MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

Naples, Florida

March 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 2:00 P.M. at North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, FL, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Edward “Ski” Olesky

VICE-CHAIRMN: Ms. Mary Bills, Advisory Board Member

Mr. Phil Brougham, Advisory Board Member

Mr. Joshua Fruth, Advisory Board Member

Ms. Rebecca Gibson-Laemel, Advisory Board Member

Mr. Murdo Smith, Advisory Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

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

Ms. Carrie Drew, Ops Analyst/Capital Projects, Parks and Recreation Division

Mr. Rick Garby, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Division

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

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

Ms. Jeri Goetz, Pan-Florida Challenge

Mr. Todd Henry, 311 Public Services Administrator, Collier County

Ms. Breanna Johnson, Health Educator, Florida Dept. of Health, Collier County

Mr. Chris Labra, Florida Dept. of Health, Collier County

Ms. Megan Olson, Pan-Florida Challenge

Ms. Maria Pizarro, 311 Community Relations Specialist, Collier County

Ms. Michelle Scavone, 311 Administrator, Growth Management, Collier County

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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**

Mr. Williams noted the following changes to the agenda:

1. Addition of a presentation regarding Collier 311.
2. Addition of Community Themes & Strengths Focus Group, Collier Health Dept.
3. Deletion of consideration of Latin Fest alcohol permission.

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the March 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 January 16, 2019 Minutes**

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the January 16, 2019 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibson-Laemel. The motion was carried by majority vote, with Mr. Brougham and Mr. Fruth abstaining due to absence at the January 16, 2019 meeting.***

**V. Capital Projects Update - Mr. Williams**

**+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (BCRP) –** Phase I of the project is near ready to be sent out for construction bids. Design of Phase II has begun and per Capital Projects Facilities, both Phase I and II are now projected to be completed for opening in summer 2021. The only item remaining from the approved Master Plan will be the fitness area, which is planned as a Phase III project, as funding allows. The fitness area has been identified as a surtax project, however discussion is now ongoing due to questions raised by the Surtax Oversight Committee as to whether BCRP is eligible; this despite BCRP having been included in the referendum vote. This item will be on the agenda for further discussion at the Oversight Committee meeting to be held on April 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the BCC Chambers. Ms. Gibson-Laemel pointed out that the community center in Phase I design may be used as a shelter following a disaster, possibly satisfying the disaster relief criteria under discussion by the Oversight Committee. Mr. Brougham volunteered to attend the April meeting on behalf of PARAB to speak in favor of the inclusion of BCRP in surtax funding, as has been approved by Collier residents.

Mr. Smith inquired as to whether design or budget approval by the Oversight Committee would be necessary if surtax funds were awarded.

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Mr. Williams stated it was his understanding that the role of the Oversight Committee was to certify projects as they relate to the referendum, with no budget or design input for approved projects.

In discussion of funding of the park, Mr. Williams stated that the total cost of Phase I and Phase II is approximately $60M+. There is presently $25M banked for the project, with $40M allocated for BCRP in the recently passed referendum.

***Mr. Smith entered a motion for Mr. Brougham to represent the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board at the Surtax Oversight Committee meeting to be held on April 3, 2019. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**+Eagle Lakes Community Park (ELCP) –** The artificial turf project is complete, with positive feedback being received from the community.

**+Clam Pass Boardwalk** – Approval is being sought from PARAB of an out of cycle Tourist Development Council (TDC) grant application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of $2M to replace the decking, railing and kickboards on the Clam Pass Boardwalk, utilizing the existing footprint. The existing deck boards are over 25 years old and are nearing the end of their useful life. Due to issues of safety, age, and wear, it is recommended to replace the decking for the entire length of the boardwalk with Ipe, and handrail and kickplate replacement with premium grade materials.

Successful replacement of the boardwalk may also impact a feasibility study for the construction of a parking garage which is planned for summer 2019 and funded by the TDC. Mr. Williams stated that the projected cost of the parking garage is approximately $13M, with $7.5M presently in reserves. Approval for the project must be given by Pelican Bay Foundation. Multiple meetings between Parks Staff and the Foundation, as well as community meetings have been held in this regard.

