

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Wednesday, November 5, 2025 – 3:00 p. m.

Centennial Park Recreation Center – Large Multi-Purpose Room

Minutes

Board Members

William Dryburgh, Chairman

Maria Greenberg, Vice Chairwoman

Steven Leskovich

Kay Tvaroch (A)

Laura Rouse

Robin Cyphert

Erick Toth

County Representatives

Tommy Scott, Director Comm. Svcs.

Maureen Broderick, Rec. Manager

Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Res. Mgr.

Ben Hess, Recreation Superintendent

Leah Williams, Recreation Superintendent

Joele Kirkpatrick, C. S. Coordinator

1. Chairman to Announce:

Anyone wishing to address the board during this portion of the meeting must state one's name for the record and what agenda subject is to be discussed. Discussion is limited to matters identified on this agenda.

There is a gentleman present, Scott Prosuch, Charlotte County Resident, who would like to speak about the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. He feels that there is no information as to when the beach would be open. We have attended meetings, 450 signatures from the people who live in the area brought to the meetings and yes you put up signs, but it doesn't give us the dates as to when the beach will be open again. Tommy Scott was able to assure him that the beach will be open after the dredging is completed. In December 2025.

2. Roll Call by Jane Ravella

Board members present were William Dryburgh, Maria Greenberg, Erick Toth, Robin Cyphert, Steven Leskovich, Kay Tvaroch (A), and Laura Rouse.

3. Approval of June 4, 2025, Minutes

The chairman asked if anyone had any questions? None. Motion to approve by Maria Greenberg and seconded by Steven Leskovich. Motion passed without objection.

Chairman's Privilege, on behalf of this Board, we express our sincere condolences to our attorney and her family at the loss of her son.

4. Division Reports

Bill Dryburgh asked any questions? None

5. Old Business – Hurricane Updates

Update on the Seawall at the Event Center

Recap: seawall was failing, and so we had been in the process through our capital improvement project to replace the seawall. Fast forward throw in a few storms along the way, we're looking for FEMA money to do some mitigation to put riprap and additional riprap in front of it so that way it can stabilize it. Additionally, after the last flooding event, the walkway that is closest to the seawall, those brick pavers undermined, falling apart, which is why it has been fenced off. Behind the event center we have opened an access point all the way from the trail over by the tiki bar through behind the event center, over to where the bridge is, so there's an access people can get through there. Now there's not much beyond the bridge right now, so just you know we're working on that. We do have our Army Corps permit for the seawall. We want to do those projects together from an economy of scale and mobilization. When we do that, then we'll fix the walkway itself at the same time. So, it's in the process.

We've talked about Englewood Beach, all the damage there. Now the parking lot is open. We have design options on the boardwalk and walkovers, we're bringing those to the board on the twenty fifth of November, so we'll have options. We're going to discuss those with the board, get some directions that way we can finish the design and then start moving forward to do our permitting and then move into construction.

We've started a new segment. It's called Construction and Coffee. We go out, we walk through locations, they drink coffee and talk about what we're doing, trying to give them timelines, to give scope and scale of what we're doing. Again, just as an effort to communicate, we have completed our project status update pages for all our hurricane projects. We are always working on moving forward, in a timely matter, we have projects in design which does take time, then it goes to permitting.

Bayshore – we talked about that, we got phase one open and going to the board on the twenty fifth for that design firm. Have you looked around or seen our social media that we put out, that we've got our shades in process, and we have timelines that we

are doing. We spoke about signs are being put out in the parks with a QR code that will link back to that website with the project status update, that will kind of give an update of information so people can see where we're at in the process.

We have been talking about the fishing piers, again it goes to design, and we have a contract for Englewood fishing pier. We hope to present that to the board in November or December. We are working on many designs for the fishing piers, it all takes time.

