

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD
Collier County Government Complex
Naples, Florida

July 15, 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. in REGULAR SESSION via hybrid in-person and video conference attendance at Administrative Building “F”, Third Floor, Collier County Government Complex Naples, Florida with the following members participating:

CHAIRMAN: Mr. Edward “Ski” Olesky
VICE-CHAIRMAN Mr. Phil Brougham
Ms. Mary Bills, Advisory Board Member
Mr. Joshua Fruth, Advisory Board Member
Ms. Rebecca Gibson-Laemel, Advisory Board Member
Mr. David Saletko, Advisory Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:
Mr. Barry Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation Division
Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Division
Ms. Annie Alvarez, Regional Manager, Parks and Recreation Division
Mr. Michael Cherbini, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Division
Mr. Mike Randall, VP, The Fallen Officers
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 July 15, 2020 meeting agenda. Mr. Josh Fruth seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried, 5-0.

IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the June 17, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Saletko. Ms. Gibson-Laemel abstained from the vote due to her absence at the June 15, 2020 meeting. Remaining members were in favor. The motion was carried, 4-0, with 1 abstention.

V. Public/Board Comments

+There were no comments from members of the public.

+Mr. Olesky noted condition issues with the basketball courts at both Immokalee Community Park and Immokalee South Park. Ms. Alvarez clarified that basketball and tennis court resurfacing are included as projects in the 5-year plan. Mr. Williams stated that the concern would be investigated, and an update would be provided at the next PARAB meeting.

+It was further noted by Ms. Alvarez that installation of the new playground in Immokalee is soon to commence. The gymnasium/basketball court at the Immokalee Sports Complex has been completed, with the Teen Center soon to be completed.

+Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to the status of resurfacing of the tennis courts and the possible addition of more pickleball courts at Veteran's Community Park. Mr. Williams clarified that the four existing tennis courts will be resurfaced; two of the courts are temporarily marked for pickleball play, and two of the courts are planned to be permanently striped to accommodate pickleball play.

VI. Capital Projects Update

+**Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (BCIRP):** Phase I of the project continues to be on schedule. Vertical construction is soon to begin, with the competitive pool site having been dug at the aquatic facility. Design work has begun on Phase II; the area south of the canal, with 100% drawings anticipated to be completed in Fall 2020. Following bid solicitation, construction is planned to begin in September/October 2021. Phase II will include a roadway, four softball fields, fitness center and gymnasium complex.

Construction of Phase II is expected to take three years for completion, primarily due to work involved with reclamation of land from the lake area to accommodate the softball fields. Completion of entire park buildout is expected in 2024.

+Debt Service: An item is planned to be brought before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding pursuit of debt service to address aquatic restoration projects. Sun-n-Fun Lagoon will remain closed as restorative work continues, with replacement of the Lazy River Bridge identified as the most disruptive project. A meeting was recently held with an engineering firm to discuss a total refresh of the facility, notably with the addition of a FlowRider surfing feature. The estimated cost for this feature is approximately \$1.5M, which is anticipated to be included in the bond proposal. The cost of maintenance of the new feature will be considered in discussions with the County Manager, with whom Parks Staff is working to establish a maintenance plan for the entire Parks system. Mr. Brougham inquired as to whether the cost of the FlowRider feature would impact funding for other projects, either maintenance or new construction. It was noted by Mr. Williams that the Sun-n-Fun facility is one of the few within the Parks system, which “pays for itself” when in operation. There is also an opportunity to monetize the amenity, with food and beverage sales to spectators. Existing deck space is available to accommodate the FlowRider, with Engineering to identify capacity within State regulations, including ADA considerations. Mr. Bryan Vehovec, Project Manager with Facilities Management was recognized by Mr. Williams for his efforts in soliciting engineering firms for work on aquatics facilities, with three firms now readily available for projects.