**VI. New Business**

1. **Introduction of Board Member:** Mr. Josh Fruth was introduced as the newest member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Mr. Fruth is a 15-year resident of Collier County, working in the engineering and planning industry. Mr. Fruth expressed a desire to share his expertise and personal interest in support of Parks endeavors.
2. **Community Themes & Strengths Focus Group – Florida Dept of Health in Collier County – Ms. Breanna Johnson, Mr. Chris Labra:** A recent Community Health Needs Assessment survey conducted by Johns Hopkins Hospital and Medical Center found Collier County to be number two in healthy behaviors in the State of Florida. Ms. Johnson, Health Educator with the Collier Health Department was present to address PARAB to administer the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment 2019 survey, which solicits ideas to maintain a healthy community.

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Preliminary data was presented, based upon survey responses received from Department of Health employees and community partners, with focus groups ongoing. Several shifts in priorities were noted from responses received in 2019 versus 2016.

1. Respondents identified access to care as the second priority in 2019 versus having been number four on the list in 2016. Feedback was solicited from PARAB as to why this may have risen on the priority list. Responses included:

+Former NCH ideology.

+Frustration with emergency room wait times, particularly during season.

+Lack of public information regarding access to Walk-In Clinics.

+Lack of clinics and pharmacies in outlying areas of the county.

+Lack of affordable healthcare options for low income population.

1. Feedback was solicited as to why mental health was viewed as the number one priority in 2019, as well as possible relationships between mental health and alcohol/drug use. Responses included:

+Recent world events have resulted in greater mental health awareness.

+Inattention to mental health issues may lead to more self-medication.

+Need for more mental health dedicated facilities.

+More public information regarding access to mental health treatment.

1. Feedback was solicited as to whether advanced life expectancy has increased concern for issues of chronic disease in the county. Responses included:

+Advancing age naturally brings health issues.

+Healthcare costs for the elderly, especially those on fixed incomes is a major concern.

+The rise in obesity has impacted health overall.

+Aggressive marketing and relatively lower cost of less nutritious food choices contributes to some chronic health issues, including obesity, diabetes, heart disease, etc.

Additional focus groups will be held throughout the county, with a final report generated of all survey results. Results will be posted on the Department of Health website within the next several months and will be used in Health Department strategic planning.

Ms. McPherson cited one of the four pillars of the Parks and Recreation mission as “Health and Wellness,” and suggested a closer partnership between the Parks and Recreation Division and the Department of Health, working together on health initiatives in the county.

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Mr. Williams noted that the Parks Division is presently working with the Health Department with an initiative promoted by the National Parks and Recreation Association called “Rx in Parks,” which partners with local physicians who encourage patients with mental health and addiction issues to utilize the parks as a healthy outlet and preventative measure tool.

1. **East Naples Community Park (ENCP) Master Plan –** A drawing was shared with PARAB of a proposed revised park design at ENCP, created by AVB, Inc. A phased approach is planned to create a design which is geared to accommodate the ever-increasing demand for pickleball facilities, with sufficient parking identified as being the greatest challenge. Discussion is ongoing with the School Board to possibly purchase land adjacent to ENCP to expand the footprint of the park for additional parking. Mr. Williams reports an agreement has been drafted, however negotiations remain ongoing regarding a possible land trade for a portion of 47 acres located on Randall Road, which was gifted to the Parks Division by the Golden Gate Estates Land Trust. The School Board has voiced a need for a bus barn/park facility; however, discussion is ongoing regarding other possible uses for the acreage, including sale of the property for commercial use. The land trade under consideration with the School Board would yield an additional 5 acres adjacent to ENCP. This issue will be discussed further at the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) meeting in April 2019. The Master Plan therefore remains pending, with a final decision on this issue anticipated in spring 2019.

Mr. Brougham stated the development of the ENCP master plan design should be closely linked to the Eagle Lakes Community Park (ELCP) master planning process, to possibly accommodate the displacement of non-pickleball activities, such as soccer. Mr. Williams stated that public feedback, including a Commissioner led town hall meeting is planned to discuss the master plan design of both parks. Further, the impact of the impending Sports Complex has yet to be determined. Mr. Smith restated his desire to construct baseball fields elsewhere, which will be lost in the ENCP redesign, in order to continue to offer this amenity to the local community, as it remains unclear whether local teams will have full access for play at the new sports complex. Mr. Olesky pointed out that the installation of artificial turf fields at ELCP has expanded capacity by allowing year-round play. Ms. Gibson-Laemel suggested that the ENCP, ELCP, and the new Sports Complex be promoted as a “triangle of parks” and possibly partner with CAT to offer a transportation loop.

