

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

June 17, 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 present:

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

ALSO PRESENT:  
Mr. Barry Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation Division  
Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation Division  
Mr. Ayoub Al-Bahou, Principal Project Manager, Facilities Management  
Mr. Michael Cherbini, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation Division  
Mr. Rick Garby, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation Division  
Ms. Melissa Hennig, Beach & Water Regional Manager, 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**

It was noted by Mr. Williams that the meeting had been publicly noticed online as a “hybrid” meeting, with several options for participation, including videoconference, teleconference, or in-person participation.

*Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the June 17, 2020 meeting agenda. Mr. Brougham seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.*

## **IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

+A request was made for correction of the February 19, 2020 meeting location on the minutes.

*Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the February 19, 2020 meeting minutes, with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brougham. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.*

## **V. Public/Board Comments**

+There were no comments from members of the public.

+There were no additional comments from members of the Advisory Board.

## **VI. Capital Projects Update**

**+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (BCIRP):** Phase I construction remains on schedule, with the northern portion scheduled for opening early November 2020 and the southern portion in July 2021. Design of Phase II site work is at approximately 90% completion, with work scheduled to begin in late November 2021. Approval has been given by the County Manager for design of the gymnasium to commence, with eventual public meetings planned to solicit community feedback regarding amenities desired to be included within this structure. Phase II construction includes reclamation of a portion of the lake for accommodation of four college-sized softball fields, construction of a roadway connecting the park and Oil Well Road, kayak/canoe launch area, as well as a recreation complex, which is planned to include basketball courts and a fitness center. Cash flow assistance for the project is planned via impact fees derived from the discretionary sales surtax. Funds were recently requested of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for the operation of BCIRP, with unanimous approval of the operating budget as presented. The operating budget includes hiring four staff members in the current fiscal year; two Parks staff members in preparation for Phase I (north) delivery scheduled in November 2020, as well as two maintenance staff positions planned to be filled August/September 2021.

Additional staff will be brought on board upon Phase I completion in July 2021.

**+Clam Pass Boardwalk Repair:** Phase I of the project was accelerated during beach closures due to coronavirus, with work begun on bathroom renovations and expansion. The project is scheduled for completion in July 2020. Phase II construction is planned to commence in August 2020 for boardwalk repair.

**+East Naples Community Park (ENCP):** A meeting was held with stakeholders and Jacobs Engineering regarding construction of the Welcome Center. Conceptual design is underway, with full permits in place. The project continues, however was temporarily slowed due to exploration of potential impacts from the coronavirus. Restrooms and two concession areas are planned for food, beverages, and product sales. Mr. Brougham requested the involvement of PARAB, as well as the community during the design phase of the Welcome Center. Mr. Williams concurred and will share the initial conceptual design at the next PARAB meeting.

## **VII. New Business**

### **a. Accreditation – Ms. McPherson**

The Collier County Parks and Recreation Division recently underwent a rigorous accreditation process, which is required every five years. Ms. McPherson managed the extensive preparation for the accreditation process, which included an assessment by three members of the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). A virtual assessment was completed by CAPRA staff, rather than the usual onsite visit due to restrictions related to the coronavirus. Preliminary results indicate that all 151 required standards were met, with no areas of general concern identified. It was noted that only 20%-25% of accredited agencies meet all 151 standards.

The hard work and team effort of Parks staff in preparation for the review was acknowledged, with the Collier Parks and Recreation Division being one of only 172 fully accredited Park agencies, out of 10,000 nationwide. Ms. McPherson also acknowledged the assistance of multiple County agencies during preparation for the accreditation process, including Human Resources, Planning, Facilities Management, and Risk Management. Mr. Fruth inquired as to public awareness of this accomplishment. Ms. McPherson noted that more could be done in this regard. Mr. Brougham concurred and suggested a recommendation may be made by PARAB for formal recognition by the BCC of the re-accreditation. Mr. Williams stated that a final decision and announcement of re-accreditation is typically made at the annual National Recreation and Parks Association Conference, however concurred that recognition by the BCC could be sought following the formal announcement.

## **b. Sun-N-Fun Repairs**

Staff discussions have been had regarding the use of debt service to address multiple deferred maintenance issues, which includes renovation of the Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, now in its 14<sup>th</sup> year. The water park is currently closed based on the recommendation by the State, and the National Recreation and Parks Association in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Repairs at the park are being expedited during this time, in coordination with Facilities Management, however with a larger plan to capitalize on extended park closure to perform a complete remodel and renovation. The initial project of replacement of the bridge over the Lazy River will be presented to the BCC at the June 2020 meeting. The current plan is for park closure through Memorial Day 2021 to allow for completion of all repairs/renovation, with a relaunch of the facility at that time. The three County community pools will remain open during the time of Sun-n-Fun Park closure to ensure adequate aquatic facilities within the community. Following Sun-n-Fun reopening in the summer of 2021, and with the anticipated availability of the aquatic center at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, the Immokalee Sports Complex Aquatic Center and the Golden Gate Community Park pools will close for remodeling. The design for resurfacing of the activity pool at the Golden Gate Community Park is currently being finalized, with construction planned to begin in Fall 2020. Potential new aquatic features, renovation costs, and marketing strategies of the improved facilities were discussed. Strategies for project assessment, permitting, and funding are under consideration to ensure project timelines are met, without delay. Debt repayment of the multiple renovations are planned from 306 funds which are allocated on a yearly basis.

