

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
North Collier Regional Park
Naples, Florida

February 19, 2020

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 Immokalee Sports Complex, 505 Escambia St., Immokalee, FL, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Edward "Ski" Olesky
VICE-CHAIRMAN Mr. Phil Brougham
Ms. Mary Bills, Advisory Board Member
Ms. Daphnie Saunders, Advisory Board Member
Mr. Joshua Fruth, Advisory Board Member
Ms. Rebecca Gibson-Laemel, Advisory Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:
Mr. Barry Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation Division
Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Division
Mr. Michael Cherbini, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Division
Mr. Rick Garby, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Division
Mr. Miguel Rojas, Jr., Administrative Assistant, Parks and Recreation Division

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 February 19, 2020 meeting agenda. Mr. Brougham seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brougham entered a motion to approve the January 15, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibson-Laemel. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.

V. Public/Board Comments

+Ms. Rhonda Nunez, long-time Immokalee resident, addressed PARAB on behalf of local residents regarding maintenance and safety issues associated with the baseball/softball fields used by the local high school. Uncertainty was expressed as to which County entity bears maintenance responsibility for the fields; the Collier County Parks and Recreation Division or the Collier County School District. It was noted that Immokalee High School is the only school in the county who does not have a dedicated ball field and shares the baseball/softball field with the community. Specific concerns include a non-working PA system, condition of the grass fields, condition of the concession stand, and lack of safety netting. Frustration was expressed at the construction of 8 new ball fields at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, without any additional fields built in Immokalee in many years. A preference was expressed for field maintenance responsibility to be assumed solely by the School Board.

Mr. Williams noted that the Parks Division had maintained the Immokalee ball fields at recreational level service in the past; the same level of service required for high school level baseball. While the property is still owned by the Parks Division and held as a public park, field maintenance was taken over at the request of the Collier County School Board, with approval by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). Consideration is currently being given to purchasing Trust property in Immokalee for the purpose of the construction of ball fields. The community of Ave Maria is also considering allowing public use of their parks. Conversations have been had with the Florida Department of Transportation regarding the expansion of State Road 29, resulting in the loss of Immokalee Airport Park. A request for consideration of State funding assistance for the construction of new ball fields in Immokalee has subsequently been rejected by the State, who opined that the request for assistance would not be justified by the acreage lost with the State Road expansion.

Ms. Saunders requested a copy of the agreement with the School Board for her review, and recommended citizens discuss their issues and concerns with County Commissioner McDaniel, who represents District 5. Mr. Brougham pointed out numerous attempts in the past to lobby the BCC for additional budgetary funds to be spent on maintaining Parks facilities, and a recommendation was made for public attendance at a BCC meeting to express community related concerns. Mr. Brougham further suggested that an itemized list of maintenance issues be provided to Mr. Williams in order to facilitate action between the Parks Division and the School Board. Mr. Williams confirmed that the stated issues would be discussed and clarified with School Board management, Parks senior management, as well as possible discussion with Commissioner McDaniel. Citizens were also asked to contact Ms. Annie Alvarez, Parks Regional Manager for updates, questions, or concerns. Mr. Fruth suggested use of the 311 app to report noted issues. Advisory Board members encouraged the public to email them directly with further questions or issues. Ms. Saunders provided personal contact information members to the members of the public who were in attendance.

+A local resident expressed concern at the dim lighting noted at the building exits of the Immokalee Sports Complex facility, as well as throughout the parking lot, citing safety issues. It was noted that the lights are functioning, however are extremely dim and inadequate. Mr. Williams and Mr. Garby confirmed that this issue will be investigated and further addressed with Facilities Management to seek a solution.

+Ms. Cheryl Thomas requested clarification of the Immokalee shade tree capital project. Mr. Williams clarified that the Community Foundation of Collier County had donated funds to plant sabal palms around the three ball fields located at the Immokalee Sports Complex. Feedback from members of the public in attendance was positive in this regard.

+Ms. Thomas also made inquiry regarding the planning process involved in drafting the 5-year Capital Projects Plan. Mr. Williams noted that a 5-year Capital Projects Plan is compiled by identification of all Parks Division issues which require attention. An annual budgetary process results in allocated funds which are to be applied towards the projects identified on the 5-year plan, however with the possibility of unforeseen expenditures which may alter the plan, resulting in ongoing reprioritization of Parks projects. A recommendation is ultimately made to the BCC for approval of the budget for the following year.

+Chairman Olesky requested that Immokalee residents discuss issues and concerns with him, for presentation and discussion at PARAB meetings.

VI. Capital Projects Update – Mr. Cherbini

+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park:

Phase I: Bi-weekly meetings are being held onsite, with ongoing review of shop drawings. Drainage ditches are being filled in, with fill being brought in to raise the site elevation. Delivery of the North Phase (fields and north concession) is planned for December 2020, with delivery of the South Phase scheduled for May 2021.

Phase II: Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2020, provided all permits are received on time, with project completion anticipated in October 2021.

+Barefoot Beach Boardwalk and Pavilions (North Access), with replacement of 5 pavilions: Tourist Development Council approval for the project was given in October 2019, with BCC approval received on November 12, 2019. The contract was awarded to Infinite Construction at a cost of \$225K. A meeting has been held with the HOA in early February. The project is pending CCSL permitting, with an anticipated project start date in late February.

+Clam Pass Boardwalk and Restroom: Construction bids were received back by January 28, 2020, with an award recommendation to be presented to the BCC on February 25, 2020. Preliminary elements will be completed in March, with full construction to begin in summer 2020, prior to the commencement of sea turtle nesting. Coordination will be done with the Naples Grande for boardwalk closure in late summer.