Mr. Fruth inquired as to the increased capacity expected to be afforded with the additional five acres presently being negotiated with the School Board. Mr. Williams stated that an additional 200 parking spaces would be made available, which is still considered less than optimal. A separate consideration is partnering with the Botanical Gardens for overflow parking, who would provide transport to ENCP by golf cart. Mr. Fruth inquired as to whether the School Board might allow parking on school property on the weekends, which Mr. Williams agreed was an option to pursue.

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Mr. Williams stated that the ENCP master plan will continue to be fine-tuned, with PARAB approval sought of the final plan, and ultimately, approval by the BCC.

**d. Pan Florida Approval – Ms. Megan Olson, Ms. Jeri Goetz –** Approval was sought for permission to serve beer at the upcoming Pan-Florida Challenge Ride for Hungry Kids. Pan-Florida Challenge is a charity on a mission to end childhood hunger in Florida, providing meals to hungry children. Proceeds from the event will fund the Power Pack program which provides nutritional meal offerings to feed children over the weekend, assuming there is little to no accessible nutritional food available in the home. Two beers per rider is proposed, following the 200-mile bike ride.

***Ms. Gibson-Laemel entered a motion to approve the application for permission to serve beer at the Pan-Florida Challenge to be held March 30-31, 2019. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**e. TDC Grant – Clam Pass – Ms. Carrie Drew** – Ms. Drew presented the history of the ongoing project of replacement of the Clam Pass Boardwalk, including previously approved grant funding for the project by the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC). Following an assessment by Bridging Solutions, LLC, as well as a subsequent independent inspection by the Parks Division, a recommendation is now being made to replace the decking, railing and kickboards on the Clam Pass Boardwalk with premium grade material for quality and longevity. Approval is being sought from PARAB of an out of cycle grant application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of $2M for the project in order to promote tourism.

Mr. Smith inquired as to the 50-year warranty which was guaranteed for the recycled material used in the construction of the existing boardwalk planks. Mr. Williams will investigate a possible warranty and report findings back to PARAB. The current project will continue to move forward as clarification on the warranty issue is sought. Mr. Fruth further suggested to clarify that the warranty will not be limited by the integrity of the existing structure.

***Mr. Smith entered a motion to approve the out of cycle Collier County Tourist Development Council Category “A” Grant Application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of $2,000,000 to replace the decking, railing and kickboards on the Clam Pass Boardwalk, and that Parks Staff investigate the terms of warranty on the existing structure, as well as any potential warranty limitations due to substructure condition. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**VII. Old Business**

1. **311 –** The Collier 311 program was introduced as a single point contact for Collier residents to notify the appropriate government agency of non-emergency issues, questions, or concerns. 311 may be accessed via the call center, mobile application, or the Collier311 website.

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The call center operates Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Frequently asked questions, as well as service requests may be placed. The mobile application, available 24/7, may be downloaded via The App Store or Google Play and allows users the opportunity to access frequently asked questions, report issues, as well as upload pictures with service requests. These services are also available 24/7 via the website at [www.Collier311.org](http://www.Collier311.org). The website home page allows access to the knowledge base of frequently asked questions, county departments/divisions websites, email addresses, and phone numbers, as well as a service request tab. An online account is not required in order to access the knowledge database. However, once an online account is created, a resident may enter a service request. If a service request is placed, the resident will receive notification that a request has been received. The service request is then reviewed and may be dispatched to County staff in the field for further follow up. The resident may track the progress within the app, and will be notified via email, text or telephone call when the issue is resolved. Each service request is closely monitored and held to an escalation standard in which it is moved up the supervisory chain if it remains unresolved. Mr. Olesky and Mr. Brougham expressed concern at a possible delay in response to service requests via the escalation system. Mr. Brougham suggested that more emergent requests, such as a safety or damage issues, be identified as priorities within the system. Ms. Scavone clarified that prompting questions within the service request will flag the system to identify priority issues. Mr. Olesky expressed concern that the issue may become diluted as it travels through the escalation process, however it was clarified that all users will view the original commentary, as well as all subsequent data entries in order to preserve the content of the original issue.

Mr. Brougham suggested that a feedback tab be added within the website for user comments. Mr. Williams stated that a survey will also be given to PARAB members for their opinions and suggestions regarding using the 311 system.

Mr. Williams pointed out that use of the 311 system by PARAB members for Adopt-A-Park issues would generate reports/work orders, provide greater accountability, and potentially expedite resolution of the issues. Further, a specific area within CityWorks has been created for PARAB Adopt-A-Park requests and these reports will be shared with PARAB members on an ongoing basis.