Several months ago, you asked about additional staffing that was not approved in our budgetary process. I brought a couple of different things, one being park maintenance, one being ball field maintenance that to maintain to with the staff we have, we were going to have to reduce our level of service in parks and ball fields. Basically, we had parks that we were going to lower our level of service, visit them less, pick up trash less, do maintenance less. Then we're going to have some that were going to maintain higher, specifically Englewood Beach, Placida Boat ramp and McGuire Park going to maintain at the highest level, seven days a week. Correspondingly we had to offset by reducing levels at South Gulf Cove, Tringali, Spring Lake meaning going from seven-day week to five days, to a three day. Board said yes, approved and asked to move forward with that. Next was ball fields, same general concept. Ann and Chuck; Centennial; South County; or Carmelita and Franz Ross and the board said, no thank you. They authorized us to bring back the fifteen positions that we had asked for in the budget so that we could maintain our current level of service for both our local users and the current allotment of tournaments that we support. There will be more changes coming our way as we move forward with this.

6. New Business

Calendars- Attached

We had a person write us that they couldn't find the calendar like they had last year and was very unhappy about it. Our software we use is called **active**, that manages all our database. Our scheduling is all our customers, when you register for a program, or camp it's all in there. They have a calendar feature we went to that is now automated. So, you can go and look on our website. There are so many options. The one thing it doesn't do is look like it was before. It updated to the minute, it reduces our errors, it improves our communication. It makes it way more flexible for people to consume however they want.

Summer Camp Recap – Attached

Leah Williams- gave a recap of all the work they did and took questions from the board members when did the registration open up? Typically, the first Monday in March – we opened at seven and was sold out by seven fifteen. It is based on how many counselors we get, and we do have a waiting list as well. We have the best camp in the area.

Swim Lesson Recap – Attached

Marc Solomon – recapped his part of Learn to Swim summary with program locations, dates; Program Specifics – lessons were two-week sessions with one week break between each session for make-up classes due to weather. Participation was 293 for 2025. Scholarships awarded 81 total. Swim lessons and be safe. We also partake in the Largest Swim Meet lesson in America every year.

Economic Impact from FY25 – Attached

Nancy Pizzino – Tourism provides us with this Economic impact report, but in October there were five county field tournaments that were canceled due to Hurricane Milton; and in November there was two county field tournaments canceled due to Hurricane Milton as well. We also had an ownership change for the February Snowbird Classic, so the numbers fell off.

Ollies' Pond –

Tommy spoke about the Ollie's Pond – I believe you all got the same email sent out to you as I did. To start it's a retention pond. It is part of our master stormwater process that Public Works is responsible for overseeing. However, over time it's a beautiful are and Community Services have put in park like features, like a walking path, some overlooks, parking areas for people. There is wildlife depending on the season and also a pond which the animals and birds love as well. Remember it is a stormwater pond, we don't do a whole lot to maintain it as long as it's still functioning. At a meeting with the Board of County Commissioners they discussed this topic. Public Works John Elias got up there and said as a stormwater pond it is functioning as we need it to.

7. Sports Council Update – Erick Toth

Erick said the youth sports council met as we always do and went over the ne combinations on the locks that were sent out to all the clubs. We reviewed a lot of the winter schedules for the different youth organizations. It is time for elections by

the end of November. They did some nominees until the fourteenth, then they need to be in. The holiday giving program this year is going to the Guardian Ad Litem. They are going to have some more information on this month's meeting about that. The Harold Avenue bathrooms were near completion and ahead of schedule. We have the Major League Baseball Pitch Hit and Run on December 6th, Saturday. We are asking the clubs for volunteers for that and setting that up.

8. Members Issues

Maria Greenberg is getting ready for her daughter's Wedding on the 15th.
All wished her well!

9. Director's Report

Tommy apologized we couldn't go on the October tour. The agenda didn't get out on time. Bayshore is open for parking, greenspace and the fireplace pavilion. Next, I have a new Guide that we just got in. They will be distributed to all the Recreation and Libraries. The really came out beautiful. I've provided everyone here a copy. Tommy said we will talk about the upcoming year 2026 and talk about meetings and tours in next month's meeting.

10. Citizen Input

11. Announcement

12. Upcoming Events

13. Adjournment – 3:52 p.m.

There may be one or more Board of County Commissioners in attendance at any given meeting.