

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION  
ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

Naples, Florida

August 15, 2018

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 2:03 P.M. at North Collier Regional Park, Naples, FL, with the following members present:

VICE-CHAIRMAN: Mr. Phil Brougham  
Ms. Mary Bills, Advisory Board Member  
Ms. Rebecca Gibson-Laemel, Advisory Board Member  
Ms. Murdo Smith, Advisory Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Rick Garby, Parks Superintendant  
Mr. Miguel Rojas, Jr., Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation  
Mr. Dayne Atkinson, Project Manager  
Ms. Felicia Kirby, Project Manager  
Mr. Jake Sullivan, Park Ranger

**I. Call to Order**

Mr. Brougham called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

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

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

Ms. McPherson requested that a discussion pertaining to the Manatee Park subcommittee be added as a New Business agenda item.

*Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the August 15, 2018 meeting agenda with the noted addition. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.*

**IV. Approval of June 20, 2018 Minutes**

*Mr. Smith entered a motion to approve the June 20, 2018 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bills. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.*

**V. Capital Projects Update - Ms. Kirby, Mr. Atkinson**

+Mr. Smith inquired as to the status of the North Collier Regional Park artificial turf project and requested a job site visit by PARAB. Per Mr. Atkinson, two fields are scheduled to be completed by September 1, 2018 and two additional fields completed by the end of September. Field 7 will have the padding and turf installed in the next day or two, followed closely by field 8. Ms. McPherson reiterated that due to budget constraints, the Nike licensed product was not being used for this project.

+ Per Ms. Kirby, an out of cycle grant request for \$200K will be submitted to the Tourist Development Cycle (TDC) in September 2018 for restroom improvements at Barefoot Beach Preserve, as well as for a feasibility study to include design and permit requirements for the construction of a permanent Park Ranger Station there.

+Mr. Smith inquired as to the status of the East Naples Community Park master planning process. Ms. McPherson stated that no definitive decisions have been made with regard to structures at the park and the County Manager's office is investigating the possibility of additional land acquisition from the School Board. The possibility of making a second artificial turf field available at Eagle Lakes is also under consideration, allowing expanded hours of usage. Mr. Brougham inquired if there is a project management team in place or a consultant who is dedicated to working on this master planning process. Ms. McPherson stated that there is, but that the project remains in the discussion phase at this point. Mr. Smith inquired as to whether the acquisition of additional property would be paid for by the TDC, as the park has become more of a tourist park for pickleball, rather than the community park which was originally voted upon by the public in 1982. Mr. Smith offered an alternative suggestion for the TDC to purchase land elsewhere to construct an additional park.

Mr. Garby stated his previous attendance at master planning meetings for East Naples Community Park and confirmed that there is a list of bullet point items in place and ready to move forward with. Mr. Brougham stated that documentation of the current status of the project, i.e., project management team, goals, timeline for the East Naples Community Park should be shared with PARAB to allow active participation in the process.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion for Parks Staff to present Advisory Board members with a copy of the master plan draft for East Naples Community Park for their review and comments. Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

+Mr. Smith inquired as to the status of the Eagle Lakes Community Park master planning process. Ms. McPherson stated that Staff is awaiting the results of the traffic flow feasibility study for the park, which is expected to be received in September/October 2018. Mr. Brougham requested a definitive due date for the completion of the study be given to PARAB at a subsequent meeting.

+Ms. Gibson-Laemel requested clarification of the NCRP admission equipment project which is shown on the list of capital projects. Mr. Atkinson explained that this project pertains to installation of turnstile equipment at Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, which will be linked to Active Net and will monitor patrons going in and out of the park. Permitting is pending submission of a life safety plan, as requested by the Fire Marshall.

+Mr. Smith requested clarification of the Regional Park assessment projects shown on the list of capital projects. Mr. Atkinson stated this project includes a structural assessment of the tower stairs and the bridge at Sun-N-Fun Lagoon. The results of the assessment have been received and will be evaluated to determine next steps for repairs or replacement. The Clam Pass parking garage feasibility study is included under this line item as a regional park project.

