MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

Naples, Florida

August 21, 2019

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 1:53 P.M. at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Edward “Ski” Olesky

VICE-CHAIR: Ms. Mary Bills

Mr. Phil Brougham, Advisory Board Member

Mr. Joshua Fruth, Advisory Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Barry Williams, Division Director, Parks and Recreation Division

Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Division

Mr. Miguel Rojas, Jr., Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation Division

Ms. Annie Alvarez, Regional Manager, Parks and Recreation Division

Ms. Margaret Bishop, Principal Project Manager, Facilities Management

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**I. Call to Order**

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence observed.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the August 21, 2019 meeting agenda. Mr. Brougham seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IV. Approval of June 19, 2019 Minutes**

***Mr. Brougham*** ***entered a motion to approve the June 19, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fruth. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**V. Capital Projects Update – Ms. Bishop**

**+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park:** Phase I of the project is now out for construction bids, due back August 27, 2019. Work is anticipated to begin in October 2019, with completion of Phase I projected for 2021.

**+Barefoot Beach Boardwalk and Pavilions (North access):** The design plan for the project is at 100% and is scheduled for presentation to the TDC for approval on September 23, 2019 and for the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) review and approval on September 24, 2019.Construction will be done by Infinite Construction, LLC, with a November 2019 start date.

**+Clam Pass Boardwalk Repair:** Temporary repairs have been completed, with negotiations now underway with the Naples Grande to identify a date for commencement of permanent repairs, sometime following summer 2020. Mr. Brougham inquired as to whether the restroom expansion project may be done concurrently with the boardwalk repairs. Ms. Bishop noted the hope is for work to be done on both projects simultaneously, however the restroom expansion and boardwalk repair are separate projects, utilizing separate contractors.

**+East Naples Community Park Master Plan:** Electrical upgrades are currently being completed throughout the park. AVB is creating the design plans for ten additional pickle ball courts. Both projects are planned to be completed prior to the April 2020 U.S. Open Pickleball Championship. The existing maintenance facility will be torn down, with placement of a slab for a temporary maintenance structure, relocated along the boundary of the Isles of Collier and the soccer field. Designs for the Welcome Center are also under review.

**+Collier County Sports Complex:** Preliminary land clearing, placement of stormwater structures, etc., is near completion, with underground utility construction currently underway. Construction of five Phase I buildings will also soon commence.

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Artificial turf field construction is planned to begin in October/November 2019 and is scheduled for availability for use in February/March 2020. All Phase 1 facilities are currently scheduled for completion in May 2020; including the Great Lawn, food truck park, and Pavilion with food and beverage area. Stadium completion is anticipated in December 2020.

+Mr. Brougham requested clarification regarding some abbreviations assigned to several open projects on the capital projects list. Mr. Williams noted descriptors given to projects for internal use, however explained that repairs were being done to interactive water features at Vineyards Community Park, as well as major court resurfacing planned throughout the Parks system, to include tennis and basketball courts.

+Mr. Brougham inquired as to the status of changing the Eagles Lakes Community Park sign in honor of Commissioner Fiala, as previously approved by the BCC. Mr. Williams stated that a proposal and mockup have been received from Lykins-Signtek, to re-letter the existing sign to read, “Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park.” This proposal is currently under review by executive management. Mr. Brougham inquired as to the size of the lettering and the elevation of the sign. Mr. Williams will forward a copy of the current mockup and dimensions to Mr. Brougham for review and feedback.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Parks Suggestions**

Mr. Williams and Mr. Steve Carnell recently met with Commissioner Solis to discuss feedback the Commissioner had received from members of GAIN (Growing Associates in Naples), a Chamber of Commerce program designed for next generation leaders, ages 21-40. The young professionals involved in this program had expressed a desire for an alternative park experience in Collier County, with less focus on sports activities, with large scale outdoor art and/or music events, and with cafes or restaurants within the park. Ms. Bills and Mr. Fruth noted that the Collier Sports Complex will offer this type of experience to visitors, with two food trucks and four food vendors on site, a bar, miles of pathways, as well as the opportunity for pickup games, such as sand volleyball, and special events on the Great Lawn. Children playscape areas, and seating areas with fire pits are also planned. The Sports Complex will undergo a name change to reflect the multiuse capabilities of the facility, with sponsorship currently being sought. Ms. Bills noted the opportunity to expand local existing parks to include similar amenities in the future. Ms. Alvarez also noted staff attendance at the first strategic planning meeting for the development of a County wide cultural arts program, sponsored by the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB), which may dovetail with the expanded use of Parks concept.

