MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

Naples, Florida

November 20, 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-CHAIRPERSON: Ms. Mary Bills

Ms. Daphnie Bercher, Advisory Board Member

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

Ms. Margaret Bishop, Principal Project Manager, Facilities Management

Mr. Rick Garby, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Division

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

Mr. Jim Ludwig, Executive Director, Pickleball For All

Mr. Matt McCain, Naples BMX

Ms. Megan Olson, Program Manager, Pan-Florida Challenge for Hungry Kids

Ms. Phyllis Salitano, Collier County resident

Naples Velo Bicycle Club

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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**

A change to the agenda was requested by Mr. Williams, with additional topics to be added as New Business; Naples BMX Group, public speaker regarding East Naples Community Park tennis.

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the November 20, 2019 meeting agenda, with the noted changes. Mr. Brougham seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

***Ms. Bills*** ***entered a motion to approve the October 16, 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 construction is underway, with Notice to Proceed issued on November 12, 2019. Mr. Williams stated that decisions related to the infill material used for the artificial turf fields will be held, in consideration of products chosen for use at the new Sports Complex. Mr. Fruth noted standardization of turf products to be used at the Sports Complex. Use of a synthetic infill product was discussed. Golden Gate High School replaced their field this summer with a FieldTurf version of the product and had documented a reduction in surface heat from 50-60 degrees warmer than natural grass, down to15-20 degrees warmer. This type of infill comes with a higher price tag due to the synthetic coating which is used for its sun reflective properties.

**+Barefoot Beach Boardwalk and Pavilions (North Access), Replacing 5 pavilions:** TDC funding has been approved for October 2019, as well as BCC approval given on November 12, 2019. The project is scheduled to commence in January 2020 and is being done to repair damage which resulted from Hurricane Irma, two years ago. Lee County has given permission to accommodate access for beachgoers while construction is being done during the busy tourist season.

**+Clam Pass Boardwalk and Restroom expansion:** 100% bid documents have been received, with bid solicitation scheduled to begin the week of November 25, 2019. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2020. Work will be done in coordination with the Naples Grande Hotel regarding boardwalk closure/availability.

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**+Tigertail Restrooms:** This project is in procurement, waiting for the pre-cast concrete building. Once received, construction will begin in January 2020.

**+East Naples Community Park Master Plan:** Bids for electrical upgrade work came in significantly over budget. The plans were redesigned in order to accommodate the upcoming US Open Pickleball Championship in April 2020. The project is back out for bid, with bids due back on December 2, 2019. Construction is planned to commence in January 2020. 100% design plans for an additional 10 pickleball courts are in place and will be put out for bid on November 21, 2019, with an expected construction start date in January 2020. Further, Jacobs Engineering Group is on board for the design of the new Welcome Center.

**+Sports Complex:** Phase I remains under construction; 5 buildings and 4 artificial turf fields. Phase IB is planned to be presented to the BCC on December 10, 2019, which includes the stadium field and the Great Lawn.

**+Golden Gate Activity Pool:** This project is in the design phase (Wood).

**+Sun N Fun:** Assessments are currently being done for improvements to the slide pool, family pool, and activity pool.

**+Ann Olesky Park:** Permitting by the Army Corps of Engineering remains pending. Bids have been solicited to perform a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey, which must be completed, as required by the Division of Historical Resources.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Naples BMX – Mr. Matt McCain**

Mr. McCain addressed PARAB to discuss planned improvements of the BMX track at the Golden Gate Community Center, with the assistance of a generous donation from the Naples Velo Bicycle Club, a not-for-profit organization promoting cycling at all skill levels and dedicated to improving cycling safety and awareness in Southwest Florida. BMX racing is a bicycle motocross sport enjoyed by all ages. Naples BMX has operated at the Golden Gate Community Center for near 20 years, with current members ranging from ages 3 to 50. Ten new race bikes and helmets were also donated, which resulted in growth of the Wednesday night races from 3-4 races to 10-12 races. Needed improvements to the facility and program had been identified and with the donated funds and with the assistance of the Parks Division, a new rolling safety gate will be installed before year end

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Mr. McCain stated that improvements at the BMX track will assist in attracting state races and regional Gold Cup races, with the goal of national level racing, all of which will provide an economic influx into the community. The State qualifying race is scheduled to be held in April 2020, with past State qualifiers attracting several thousand people over the 3 to 4-day event. Mr. McCain will return to provide PARAB with a recap following the April event. It was noted that work is currently being done to identify necessary parameters to construct a larger BMX facility in Naples in the future, in order to support the continued growth of this sport.