## **VI. New Business**

### **a. Grants**

Parks Staff was seeking endorsement by PARAB of three grant applications for project funding; Barefoot Beach Preserve Park restroom improvements and Park Ranger office feasibility, design and permitting in the amount of \$200K; an after the fact grant request for \$100K for architectural drawings and landscape plans for the Margood Harbor Park Historic Cottage site; two after the fact grant requests to enhance recreational opportunities for children at Vineyards Community Park and East Naples Community Park. PARAB members had an opportunity to review the grant summaries and had no further questions or concerns.

*Ms. Gibson-Laemel entered a motion for endorsement by the Advisory Board of grant requests as presented:*

- 1. Barefoot Beach Preserve Park restroom improvements and Park Ranger office feasibility, design and permitting; total Tourist Development Council tax funds requested of \$200,000.*
- 2. After the fact grant request to the Florida Department of State, Division of Historic Resources for funding in the amount of \$100,000 for architectural drawings and landscape plans for the Margood Harbor Park Historic Cottage site.*
- 3. After the fact grant request to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program in the amount of \$150,000 for playground purchase and installation at Vineyards Community Park and \$150,000 for purchase and installation of a playground at East Naples Community Park.*

*Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.*

#### **b. US Open Pickleball Alcohol Permissions**

A request to sell and/or consume alcoholic beverages within Collier County Facilities and Parks was submitted for approval by PARAB by the Pickleball for All organization, for four separate events to be held at East Naples Community Park. The events include the Florida State Pickleball Championship December 7-9, 2018, Winter Classic Pickleball Tournament, January 25-27, 2019, Southern Tropics Pickleball Tournament March 8-10, 2019, and the Minto U.S. Open Pickleball Championships April 27-May 5, 2019. Mr. Brougham inquired as to whether a preapproval of up to six months in advance was procedurally allowable and whether there was the opportunity to rescind approval if issues should develop in the interim with regard to the sale of alcohol at these events. Ms. McPherson stated that a level of security measures was required of event planners, but that the Parks Director did have the authority to reverse approval for the sale of alcohol at his discretion, as written into Practice and Procedures. Mr. Smith inquired as to whether the Parks Division may claim a percentage of the sale of alcohol at these events. Ms. McPherson stated the Parks Division has Board approved contracts with the U.S. Open, as well as with Pickleball for All, which stipulates a percentage of their business. Additional profits likely would not be sought.

*Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the request to sell and/or consume alcoholic beverages within Collier County Facilities and Parks as submitted by Pickleball for All for the following events to be held at East Naples Community Park:*

- 1. Florida State Pickleball Championship, December 7-9, 2018.*
- 2. Winter Classic Pickleball Tournament, January 25-27, 2019.*
- 3. Southern Tropics Pickleball Tournament, March 8-10, 2019.*
- 4. Minto U.S. Open Pickleball Championship, April 27-May 5, 2019.*

*Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.*

**c. Manatee Park Subcommittee - Ms. McPherson**

Ms. McPherson stated three individuals were being sought for participation on a subcommittee, which will meet with members from Affordable Housing. This subcommittee will focus on the feasibility study currently being done, which will examine issues related to the location of affordable housing at Manatee Park, including infrastructure adequacy, roadways, traffic, etc. Following a final recommendation by the subcommittee, a group meeting will be held with all Advisory Board members; both Parks Division and Affordable Housing Division. Mr. Smith stated a recollection of previous disapproval by PARAB of affordable housing at Manatee Park and questioned the necessity for participation in a subcommittee. Mr. Brougham clarified that a motion had been made at a previous meeting in June 2018 for Mr. Carnell to involve PARAB in the process, prior to commitments being made on this topic, from which the subcommittee recommendation resulted. No definitive position had been expressed by PARAB in the form of a motion. A brief discussion was had with regard to member availability and the time commitment anticipated with participation.