+Clam Pass: The existing restrooms have been reconfigured, fully ADA compliant, and are now open for use. A new water fountain has also been installed. Work continues on new restroom construction, which is anticipated for completion in mid-August. The boardwalk is scheduled to be closed at that time for deck replacement work to begin, with boardwalk closure expected for approximately 60 days. The project will also include improvements to the shower deck, as well as ADA improvements. Coordination has been done between Parks Staff and Naples Grande Management regarding timing the project to coincide with the least busy two months of the year. Naples Grande Staff is exploring alternative options for providing beach access for their guests. The Park will be closed to the public while work on the boardwalk is done, however access to Clam Pass Beach will be available through Sea Gate access. Further, Parks Staff will work with Naples Grande Management to accommodate hotel guests who wish to access the beach.

+Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park: Mr. Brougham inquired as to the status of the Park expansion study.

Mr. Williams stated that Parks Staff is in the process of securing Mr. Tim Hancock, Senior Planner with Stantec, as the vendor who will assist in conducting a community charrette in the fall.

+Manatee Community Park: Mr. Brougham inquired as to the nature of a project at Manatee Community Park which is included on the Capital Projects list. It was noted by Mr. Williams that this entry was included in error. In the past, the decision was made to not pursue a possible hybrid park/affordable housing development at Manatee Community Park, with the current focus in East Naples on expansion of the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park and the East Naples Community Park Master Plan.

+BigShots/Golden Gate Golf Course: Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to the status of the BigShots amenity which is planned at the existing Golden Gate Country Club site. Mr. Fruth stated that lease negotiation is currently underway with the County. Public meetings are then planned to discuss the intent to convert the existing site to a 12-hole golf course, with the addition of the two-story, 60 bay BigShots facility.

+Hurricane Irma Reparations: Ms. Gibson-Laemel requested clarification on remaining projects for issues which resulted from Hurricane Irma. Mr. Williams stated that there are currently no active projects related to post-Irma damage. A loan had been retained toward 306 funds to address necessary repairs following the hurricane, however, as reimbursements from FEMA have been received, reconciliation with the fund has been possible. A portion of funds which remained from the account have been redirected to cover COVID-19 expenses, notably for extra cleaning, particularly at beach restrooms. Contracted cleaners have been brought on board to periodically clean these facilities.

VII. New Business

a. Legends Concert Series – Mr. Mike Randall

Mr. Mike Randall, VP, representing The Fallen Officers organization, addressed PARAB to seek approval of a monthly concert series proposed to be held at Sugden Park in support of fallen officers and law enforcement. The Legends Concert Series will feature top tribute bands from across the country, with a concert proposed to be held the first Friday or Saturday of each month, beginning November 2020 through July 2021. 100% of the proceeds from the event will go to the Fallen Officers organization, minus costs for the event, including the entertainment, stage, security, insurance, etc. Each concert will honor local first responders, military, police, and healthcare workers. Food trucks will be on site; however, no alcohol will be served.

Ms. Bills was in support of the concept, however expressed concern at the ability to accommodate appropriate social distancing at a large event.

Mr. Randall noted the availability of volunteers to assist with ensuring chairs and blankets are appropriately spaced apart. Further, CDC guidelines will continue to provide direction as the pandemic goes on over time.

Mr. Brougham also expressed support of the concept, however pointed out the uncertainty as to what restrictions may be necessary in the future, such as the recent modifications in beach access. As such, Mr. Brougham was uncomfortable with supporting a 9-month blanket approval which was requested for the concert series and instead, recommended approval for the initial concert in November, followed by consideration of continued concerts at that time. Mr. Randall concurred, however also noted the difficulty in booking the entertainment on short notice, with the potential for loss of deposits in the event of cancellation.

Mr. Randall stated that a plan for social distancing had been submitted for an event planned to be held in Cambier Park in October 2020. A limit was subsequently placed on the number of free tickets which could be distributed, to ensure appropriate social distancing of attendees at the event. Temperature checks will be done as well. Mr. Brougham suggested that a social distancing plan also be submitted to PARAB at the next scheduled meeting for review and further discussion, prior to a vote on the request for approval of the event. Ms. Bills concurred and further recommended that masks be strongly recommended, not required, if appropriate in November. Mr. Williams noted that COVID-19 plans are being requested of vendors and groups prior to the scheduling of events held at North Collier Regional Park. Parks Staff will work with Mr. Randall to discuss the availability of space at Sugden Park, to assist with formulation of a plan. Mr. Williams further noted the need to verify the availability of Sugden Park on the days requested by Mr. Randall for the event.

