/subtract to the report. Each time something changes the clock resets, this can be a 3-5 year process unfortunately.

- Directors Report

Tommy Scott updated the board on our insured assets and stating we have met with the contractors hired for the repairs and the Ann & Chuck Dever Recreation Park will become available October of 2024 and Tringali Recreation Center will be available in January 2025. The big issue taking so much lead time is gymnasiums and air conditioning replacements and repairs.

Commissioner Doherty gave a final comment thanking everyone for their hard work on the ballpark! And said he had the privilege of working on the 1.0 and the 2.0 version of CSP and is happy to say they are working on a potentially next version (3.0) and stated it will really be exciting if the plans go through.

Announcement

None

- Upcoming events
None
- Adjourned at 3:47p.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