MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Collier County Government Complex

Naples, Florida

August 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. 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

Ms. Daphnie Saunders, Advisory Board Member

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Barry Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Ayoub Al-Bahou, Principle Project Manager, Facilities Management

Mr. Michael Cherbini, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Rick Garby, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Melissa Hennig, Region 1 Manager, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Mike Randall, VP, The Fallen Officers

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

Ms. Peg Ruby, Marketing Specialist, Parks and Recreation

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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. Brougham entered a motion to approve the August 19, 2020 meeting agenda. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 15, 2020**

***Ms. Bills*** ***entered a motion to approve the July 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**

+There were no comments from members of the public.

+Mr. Brougham inquired when a formal announcement would be made regarding the result of the Collier Parks Division re-accreditation process. Ms. McPherson clarified that an announcement on accreditation status would be made in October 2020by theCommission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

+Ms. Bills requested clarification of the relationship between the Parks Division and the Paradise Coast Sports Complex. Mr. Williams noted viewing the Sports Complex as a “sister” park, in support of sports tourism, as well as providing support of local recreational needs. The facility is captured in Parks Division planning for the Annual Update and Inventory Report (AUIR) for level of service for Regional Parks. Parks Staff interacts on a routine basis with SFI, the contracted management group for the Sports Complex, as well as County Staff, coordinating planning for tournaments and in meeting local recreational needs.

**VI. Capital Projects Update**

**+Clam Pass Park:** The remodeling of two existing restrooms is complete, now fully ADA compliant, and open to the public. Construction of a new restroom is near completion and anticipated to be open in mid-August 2020. Delivery of boardwalk materials was delayed several weeks due to manufacturer shut down in response to the coronavirus. As a result, the boardwalk will be closed on September 8, 2020 and the replacement project will begin. It was noted that a smaller repair had previously been done to a portion of the boardwalk, however the current project involves replacement of the entire structure. Funds remaining from the smaller repair may be utilized for the replacement project, as needed.

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Project duration is anticipated to take 60 days. Access to Clam Pass Park will be closed during this time, however Parks Staff will work with Naples Grande Management to accommodate hotel guests who wish to access the beach. Access to Clam Pass Beach will be available through Sea Gate.

**+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park (BCIRP):** Phase I of the project (North) remains ongoing and is scheduled for completion in December 2020. The competitive pool has begun to be poured, the site civil work is completed, as well as much of the roadway improvements. Vertical construction has begun. Four multipurpose fields, two softball fields, and the concession area will be available for use in January 2021. Staffing for maintenance is therefore underway, with Mr. Irving Baez selected for the Field Supervisor position. Phase II (South) remains scheduled for completion in July 2021.

**+COVID-19:** Ms. Gibson-Laemel requested clarification of expenses incurred related to COVID-19. It was noted that reimbursements received from FEMA following Hurricane Irma expenditures have allowed for reconciliation with 306 funds. A portion of funds which remain from this account have been redirected to cover COVID-19 expenses, the largest of which has been cleaning of the beach park facilities on a routine basis. Funding is estimated to be available through the end of September 2020, with a possibility for diverting additional funding for unanticipated COVID-19 related expenses. As an example, interlocal agreements between the Parks Division and the School Board allows for public recreational use of school athletic fields. As the School Board has closed the restroom facilities at these locations in their response to COVID-19, portable restrooms have been provided by the Parks Division for public use.

Funding may also be made available via the $67M awarded to the County via the CARES ACT, which is being utilized in a variety of ways, and managed through the Community and Health Services Division.

**+Community Park Fitness Equipment:** Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to whether fitness equipment is leased or purchased. It was clarified that fitness equipment is purchased and maintained, which is an ongoing project.

**+North Collier Regional Park:** Mr. Fruth inquired as to the status of ongoing projects at this location. Mr. Williams noted several projects which are underway, most notably replacement of the Lazy River Bridge. There have been delays in delivery of IPE materials, however the project is actively being worked. Water Technologies has been selected for redesign of water features, with plans to select a firm in September 2020 who will work with Water Technologies to expedite repairs. The addition of a FlowRider feature is planned, with the entire Park project scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day 2021. In terms of financing, an item is planned to be brought before the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) regarding pursuit of debt service to address aquatic restoration projects.

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Mr. Brougham inquired as to the list of projects potentially planned with debt service financing. It was noted that all aquatics facilities have been identified as priorities; total renovation of Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, multiple line items of aquatics maintenance at the Golden Gate Community Park and Immokalee Sports Complex, replacement of the boardwalk in the Preserve at North Collier Regional Park, replacement of piers and docks at Sugden Park, as well as repairs associated with the floating docks at Caxambas Park, at a total cost of $18M-$20M.

Mr. Olesky inquired as to whether the FlowRider feature might be used for team competitions. Mr. Williams confirmed the opportunity for sports tourism via the addition of Naples as a destination on the FlowRider US FLOW tour.

**+Immokalee Sports Complex:** Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to the nature of a capital project which noted diversion of funds from the Immokalee Sports Complex to Vineyards Community Park for resurfacing of the tennis courts. It was clarified that ultimately a decision had been made to utilize these funds to purchase equipment to clean the new basketball court surfaces at the Immokalee Sports Complex.