1. **East Naples Community Park (ENCP) Tennis:**

The Board of County Commissioners has previously approved the Master Plan for East Naples Community Park, with improvements supportive of a venue for local pickleball and national tournament play, but which does not include tennis. Ms. Phyllis Solitano, East Naples resident, accompanied with several supporters, addressed PARAB to discuss the option of retaining a court which may be converted to accommodate both tennis and pickleball play, with tennis play allowable during specified hours each day. Recent changes implemented at ENCP removed the option of tennis play, with all courts fully converted for pickleball. This has resulted in tennis players traveling to Eagle Lakes Community Park (ELCP) or Golden Gate Community Park, which was stated to be inconvenient and time consuming. Further, traffic congestion associated with the pool complex at ELCP was also noted to be problematic. Mr. Williams stated that while a PARAB recommendation could be made to amend the Master Plan to include a convertible court for tennis play, this would divert funding away from the existing plan. Any changes to the Master Plan would also require review and approval by the BCC. Mr. Brougham noted that the appropriate forum to present and discuss these concerns would have been as part of the BCC meeting agenda when the Master Plan was reviewed and voted upon. Mr. Fruth inquired as to whether ENCP is now categorized as a regional park in consideration of AUIR standards. Mr. Williams stated that discussions have been had in this regard and a determination will be made at the next AUIR cycle. While a community park is designed to generally serve the immediate surrounding community, a regional park offers amenities which attracts county wide participation. Mr. Brougham noted competing demands for limited park land, making it difficult to satisfy every growing sport. Ms. McPherson stated that a study had been conducted of tennis play at ENCP, with data showing very low participation on a consistent basis. Chairman Olesky suggested the study data be shared with PARAB before consideration of a change to the Master Plan is undertaken. Ms. Bercher concurred and was supportive of reviewing the data on tennis court usage; however, pointed out that two local options for tennis play currently exist. Ms. Bercher further encouraged the citizens to seek an audience with Commissioner Fiala to discuss the stated concerns. Mr. Williams noted that he will share the tennis court usage data with PARAB at the next meeting, with further discussion at that time.

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1. **Advisory Board Applications**

Applications for two Advisory Board positions which are expiring were presented for review and vote; Ms. Rebecca Gibson-Laemel and Mr. Joshua Fruth.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to recommend the reappointment of Ms. Rebecca Gibson-Laemel and Mr. Joshua Fruth. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

Mr. Williams noted that the recommendation for reappointment of the two Advisory Board members will be presented at the December 2019 BCC meeting.

Mr. Brougham inquired as to the status of a PARAB member who has been absent for a majority of the meetings. Mr. Williams noted that confirmation of an interest to continue as a PARAB member had been received, with ongoing health issues cited as the reason for absence. Mr. Williams will make further inquiry after the first of the year as to this member’s status and ability to continue to serve as a PARAB member.

1. **Fee Policy**

Mr. Williams noted that a concessionaire is operating the pickleball enterprise at ENCP and Veteran’s Park, which includes operation of the Pro Shop, coordination of tournaments, leagues, and daily play. The membership rate has historically been nominal; $50 for an annual membership and unlimited play, which has been shown to be under-market. A recommendation is now being made to adjust the Fee Policy to be more consistent with similar venues, also in consideration of an increase in participation by Lee County residents at the two parks. The proposed change is to increase the annual fee for Collier County residents from $50 to $100, or $125 for access to play at both parks. The fees for non-Collier County residents is proposed to be $150 for an annual membership, or $200 for unlimited play at both parks. A daily “drop-in” rate of $7.00 is also proposed for those who wish to play without a membership. Mr. Williams noted there is a specified time during the day when court time is free of charge. If approved, the new Fee Schedule will go into effect on January 1, 2020 and remain in effect for one year.

Mr. Williams noted that the Decoturf type material used to surface the pickleball courts requires more maintenance, resulting in costly upkeep of the courts. While some of the operating expenses are offset by the fees, cost recovery for the Parks Division as a whole, is only 30%. Due to the difference in membership rates by county, proof of residency will be necessary. Mr. Ludwig clarified that membership cards are photo IDs, which are color coded by park and monitored by rotating concessionaire staff. Players use a signup board and are rotated in and out in an organized manner. An interactive smartphone app is planned to assist with scheduling, as well as user notification of play time.

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Mr. Brougham inquired as to how revenue is divided between the concessionaire and the County. Mr. Williams clarified that a Board agreement is in place with the concessionaire, in which the County is paid 15% of the gross revenues associated with the activities at the two park locations.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to endorse the proposed changes to the Fee Policy for pickleball rates: from $50 to $100 for single park play, or $125 for play at both parks for Collier County residents; $150 for an single park play, or $200 for play at both parks for non-Collier County residents; daily “drop-in” rate of $7.00 to play without a membership. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