*Mr. Brougham entered a motion to nominate Mr. Murdo Smith, Ms. Gibson-Laemel, Ms. Mary Bills, and Mr. Phil Brougham to serve as members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board subcommittee, which will meet with representatives from Affordable Housing to discuss issues related to the potential location of affordable housing at Manatee Park. Ms. Bills second the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried.*

**VII. Old Business**

**a. BCIRP Community Center Plans**

A discussion was had with regard to the Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park Community Center design plans. Mr. Brougham restated his interest in ensuring that the community center plan allows for adequate smaller activity rooms, such as seen at Max Hasse, Jr. Community Park. Ms. McPherson confirmed that the present plan includes several multipurpose rooms, VPK space, and a larger community room which may also be partitioned in half. Mr. Smith inquired as to whether game rooms would be included, i.e., pool tables, ping pong tables. Ms. McPherson stated a lack of dedicated gaming rooms in general at the county parks since the present focus was on multipurpose use rooms. Mr. Smith stated he had been in attendance at several planning meetings for the design of the community center and felt that the wish list and concerns previously expressed by PARAB had been presented and addressed. Ms. McPherson stated that design plans were made in consideration of community growth over the next 10 years. Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to whether a room divider could be used in the large room at Eagle Lakes and Ms. McPherson confirmed that there is a divider at that location which may be used.

**b. Artificial Turf**

Mr. Smith restated his concern at the use of crumb rubber fill in the construction of the new artificial turf fields at North Collier Regional Park. An information packet was shared with PARAB members detailing the various fill products available, pros, cons, benefits, etc., as well as the specific materials chosen to be used for the project at NCRP.



Per Ms. McPherson, in 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency directed a study be done to investigate safety issues involving various fill materials used with artificial turf, the results of which should soon be available. In review of previous smaller studies, there was no evidence presented of significant safety issues associated with use of the fill materials. Concerns over use of certain fill products originated with the development of increased cases of blood cancers in children in and around Seattle, Washington. However, following investigation by the Health Department and the Center for Disease Control, there was no correlation found between the use of fill products and the high incidence of blood cancers, but rather found it to be of more geographic significance. Further, Ms. McPherson stated the placement of a shock pad under the turf, as required for certification by FIFA, would provide a softer playing surface, felt to result in fewer concussion injuries. Mr. Smith reiterated his general lack of support for the use of a crumb rubber fill product; however, the material has already been decided upon and is being installed. Mr. Garby discussed maintenance of the new fields, as well as reinforced their overall safety in view of no divot hazards.

### **VIII. Adopt A Park**

There were no Adopt A Park visits to report at this meeting.

### **IX. Director's Highlights - Ms. McPherson**

+Fees: The Board of County Commissioners voted to adopt the Immokalee fee structure as presented. Mr. Brougham was present at the Board meeting and summarized his participation and comments. The new fees are \$1.00 for children, \$2.50 for adults, and seniors \$2.00. Swim lessons have been reduced from \$40.00 to \$10.00 per session. Mr. Smith suggested the swimming lessons partner working with the county also drop their fees to \$10.00 per session, which he felt would increase participation. Ms. McPherson referenced the national lifeguard shortage and stated several ideas for recruitment are under consideration, including offering lifeguard training courses and/or reimbursement to employees of outside training costs, as well as a base salary increase. Qualified seniors are being encouraged to apply as well.

+Summer camp participation was high this year, including 299 children enrolled in sports camp, 2191 children enrolled in Camp Collier, 427 children enrolled in specialty camps, and 111 children enrolled in water sports. Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to whether participation was higher than previous years, down, or the same in numbers. Ms. McPherson stated participation numbers remained consistent with the previous year due to the finite number of available spots.

### **X. Public/Board Comments**

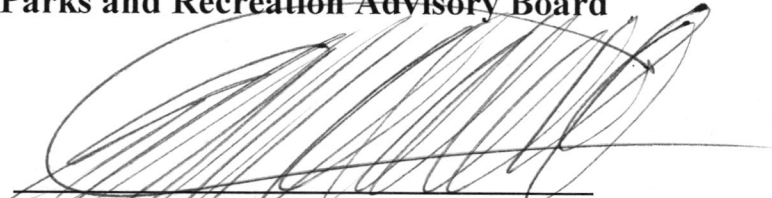
Ms. Bills inquired as to the success of the water spin classes in Immokalee. Ms. McPherson stated this program has not started yet, while the water spin classes at the Eagle Lakes Pool are scheduled to begin August 30, 2018. Pool yoga is also soon to commence.

Mr. Garby stated that the soccer fields had recently been fumigated, so an onsite visit by PARAB would need to be scheduled 36 hours in advance.

**XI. Adjournment**

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

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

  
**~~Phil Brougham, Vice-Chairman~~**

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

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