+Tigertail Restrooms: The Direct Select precast concrete building (Leesburg Concrete) is in procurement. The winning low bid was awarded to Capital Construction at \$156,200. Two POs remain pending. The project is scheduled for completion in June 2020.

+Tigertail Concession Area: Project design is at 75%. Construction bids are due in late February/early March, with construction scheduled to begin in March 2020. Completion of the project is anticipated for August 2020.

+East Naples Community Park:

Electrical: FPL easement approval was received February 13, 2020, mobilized on site, with construction on schedule, to be completed by April 18, 2020.

10 New Pickleball Courts: Notice to Proceed has been issued, mobilized on site. Utility work is ongoing, with the project on schedule for the April 18, 2020 US Open Pickleball Championship.

Welcome Center: Jacobs Engineering Group is on board for the design of the new Welcome Center. A design kick-off meeting was held on February 10, 2020.

+Ann Olesky Park: The Division of Historical Research requirement of the completion of a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey will be funded by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at a cost of \$24K. 100% design plans are in place. Construction bids will be solicited following permit approval. An alternative local power source is planned to improve lighting at the pier, discontinuing the need for LCEC service.

+Paradise Coast Sports Complex:

Phase IA: Construction of underground utilities, 5 buildings, and 4 artificial turf fields remain ongoing, with fields and Great Lawn scheduled to open June 2020.

Phase IB: Approval was received for the Stadium and Great Lawn in December 2019, at a cost of \$19.6M. Construction began January 6, 2020.

+Golden Gate Activity Pool: Assessments are currently underway (Wood).

+Sun-N-Fun: Assessments of slide pool, family and activity pools are underway (Stantec).

VII. New Business

a. Cinco De Mayo Event: Permission was requested for the sale of beer at the upcoming Cinco de Mayo celebration scheduled on May 2, 2020, sponsored by the Immokalee Chamber of Commerce. Parks Staff will ensure compliance with all County requirements pertaining to the sale of alcohol at the event.

Ms. Saunders entered a motion to permit the sale of beer at the Cinco De Mayo event scheduled for May 2, 2020. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.

b. Accreditation Standards: A copy of Accreditation Standards was shared with PARAB for review and discussion. A reminder was given of the upcoming onsite review, April 20-23, 2020, which is a component of the reaccreditation process.

c. Boat Launch Fees: A review of the current boat launch fee schedule was requested of PARAB by Commissioner McDaniel, in response to concerns expressed by a constituent. The boat launch fee policy, which was previously approved by the BCC, requires a launch fee per vessel. The constituent asserted that a single fee should be assessed per vehicle, regardless of the number of vessels on the trailer. It was noted by Mr. Williams that an annual \$100 permit may be purchased per vessel, allowing for unlimited launches of that vessel for the year.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the use of a boat launch facility as a place of business, with the current County ordinance disallowing the operation of a commercial business at a county park. It was noted that the Parks Division receives a small portion of the vessel launch fees, which are put towards the operation of the park.

Mr. Brougham entered a motion to maintain the boat launch fee schedule, as previously approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Saunders seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.

d. Big Shots Golf: Information was shared with PARAB regarding Big Shots Golf, the vendor chosen to participate at the Golden Gate Golf Course location. Ms. Saunders noted that while the surrounding community supported maintaining an 18-hole golf course, feedback had been generally favorable regarding the installation of Big Shots Golf, in consideration of the alternative of total land development. Mr. Fruth noted that the design and use of the remaining land at the site is in the early discussion and planning stages.

e. Donna Fiala ELCP Rededication: The Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park dedication ceremony has been scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. PARAB members were invited to “save the date.”

VIII. 311 Report: A report detailing 311 line items for the previous month was shared with PARAB. Members of the public who were present at the meeting were encouraged to report Parks or county issues or concerns via 311.

IX. Directors Highlights – Mr. Williams

+ The Great Naples Duck Race and Safety Festival fundraiser was recently held at the Sun-n-Fun Lagoon Lazy River on Saturday, February 1, 2020. The event was sponsored by the Safe and Healthy Children’s Coalition and was deemed a great success.

+Discussions have been had with the North Naples Fire Department regarding a potential offering of support with lifeguards at both Sun-n-Fun Lagoon and Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, upon its completion.

+A debt service package to bond for deferred maintenance issues is being finalized prior to presentation to the BCC, with aquatics noted as the most significant issue.

+Pickleball fees remain a topic of discussion, with citizens expressing concern at the proposed increase in fees to play at county parks.

At the request of the BCC, Parks Staff is performing a thorough analysis of the concessionaire agreement in order to provide a more holistic understanding. It was noted that user fees are put towards Parks operating expenses, which would alternatively be funded by the taxpayers. Mr. Brougham noted that the financial split between Parks and the concessionaire is a key issue, however general public feedback appeared to focus on the concessionaire profit and loss. Ms. Saunders pointed out the ability for the concessionaire to provide appropriate staffing and specialized services, relieving the Parks Division of the excessive administrative and financial burden. Mr. Brougham pointed out the first class facilities offered by Collier County and suggested that a complete picture be presented to the BCC of the potential cost involved for the Parks Division to operate the pickleball facilities versus contracting with a dynamic and successful concessionaire.

+The dedication for the renaming of the Adaptive Sailing Center in honor of Mr. Murdo Smith is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The ceremony will coincide with the annual regatta, which will feature special needs sailors from around the world.

X. Adjournment

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

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Edward “Ski” Olesky, Chairman

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