## **c. COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Williams noted that plans for reopening began almost immediately following necessary park closures due to the coronavirus pandemic, with Parks Staff participation in twice weekly conference calls with community stakeholders, monitoring of CDC and National Recreation and Park Association recommendations related to park facilities, as well as ongoing discussions with colleagues in Lee County, Cities of Naples, Marco Island, and Bonita Springs. Social distancing, sanitization, and education related to handwashing and wearing masks are all integral components of the reopening plan. Facilities are being gradually reopened in consultation and direction from the County Manager, whose authority was granted by the BCC in response to the State of Emergency.

**+Beaches:** Parks staff were onsite to provide education/information to the public at county beaches during beach closure and the subsequent time of restricted use. The previous restriction which required beach parking stickers at both City and County beaches has now been lifted. Beach parking stickers may be purchased at County aquatic facilities, including the Sun-n-Fun ticket office, Eagle Lakes Aquatic Center, Immokalee South Park, and the Golden Gate Community Park, as well as several local libraries and Collier County Tax Collector offices.

Daily parking passes will also be available for purchase at each beach park facility.

The City of Naples Pier has reopened, with a plan to remove the restriction which disallows fishing.

The most recent Governor's Executive Order for the next phase of State reopening allows for groups of up to 50 people to congregate, which allows sports teams to reconvene on athletic fields. Signage posted throughout parks encourages compliance with CDC recommended guidelines.

+**Park green spaces and boat ramps** have remained open throughout the health crisis, which facilitated biking, running, walking, and picnic activities while maintaining CDC guidelines.

+**Park Fitness Centers** have reopened, accepting registered members, as well as walk-ins, with strict protocols established. Periodic cleaning is done throughout the day and with a limited number of people admitted at a time.

+**Park pools** are open, with restrictions on the number of people allowed on deck, based on square footage and the ability to maintain social distancing. Initial feedback indicates that there are some pools with a higher public demand than may be accommodated at this point, however potentially increasing capacity as allowable in the near future.

+**In-door gymnasiums** will be limited to summer camp recreation only, however with public requests for use by outside users under consideration.

+**Park Community Centers and playgrounds** will be made available for summer camp recreational use only, Monday through Friday, through August 7, 2020. Weekend use by the public, Saturday and Sunday, is planned to begin on June 24, 2020.

The four Park Community Centers which were previously open for beach park sticker distribution will now be closed to the public through August 7. Consideration will be given for reopening Community Centers to the public after August 7, potentially with regular programming, including fitness classes, room rentals, etc.

The CDC has revised their most recent direction regarding public use of playgrounds and are now advising careful reopening. Staff has prepared a plan for playground reopening for public use, which will be presented to the BCC at the June 2020 meeting. Systematic sanitization of the playgrounds is planned. Signage encouraging CDC recommended guidelines will be clearly posted. Pending BCC approval of the plan, playgrounds are targeted for public use beginning June 24, 2020. Playgrounds which are associated with Community Centers will reopen for public use after the completion of summer camps, beginning August 8, 2020. Playgrounds in Immokalee will remain closed, pending a better understanding of the COVID infection rate at that location.

+**Reservations** for outdoor field and pavilion use are being accepted, however no indoor room reservations will be accepted during summer camp.

It was noted that requests have been received from Youth Sports organizations to resume play. Sports Leagues and Tournaments are required to submit COVID protection plans, with field play allowable as agreements are established.

#### **d. Summer Camp Update**

After much consideration, a decision was made to move forward with summer camp. Careful planning of safety protocols has been done, including a significant reduction in the number of total attendees, as well as the number of children allowed within each class. It was noted that the Department of Family and Children maximum ratio of children per counselor is 1:25, with the Parks goal of 1:18. However, due to the coronavirus outbreak, the ratio of children per counselor has been reduced further to a 1:9 ratio. Camp hours have been reduced to 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Weekly registration has been disallowed, now requiring a commitment for attendance through the summer. Social distancing practices will be observed as best as possible. Prior to entering the building, both Staff and children are prescreened each morning with a temperature check and asked CDC recommended health questions related to possible COVID exposures. Staff are required to wear a mask while indoors, with the children provided masks and encouraged to wear them indoors as well. Field trips have been cancelled due to issues related to issues of ensuring adequate social distancing during transport. Specialty camps, which are run by outside vendors, will not be offered this summer due to the need for additional space to allow for adequate social distancing of sports camps, middle school camps, and low-ratio elementary camps. Routine cleaning is carried out throughout the day. Each group carries hand sanitizer, as well as has access to hand sanitization stations set up throughout the building. Individually packaged sets of arts and crafts supplies are being utilized this summer. Staff has been fully trained on all safety protocols.