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1. **Summer Camp Presentation**

Ms. Alvarez noted the tremendous amount of preparation done throughout the year in order to ensure a successful summer camp program throughout the County. A theme is chosen for each summer program, with activities chosen to support the theme, including crafting, athletics, recreational games, food experiences, and science projects. 2019 summer camp goals included increasing attendance, revamping the Jr. Leader program, and launching a new online training system for staff, with onsite training the week prior to camp commencement. Safety drills were conducted as well, including for fire, active shooter, and storms. Staff and senior volunteers assisted with water and park “watch” activities to further ensure children’s safety. Quality control inspections were also conducted of each campsite throughout the summer.

Camp Collier 2019 yielded 753 children who enrolled in full sessions and 2220 campers who enrolled for weekly programs, totaling 2973 children. This number reflected an increase over the 2436 enrolled campers in 2018. Further, an additional 650 children were enrolled in week-long specialty camps, for a grand total of 3623 summer camp participants.

**VII. Old Business**

**a. Veterans Park Update**

Mr. Williams noted that a review of conditions at Veterans Park had been undertaken following concerns shared by a Naples resident, Mr. Chuck Schumacher, at a recent BCC meeting. Mr. Schumacher’s son is a participant in the Cal Ripkin Baseball League, which plays primarily at Veteran’s Park. The Cal Ripkin Foundation has made funds available for the creation of a stand alone facility, however the suggestion was made to improve the existing Community Park. Unfortunately, the Foundation disallows the investment of funding into a public facility. Mr. Williams pointed out Veterans Park as being one of the oldest Parks in the County, with water drainage issues, old fencing, and a need for updating of field irrigation systems, with an estimated cost of $10M-$15M.

Mr. Williams noted working with the County Manager’s office to identify and prioritize deferred Capital Projects which currently lack finding, in order to possibly secure low interest debt for funding of these projects, versus continued repair and replacement. Potential projects include lighting, irrigation systems, infrastructure, elevations, etc. Mr. Brougham suggested PARAB review and input in the identification and prioritization of the capital projects chosen.

**b. Parks and Recreation Month “Game On”**

Collier County Parks and Recreation joined with the National Recreation and Park Association to celebrate the month of July as National Parks & Recreation month.

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A variety of events were held throughout the month, including a Great Park Scavenger Hunt, 4th of July Fireworks at Sugden Regional Park, Conservation Collier Preserve cleanup at Rail Head Preserve, Hot Summer Nights pool parties, community walks and swim nights. An ice cream social was held at Aaron Lutz Neighborhood Park in partnership with the Collier County Sheriffs office, with positive feedback received from the local community on the event.

**c. NFC Grant Update**

Mr. Williams reported that the NFC Fitness Grant has been approved and will be presented to the BCC in September 2019. Sites identified for the construction of fitness courts include North Collier Regional Park (NCRP), Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, and the Sports Complex. An open green space located on the south side of the soccer fields at NCRP has been identified as an excellent location for the fitness court, however the location and timing of construction of the remaining two fitness courts is under discussion.

**VIII. 311 Report**

Mr. Williams encouraged PARAB members to utilize the 311 app to report issues noted at Park sites or throughout the County. Ms. Bills shared a recent positive experience with using the 311 app, having received prompt communication and intervention by a County employee.

**IX. Director’s Highlights**

+Mr. Williams remembered Ms. Nancy Olson, who recently passed away. Ms. Olson was noted to be a valued, long-time member of the Parks family. Her presence and contribution to Parks endeavors will be greatly missed. Parks Staff is planning an informal celebration of life gathering in Ms. Olson’s honor on September 9, 2019 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m. at Bokamper’s Sports Bar and Grill.

+Mr. Williams reported that Mr. Terry Cooke, owner of Florida Tracks and Trails, also recently passed away. Florida Tracks and Trails participated with Collier County in the Tickets to Ride program; however, following Mr. Cooke’s death, the ATV Park has ceased operation. Mr. Williams stated that the $3M set aside for the construction of an ATV Park in Collier County remains available, with a portion of the interest generated from these funds used to operate the Tickets to Ride program. Identification of additional participants in the Tickets to Ride program is currently underway.

+Mr. Williams noted the ongoing five-year “rolling plan” which looks at all Park sites, seeking to identify projects requiring replacement within the next five-year timeframe. These projects are prioritized within the available budget, with consideration being given to debt funding to assist with addressing projects outside of available funding.

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+Mr. Williams noted two “high seasons” for the Parks Division; at the onset of Season, as well as following the end of the school year. The slowest time for the Parks Division is during the month of September, at which time Staff attends the Florida Recreation and Parks Association meeting in Orlando. Mr. Williams stated an update on this year’s meeting highlights will be shared with PARAB members, who were also invited to attend.

**X. Public/Board Comments**

+There were no additional Board member comments.

+There were no comments by members of the public.

**XI. Adjournment**

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned.

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

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**Edward “Ski” Olesky, Chairman**

These minutes approved by the Board/Committee on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as presented, or as amended.

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