**VII. New Business**

1. **TDC Grant – Ms. Melissa Hennig**

Ms. Hennig addressed PARAB seeking approval of a Tourist Development Council (TDC) Grant application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of $165,000. On April 25, 2016, the TDC had approved a Grant application in the amount of $690,000 for completion of the Tigertail Park Beach User/Site Enhancements Project. Additional funding is now being requested to cover current construction costs to complete the project, which includes enhancements to the Ranger Station, bathroom, parking area, gate, new landscaping, and boardwalk repair. Mr. Brougham inquired as to whether the budget included a contingency reserve to circumvent the need to seek future additional funding for a project. Mr. Al-Bahou confirmed that there is a 20%-30% contingency built-in to engineering estimates. Mr. Williams acknowledged room for improvement on final cost estimation, however also noted the challenge in that this project had been in the Facilities Management queue for three years, with a subsequent escalation in costs.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion for recommendation of approval of the Tourist Development Council (TDC) Grant application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of $165,000. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

1. **Collier Parks Marketing – Ms. Peg Ruby**

Ms. Ruby addressed PARAB to discuss the new design of the Parks and Recreation website.

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The new website, Collierparks.com, went live online in June 2020 after more than a year of work on the redesign. The website is now freestanding and separate from the Collier Government website; a link is available from the Government site to the new Parks website. Information on all park locations, beaches, camps, childcare, athletics, fitness, general information, calendar of events, and online registration is given, with subcategories available under each topic. Mr. Olesky also suggested a tab for Sports Tourism information.

Near Field Communication (NFC) was discussed as a marketing tool to encourage online registration and interaction with the Parks Division. The software may be downloaded/enabled on all Android devices, as well as Apple IPhone 8 and newer. When enabled, the user will be redirected to the new Parks and Recreation website.

1. **Connor Park: - Mr. Rick Garby**

In support of an MSTU funded project improving the eastern portion of Connor Park, a refresh of the remainder of the property was done by the Parks Division, which included leveling, fill, sod and landscaping, palm tree trimming to code, sea grape trimming along the bridge, adjusted irrigation, replacement of old memorial benches, and new garbage and recycling bins, with focal areas at the Park entrance and center area. Mr. Jeff Bell, Senior Field Supervisor was credited with designing and managing the project, which was completed at a significant cost savings versus utilizing contracted services.

It was noted by Mr. Williams that inclusion of an outdoor fitness area at Connor Park has been suggested by local residents. The outdoor fitness concept, such as the National Fitness Campaign (NFC) outdoor fitness area, as well as outdoor functional fitness equipment by MoveStrong are under consideration for installation at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park and North Collier Regional Park; now with possible incorporation of this amenity at Connor Park as well. Shade structures would be included in the design to assist with alleviating the effects of elevated temperatures in the summer. The equipment is also coated with protective agents to assist with resistance to the outdoor elements and temperature control. Connor Park provides the advantage of existing, natural shade. Mr. Garby encouraged PARAB members to advocate for funding for the Parks Division to do similar park refreshes by in-house staff at other locations which are in need.

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**VIII. Old Business**

1. **Legends Concert Series – Mr. Mike Randall**

Mr. Randall addressed PARAB to present the COVID-19 social distancing plan for the Legends Concert Series, proposed to be held at Sugden Park beginning in January 2021.

The Legends Concert Series will feature top tribute bands from across the country, with a concert held the first Friday or Saturday of each month, with 7 concerts planned. 100% of the proceeds from the event will go to the Fallen Officers organization, minus costs for the event. Each concert will honor local first responders, military, police, and healthcare workers. Food trucks will be on site; however, no alcohol will be served.

The social distancing plan includes temperature checks for each individual prior to park entry, painting the grounds with blue circles (water soluble paint) an appropriate distance apart for participants to sit, encouragement of wearing a face covering at the park, and access to sanitizers at the entrance to the event and near the food trucks. Ms. McPherson confirmed that Parks Staff completes a thorough review of all COVID-19 mitigation plans which are submitted.

Mr. Williams noted the support of Parks Staff of the concept of the event. Current CDC guidelines were reiterated, as well as the local mask ordinance which is mandated only for indoor use at this time. The uncertainty of future safety protocols remains, necessitating flexibility in scheduling or proceeding with the event monthly, as proposed. Mr. Randall offered email status updates, including any changes or modifications in response to COVID-19, State and local ordinance changes, etc., leading up to the event. Mr. Brougham suggested that a report be provided to PARAB by Parks Staff following the first event in January, with overall observations and any recommended changes.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to approve the Legends Concert Series proposed to be held at Sugden Regional Park beginning in January 2021, with an update provided to the Advisory Board by Parks Staff following the initial event. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IX. Director’s Highlights – Mr. Williams**

+Mr. Williams expressed his appreciation to Parks Staff for their extensive efforts during the summer camp program. The program was deemed a great success, accommodating over 1,000 children. The summer camp program was extended in response to the delay of onset of the new school year by the School Board.

**X. 311 – No Reports**

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**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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