Mr. Brougham inquired as to whether the BCC has been made aware of budgetary impacts related to COVID safety protocols. Mr. Williams stated that expenses were cut early on, including furloughing job bankers for approximately one month, and with some savings realized in facilities costs, for example, with a reduction in electricity costs. The FY21 budget which will be presented to the BCC will include revenue impacts for the Parks Division. Mr. Brougham suggested possible consideration of building capacity when planning future Parks structures.

#### **e. Tigertail Beach Grant**

A recommendation was being sought of PARAB for approval of a Tourist Development Council (TDC) Grant Application in the amount of \$123K for costs associated with the addition of a restroom facility at TigerTail Beach.

Design and permitting is complete. Bids for the project returned higher than anticipated, with a decision made to purchase a prefabricated ADA compliant restroom structure directly from the supplier. The grant is being requested for additional costs associated with construction and installation of the restroom.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to approve the Tourist Development Council Grant Application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of \$123,000 for the addition of a restroom facility at TigerTail Beach, which will promote tourism at this location. Mr. Fruth seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

#### **f. Concessionaire Amendment**

A recommendation was brought before the BCC at the June 9, 2020 meeting to waive contractual payment obligations for Parks and Recreation concessionaires, from March 1 through May 31, 2020, due to the coronavirus pandemic. An amendment to Agreement #19-7559 was included, to allow Zack's Food Cart Ministry, concessionaire, to sell alcohol at Barefoot Beach. The recommendation was approved by the BCC at the June meeting and a retroactive approval was now being sought of PARAB to allow the sale of alcohol at Barefoot Beach by this concessionaire. All Parks Division requirements pertaining to alcohol sales must be met, with alcohol consumption allowable only on the deck of the concession area. Mr. Olesky expressed concern at potential liability related to overindulgence. Mr. Williams noted no awareness of previous incidents related to overconsumption of alcohol at Parks locations and clarified that concessionaires are required to follow a State protocol regarding serving alcohol, including ensuring age compliance and avoidance of overindulgence. The Parks contract management system monitors compliance with these measures as well. Educational signage informing patrons to consume alcohol within the concessionaire perimeter are clearly posted. If, in the event an escalation did occur, involvement by a Park Ranger and/or the Collier County Sheriff's Office could occur.

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the First Amendment to Agreement #19-7559 for Barefoot Beach Concessionaire, Zack's Food Cart Ministry Catering, Inc., to allow for the sale of alcohol at Barefoot Beach. Mr. Fruth seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

### **VIII. Old Business**

#### **a. Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park Update**

Please see the previous discussion in Capital Projects Update, Item VI, as above.

**b. Immokalee Ballfields**

Staff discussions have been had regarding issues and concerns expressed by representatives of a competitive softball team who utilize the Immokalee ballfields. PARAB member, Ms. Daphne Saunders, personally met with members of the group to gain better insight into these issues. Parks Staff subsequently met with School District Cabinet Member, Mr. Mark Rouleau, to discuss the stated concerns. Mr. Rouleau graciously agreed to contact the maintenance team at Immokalee High School to discuss field maintenance, as per the existing agreement. Unfortunately, this discussion has been temporarily tabled due to COVID-19. Mr. Rouleau has confirmed his intent to move forward when conditions allow. Mr. Brougham expressed understanding, but also frustration for the delay in resolution. Mr. Fruth noted that summer was the ideal time for field maintenance, while school is not in session. Mr. Williams concurred and stated that the goal was for the fields to be made ready for Fall play and noted a willingness for Parks Staff to work with the School District in seeking a resolution. This item will remain on the PARAB agenda until a resolution is reached, with updates provided as they are made available.

**c. Pickleball Update**

A previous request by the pickleball concessionaire for a fee increase has been withdrawn, following community feedback received during discussion of the item at a Board of County Commissioner meeting. The current fee schedule will therefore be maintained, and the fee increase request will not be advanced at this time.

**d. Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park Dedication**

The planned renaming ceremony of the Eagle Lakes Community Park which was scheduled in April 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19. This event has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2020, at 10:00 a.m.

**IX. 311**

Mr. Williams acknowledged an increase in Park related 311 calls over the last several months. The benefits of utilizing the system for accountability in resolution of issues was noted. PARAB members were encouraged to continue to utilize the 311 system to report issues and concerns.

**X. Director’s Highlights**

+The Grand Opening of the new Paradise Coast Sports Complex is scheduled for July 4, 2020. Mr. Williams remarked upon the world class design and facilities, and its positive impact on tourism and local play. Mr. Fruth concurred and stated that the first scheduled event is on July 8, 2020, which will bring 800 athletes to the facility for a football showcase, which is a national level event.

Mr. Olesky suggested a tour be arranged for PARAB members prior to the Grand Opening, which will be coordinated by Mr. Fruth and Mr. Williams.

+Mr. Williams will update PARAB members as to the format for the next PARAB meeting; in-person, phone-in, or Zoom videoconference. Mr. Olesky suggested that the next PARAB meeting be held in July, despite normally being a vacation month, after several consecutive months of canceled meetings due to COVID-19. Mr. Brougham concurred, especially in view of impending budget discussions.

## **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.