1. **Alcohol Policy**

Direction was being sought from PARAB by Mr. Williams regarding the alcohol policy for park events. A recent amendment allows alcohol to be available at events at all county park locations. Currently, permission to serve alcohol at a special event requires approval by PARAB, after which the Parks Director may issue a special permit for one-time use. Options going forward include keeping the approval process as it currently is, or to approach the Board to amend the ordinance to allow the County Manager or designee (Parks Director) to issue the permit. Ms. Bercher and Mr. Brougham expressed their support for maintaining the approval process as it currently stands, stating that Advisory Board members should be kept advised of park events. Mr. Fruth and Ms. Bills lent their support for an amendment to the ordinance for the County Manager or designee (Parks Director) to review the alcohol permission requests and issue the permits, with PARAB notification at the monthly meeting via Director’s Highlights. This was suggested with the knowledge that existing policies regarding insurance, security, times/location parameters, etc. are already in place. Mr. Olesky also was in support of this change to the process, however stated that any requests which the Director felt may represent an issue could be presented to PARAB for further discussion. Mr. Williams noted that it can sometimes be problematic from a time perspective for event organizers to appear before PARAB for approval with enough time to satisfy all required parameters prior to their event. Another idea discussed was for previously approved events to be vetted through the Parks Director, with new events brought before PARAB for review of alcohol permission.

***Mr. Fruth entered a motion to endorse amendment of the current alcohol permission policy: the County Manager and/or designee may appoint the Parks Division Director to review and approve alcohol permission requests for past applicants, updating the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the subsequent meeting, as well as presenting new alcohol permission requests to the Advisory Board for consideration. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.***

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1. **Alcohol Requests**

+Ms. Megan Olson addressed PARAB on behalf of the West Coast Muscle Car Club, who will be hosting a car show as a fundraising event to raise money for the Shriner’s Transportation Fund, and was requesting approval for the sale of beer at the event. The event is planned for March 8, 2020 at the North Collier Regional Park. Per Ms. Olson, all required parameters regarding insurance, onsite security, location, etc., have been met.

***Mr. Fruth entered a motion to approve the application requesting beer to be sold at the West Coast Muscle Car Club fundraiser to be held on March 8, 2020 at North Collier Regional Park, with proceeds to benefit the Shriner’s Transportation Fund. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.***

+Mr. Jim Ludwig addressed PARAB with four applications requesting permission to sell alcohol at upcoming pickleball tournaments; the Southern Tropics Series tournaments to be held in December 2019, January 2020 and March 2020, as well as the US Open Pickleball Championship in April 2020.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to approve the four applications for permission to sell alcohol at the Southern Tropics Series Tournaments in December 2019, January 2020 and March 2020, as well as the US Open Pickleball Championship in April 2020. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**VII. Old Business**

1. **ELCP Feasibility Study**

Mr. Williams shared a copy of the Eagle Lakes Community Park (ELCP) feasibility study with PARAB, which has identified the opportunity to expand the Community Center. A solicitation of a consultant/architect for design and permitting is underway, which will include input from PARAB, as well as interested stakeholders. The process is anticipated to take 3 to 4 months, working through the procurement office with a request for proposal (RFP), as the estimated cost of construction will exceed the $2M threshold. Options under consideration for the expansion of the Community Center include the addition of a gymnasium, additional classrooms, as well as possible expansion of the existing fitness center. Mr. Williams will keep the Advisory Board updated.

1. **Naming of BCIRP Roads**

Mr. Williams requested a recommendation from PARAB to name two roadways which are included in the design of Big Corkscrew Regional Park. A list of previously suggested names was briefly discussed, with “Big Corkscrew Road” chosen for the larger road and “Orange Grove Lane” chosen for the smaller road.

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1. **ENCP Master Plan**

A copy of the approved Master Plan design was shared with PARAB for their review. No further action was required at this time.

**VIII. 311 Report**

A copy of last month’s 311 report was shared with PARAB, who were again encouraged to utilize the program for all County issues and not exclusively Parks related concerns. Ms. Bercher and Mr. Fruth inquired about an issue on the report which stated that the field lights at Veteran’s Park were turned off in the middle of play. Ms. McPherson noted Staff error with inputting of the time and that this was an isolated event.

**IX. Directors Highlights**

+The BCC approved the cast netting ban at Lake Trafford on Park property and private property, which may now be enforced by the Park Rangers. Warnings will initially be given to offenders for public awareness, followed by citations. Signage prohibiting cast netting will be placed at this location.

+ A workshop to discuss allowing dogs on the beach at Lowdermilk Park was recently held; however, the Naples Community Services Advisory Board ultimately voted unanimously to recommend that the Naples City Council deny the request to allow dogs on the beach at Lowdermilk Park, as well as voted against approaching the County in this regard. The City Council may still choose to consider the proposal at a future workshop or meeting.

**X. Public/Board Comments**

+Mr. Denny Dolmage, Collier resident, made general inquiries related to PARAB member appointments, meeting days and times, and where the agenda may be viewed online in advance of the meeting. Mr. Williams stated that meeting dates and times are publicly noticed online in advance; however, meeting agendas are not currently posted online. It was noted to be a good suggestion and meeting agendas will now also be posted online for public review.

**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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