Mr. Brougham entered a motion that the Fallen Officers organization prepare and submit a COVID-19 action plan, in coordination with Parks Staff, for presentation and discussion at the next scheduled PARAB meeting. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.

b. Sun-n-Fun Lagoon FlowRider

See previous discussion under Capital Projects Update – Debt Service.

VIII. Old Business

a. Immokalee Ball Fields

Ms. Annie Alvarez provided an update on actions taken in response to concerns expressed by members of the community and the Phoenix travel team related to use of the fields, as well as the condition and maintenance of the baseball and softball fields at Immokalee High School.

Several meetings have been held in this regard, which have included members of Parks Staff, PARAB, School Board, and the Immokalee High School Athletic Director. It was clarified that field maintenance is the responsibility of the School Board, in accordance with an interlocal agreement with the Parks Division. As such, issues or concerns related to field maintenance should be directed to the School Board. Prior to the interlocal agreement, the Parks Division was responsible for field maintenance, maintaining field conditions at a recreational level. However, as Immokalee High School does not have ballfields, the interlocal agreement with the School Board was entered into, so ballfields may be maintained at a higher level of service.

It was noted that flooding issues on the fields have been addressed and that the current condition of the fields is good. The fields are not currently in use by the school system; however, are open and available for rental, as well as public use. Members of the public wishing to use the fields may make this request at the Community Center and a staff member will unlock the gate for field access. It was noted that Immokalee High School softball and baseball teams have first right to use during the season. Mr. Jeff Davenport, President, Immokalee Little League, has advocated for shared field use, as there are no other fields available in Immokalee for Little League play. Immokalee High School sports camps, which are sanctioned by the School Board and free to the public, also make use of the fields. Parks and Recreation events and leagues are scheduled off-season to avoid interference with High School use of the fields during season.

A meeting was also held to discuss field use by the Phoenix travel team. It was clarified by Mr. Marc Rouleau, Executive Director, Facilities Management, Collier County Public Schools that the Phoenix travel team is not a school or District sanctioned team, necessitating field rental payment, as well as coordination with the sports camps.

IX. Director's Highlights

+ It was noted that summer recreation is now in week 6. The Collier School Board has delayed the return of students for the 2020-2021 school year, offering several alternatives for study in the setting of the coronavirus pandemic. Parks Staff has been in communication with Workforce Development and the School Board to potentially utilize Park Community Centers as an alternative location for children who do not wish to return to campus for study. The current plan is for Community Centers to reopen for public use following the completion of the summer recreation program in August.

+Youth sports organizations are planning for fall programming, having submitted COVID-19 safety plans to the Parks Division.

+The North Collier Regional Park gymnasium has reopened for adult basketball play, following receipt of a COVID-19 plan.

Consideration will be given for reopening basketball play at the Golden Gate Community Center and in Immokalee, dependent upon the experience at NCRP.

+Normal hours of access have resumed at County beaches. It was noted that East Coast beaches have reopened, however with restrictions for beachgoers which includes the use of a mask when not in the water, as well as disallowing sports activities. Overflow issues at some Park locations had occurred when East Coast beaches were closed, which were managed by Parks staff.

+A playground cleaning protocol has been implemented, with staff cleaning the 28 Park playgrounds sequentially. Community Center playgrounds, which are currently only utilized by children participating in summer recreation are cleaned daily, Monday through Friday.

+The long-time concessionaire at Tigertail Beach has chosen to not renew their contract. Mr. Williams remarked upon the excellent job done through the years and wished them well in their future endeavors. Solicitation of a new concessionaire will soon commence.

X. 311

+A request was received for the lights to be turned on in the evening at Park locations; in particular, pickleball courts. Normal park hours are planned to resume following the completion of summer recreation in the fall, September 1, 2020.

XI. 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.