Alert Collier was briefly discussed, which is an app created by Emergency Management and launched in January. Alert Collier is a mechanism for notifying residents of safety related issues, including severe weather, evacuations, power outages, missing persons, etc. The website where residents may sign up to receive notifications via email, text, and phone number is colliercountyfl.gov/alertcollier.

The distinction was made between the three programs in that residents will contact 911 for emergencies, 311 for all non-emergent County issues, while Alert Collier staff will notify registered residents of potential safety issues within the county.

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1. **Manatee Park –** Mr. Brougham requested clarification of the January 2019 PARAB directive for Parks Staff to begin exploration of developmental possibilities of Manatee Park; specifically, options under consideration, current status, next steps, leadership, community/PARAB input, funding options, etc. Ms. Bills stated that in response to public feedback received, exploration of a passive park, to possibly include gardens, trails and benches had been approved by PARAB for further exploration. Mr. Brougham expressed an interest in design alternatives, including a possible community center, as well as financing options. Mr. Williams stated that the Parks Master Plan does includes Manatee Park, however there are multiple projects competing for impact fee dollars, including Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, Eagle Lakes Community Park, and the Golden Gate Golf Course. A request for a small portion of impact fees may be made for a conceptual design for Manatee Park. Mr. Brougham suggested a public meeting be held in order to solicit community feedback from surrounding communities, in addition to Fiddler’s Creek residents. Mr. Williams stated a meeting had been had with the Community Foundation of Collier County to discuss a Parks Foundation and the potential to utilize private funding for Parks projects. The discussion included the possibility of private funding for individuals who wished to contribute to the Manatee Park project. Mr. Williams will pursue further discussion with Senior Management on this topic. Mr. Fruth pointed out the near capacity of the schools adjacent to Manatee Park and the potential for a positive revenue stream from summer camps if a community center was included in the design of Manatee Park.

**VIII. Adopt a Park\* – Ms. Gibson-Laemel**

**+Barefoot Beach –** The park was overall favorably reviewed; clean and in order, with previously noted issues currently being addressed by the appropriate departments.

**+Vanderbilt Beach Park**

**+**The beach sand refurbishment project was deemed successful.

+The beach was noted to be extremely crowded with beachgoers.

+A beach wheelchair path was recommended to better navigate through the crowd of beachgoers. Mr. Williams stated that the boardwalk refurbishment project includes a plan to extend MobyMat closer to the water for greater wheelchair accessibility.

+The restrooms needed to be cleaned, however following a phone call to report this, a crew did clean the restrooms appropriately within the hour.

+Directional signage to the new restrooms was recommended. Mr. Williams noted that signage on the old bathroom structures does indicate there are additional restrooms available. Ms. Gibson-Laemel pointed out that the old restrooms are presently roped off and not open for use, despite beachgoers still doing so.

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Mr. Garby stated that the restrooms are presently open.

\*Mr. Williams noted that Adopt-A-Park would be removed as an agenda item for future PARAB meetings due to the initiation of use of the 311 app/phone line for reporting Park issues.

**IX. Director’s Highlights**

+Mr. Williams stated a meeting has been scheduled for March 29, 2010 with the Director of the Immokalee Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) to discuss the Blair Project Tree Challenge initiative to include planting trees in the Immokalee community.

**X. Board/Public Comments**

**+**Mr. Olesky reported there was an exposed electrical outlet by the front door of the Immokalee Community Park Center.

+Mr. Olesky requested that the Ipe material planks used in Immokalee be pressure cleaned and sealed, if possible.

+PARAB member consideration will be given to changing the monthly meeting date to accommodate Ms. Gibson-Laemel’s possible appointment to her community HOA Board. Each member will review their calendar and submit their availability individually. Mr. Williams extended his gratitude for Ms. Gibson-Laemel’s service while on the Advisory Board, if in the event she was unable to continue as a member due to appointment to her HOA Board.

+Mr. Smith inquired as to the current status of the Golden Gate Golf Course. Mr. Williams stated that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) are following due diligence and are presently engaged in the appraisal process. The BCC has previously rendered an opinion of not operating the facility as a golf course, but of developing a portion of the property with surtax funding and retaining a green space, overseen by the Parks Division. Mr. Smith stated that a golf course may be a strong tourist draw due to the new sports complex being built nearby. General public feedback has been in favor of retaining the property as a golf course.

**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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