

## **Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

December 4, 2024

### **Board Attendance Record**

William Dryburgh 3/3

Maria Greenberg 3/3

Vacant – District 2

Kay Tvaroch 3/3

Robin Cyphert 2/2

Erick Toth 3/3

Steven Leskovich 3/3

### **Present**

William Dryburgh

Maria Greenberg

Kay Tvaroch

Erick Toth

Steven Leskovich

### **Absent**

Robin Cyphert 2/2

### **County Representatives**

Joseph Tiseo, Commission Liaison

Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services

Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager

Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resource Manager

Mike Koenig, Resource Manager

Marc Solomon, Recreation Superintendent

Nancy Pizzino, Recreation Superintendent

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

- **Roll Call** – Tommy Scott
- **Minutes**  
Motion to approve the 2024 November Minutes made by Maria Greenberg and Steven Leskovich 2<sup>nd</sup> and was unanimously approved.
- **Division Reports** – November 2024  
Everyone gave it a look as a slide show, no questions.
- **Old Business**  
**Parks & Recreation Master Plan** – In November, at the board workshop, Tommy Scott presented both the Parks Recreation Master plan as well as the presentation that I gave to you all on Sport Field Challenges and Options that we had. Really good dialogue and conversation with the board. We are bringing it back at next Tuesday 's Board meeting on Dec. 10th, for seeking official adoption by resolution of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We didn't hear any comments or questions or anything to change. We're taking that forward to the board.  
  
**Sports Field Challenges and Options** -There was some really good conversation that was had. We're going to be looking at identifying some ways to try and fold in some of

the opportunities that we had talked about. There was a lot of discussion around the Board using synthetic turf. Specifically, there were concerns on price and heat and injury, and so I didn't get the feel from the Commission that was really something that they were interested in us pursuing. But looking at some of those other options like adding additional fields at sports parks we already have. Looking at long term with the park master plan as we add new parks, and to be able to add some in there. And then we're working with the Tourism department, Sean Doherty and Sean Walter, to identify how we potentially could make a big mega complex. We're exploring all of those actions, but I thought it was a good conversation, well received. And so, we're moving forward next Tuesday, we'll present a resolution.

Members were interested in some of the feedback from the Commissioners regarding the synthetic turf. Several of them, obviously Commissioner Doherty knows about. Commissioner Tiseo his son has played travel ball, so he's been on synthetic turf fields. Commissioner Truex was an umpire for baseball and softball for years and has officiated on synthetic. So, heat was a significant issue! It's also costly to install. It's less maintenance, but you still must do maintenance. The life expectancy of it is a little bit longer, but then you still must buy new carpet every ten years. Natural grass is what will be my recommendation, just personally and professionally.

Maria wanted to let you all know that Monty and his crew do a wonderful job on all the fields', and everyone agreed. With the board and their conversation, they were more in line with staying with natural grass.

At the last Board hearing citizens came out during public comment to discuss their desire to get Port Charlotte reopened. Tommy gave an update on where the facility is from a safety perspective and plans for reopening. The Board had a good dialogue and good conversation about it.

- **New Business**

Summer Camp 2024 had an increase in numbers from 2023 to 2024.

Overall camp programs went well over the course of the summer, and we didn't have any major issues. We're growing back into the facilities as they reopen.

Swim lesson recap: The swim program was done at three locations in the Ann and Chuck Regional Park Pool, Centennial Park Pool and South County Regional Park Pool.

Marc Solomon went over how the scholarships have been a big asset to our children in this county. We partner with the American Red Cross.

Tommy announced that Mike Norton would be leaving us on Jan. 3, 2025, and Nancy Pizzino will be taking his place. Nancy Pizzino presented to the Board the achievements: The National Association of Counties presented thirteen awards. We had five employees of the month awards; and three hundred fifty-one kudos for our Recreation division. It's a great success to speak to what our staff is doing in our department.

- **Sports Council Update – Erick Toth**

- Update the REKEYING program of the concession stands, was moved to January, February.
- We reviewed the Christmas initiative with the Guardian ad Litem Club. They're doing gifts for kids and books, gift cards, arts and crafts. Christmas.

- The Council voted not to hold a December meeting.
- A new member, South Florida Elite All Stars, a flag football organization.
- Then we also got a handout for the new level two forms and making sure that everyone is running the same background checks.
- Went over facility status and updates from all the hurricane repairs and any updates on the fields and turn those in tomorrow.

## **Member Issues**

Steve Leskovich –1. Steve attended a National League of Cities Conference in Tampa that held exhibits and showcases of Parks and Recs Departments in Florida. I found it really interesting how they were showcasing their facilities, look at us kind of display. We should look into this for next year.

2. Do we have any Dog Leash pamphlets, Flyers? There are pamphlets located at most of our Recreation parks. We have two designated Dog Parks (Paw Parks) at Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park, 6791 San Casa Drive, Englewood, FL 34224; and Katherine Ariens Dog Park, 22410 Glass Lane, Charlotte Harbor, FL.

## **Directors Report**

- Pam, thank you so much for filling in and covering for us the last couple months. Tommy asked if anybody noticed when you came in, but Jane Ravella is in with us, as is Pam. Jane worked for Charlotte County, mostly for Community Services. Jane is now back as Tommy's assistant. You'll start seeing her writing this. I'm super excited for Jane to be here.
- Second thing is it's getting to be winter training time for college swim teams. Been lucky that we've had a handful that have come through the years. Here we have five teams that are coming, three teams inclusive of the US Coast Guard Academy. Their dive team is going to come do their diving practice here and then also a Division One from the University of Arkansas and they'll be here from mid-December, and they come and go over the span of a week to ten days through the middle of January.
- Upcoming events  
None
- Adjourned at 3:40p.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