MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

15000 Livingston Road

Naples, Florida 34109

October 21, 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 North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, 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. Michael Cherbini, Project Manager, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Ron Miller, Risk Management, Collier County Government

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

Mr. Bryan Vehovec, Project Manager, Facilities Management

Mr. Derek Anderson

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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**

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the October 21, 2020 meeting agenda. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 16, 2020**

***Ms. Bills*** ***entered a motion to approve the September 16, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibson-Laemel. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**V. Public/Board Comments**

Mr. Derek Anderson addressed PARAB to request consideration of jet ski use on Lake Avalon at Sugden Park. Mr. Anderson stated that dozens of local professional jet ski racers currently travel to Markham Park in Broward County to practice, which has a lake designated for jet ski and personal watercraft use. It was noted that a signed liability waiver is required from each rider. Mr. Anderson requested consideration of a specific day and block of time for jet ski practice, preferably every Sunday afternoon, in full support of a liability waiver requirement by the County. Mr. Williams noted that Sunday afternoons are currently utilized for passive recreation, such as kayaking and canoeing, with Parks programming typically occurring Monday through Saturday. Jet ski use on Lake Avalon is currently prohibited, with only Parks program motorized vessels allowable, although special usage has been requested in the past for the annual Pro Watercross Championship event.

It was noted by Mr. Williams that Florida Communities Trust Funds are utilized for improvements at Sugden Park, which require definition to the State of planned activities at Lake Avalon. As such, an update of the Land Management Plan for Sugden Park is forthcoming. Jet ski use is not currently included in the definition of use and would require inclusion in the Land Management Plan update, with public vetting conducted as part of the process. The updated Plan would be presented to PARAB for review and endorsement, prior to presentation to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval, with final review and approval by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Mr. Williams noted willingness to contact counterparts at Markham Park in Broward County to discuss the components of jet ski use at that location, with subsequent review and an opinion by Collier Risk Management.

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Ms. Saunders stated she was not in favor of the inclusion of jet ski use at Lake Avalon. Mr. Brougham concurred, pointing out that Lake Avalon was created with the intention of passive recreational use, and noting the potential risk and liability issues associated with jet ski use on the lake. Ms. Bills opined that Lake Avalon is a small lake and not a good fit for jet ski use. Ms. McPherson pointed out that while Lake Avalon is larger than the Markham Park lake, there is no entry access control in place, as there is at the Broward Park location. Ms. Gibson-Laemel expressed interest in gathering more information, including hearing the results of public vetting prior to rendering an opinion or vote on this issue.

Mr. Ron Miller stated that an extensive review of the issue had been conducted by Collier County Risk Management, noting the conclusion to recommend against regular jet ski use at Lake Avalon due to the potential liability and exposure for the County.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to recommend that Parks Staff not pursue the inclusion of jet ski use on a regular basis as a component of the Land Management Plan update for Sugden Park. Ms. Saunders seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-1 vote, with a nay voiced by Ms. Gibson-Laemel.***

**VI. Capital Projects Update – Mr. Cherbini, Mr. Vehovec**

**+Clam Pass Restroom Expansion and Boardwalk Repair:** The project is near completion, with all permitting in place. Doors have been installed, with work on the shower deck to commence. Following a significant delay in the delivery of IPE wood from Brazil, final shipments are expected current week, with the project only having been delayed by several weeks.

**+Barefoot Beach:** A Grant application is planned to be submitted to the Tourist Development Council (TDC) for additional funding of design and permitting services for construction of a permanent Ranger Station.

**+Ann Olesky Park:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) requested additional information, originating from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, referable to the erosion control project. A timely response has been submitted, with State ACOE review and approval pending.

**Aquatics Projects:**

It was noted by Mr. Williams that the Sun-N-Fun Lagoon has remained closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, with the Parks Division taking the opportunity to renovate the facility during this time, utilizing BCC approved bond funding. The renovated park is forecasted to reopen in summer 2021.

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Renovation is also planned for the Golden Gate Community Pool and the Immokalee Sports Complex pool, which is planned to begin in September 2021. At that time, the Sun-N-Fun Lagoon, Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park, and Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park Pools will be open for public use. A Principal Project Manager is currently being recruited to oversee aquatics facilities and to advocate for maintenance funding.

**+Sun-N-Fun Lagoon:** The waterpark rejuvenation project is under design by Water Technology, Inc., currently between 30% to 50% design. Negotiation discussions with a construction management risk firm are in the final phase. Preconstruction services are anticipated to begin within the week, with presentation to the BCC at the November 10, 2020 meeting for final approval. A request for contractor bids for repair of the splash pad and the slide pool yielded one response, which will be presented for approval at the November 10 BCC meeting as well. Bid solicitation was also done for electrical repair of the problematic, proprietary splash pad control panels, with one response received. Following internal discussion, a decision was made to simplify the system by changing the controls to allow the feature to remain on. It was noted that construction for replacement of the Sun-n-Fun bridge continues following a tragic, fatal accident involving a worker; the accident is under investigation by OSHA.

**+Golden Gate Community Park:** The activity pool project is at 100% design. A solicitation of bids request has been submitted to Procurement. The Notice to Proceed for design of the lap pool has been issued. The timeline for the renovation of the lap pool and deck, as well as restroom modifications for ADA compliance is planned to commence with the opening of Big Island Corkscrew Regional Park.

**+Immokalee Sports Complex:** Work is being done to develop a scope for the design of the lap pool, pump house and associated equipment.

+Ms. Bills suggested that a project identifier be assigned to outstanding items on the Capital Projects list for easy reference during discussion at PARAB meetings. Mr. Fruth suggested a simple, sequential numbered list of projects.

+Mr. Brougham inquired as to the status of a delay noted in the plan/design of the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes gym. Mr. Williams noted receipt of a proposal from Stantec, with the Notice to Proceed issued. Stantec has begun work on the plan to engage key stakeholders during Season, with the goal of presentation of the Master Plan to the BCC in April 2021.

+Mr. Fruth inquired as to the timeline for reopening the children’s activity splashpad area at Golden Gate Community Park, which has been out of operation for approximately three years, as well as whether any shade structures are planned.

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Mr. Williams stated that reopening of the children’s pool is forecasted for 2021, with shade structures planned for the lap pool deck area and adjacent to the kiddie pool play area. Mr. Fruth noted that there are no shade structures located in the open field areas, which is a high activity area. Mr. Williams stated this item will be added to the five-year capital plan.

+Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to the nature of shade structure maintenance listed as a capital project. Mr. Williams clarified that maintenance and/or repair of shade structures throughout the Parks system is a budgeted item. There is also $450K budgeted for a playground replacement project. There are currently 28 Parks playgrounds, which average a 15-year lifespan, necessitating the replacement of one to two playgrounds each year. The maintenance or replacement of shade structures at the playgrounds is included within this project scope.

+Ms. Gibson-Laemel inquired as to the status of the Tigertail Beach playground project. Mr. Williams stated that the project is anticipated to be completed in December 2020. The addition of a shade structure at the playground is being funded by a Community Center Foundation Grant, which stipulated criteria for procurement guidelines, which resulted in a mild delay.

+Ms. Gibson-Lamel inquired as to the status of Manatee Community Park which is included on the list of capital projects. Mr. Williams clarified that a decision has been made to focus instead on the expansion of the Donna Fiala Community Center. While Manatee Community Park is included in the Parks Master Plan for late 2020s, the Master Plan priority projects are the completion of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park and the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Park expansion.

+Mr. Fruth requested an update on the repair and/or replacement of bollard posts along Danford Street, on the way to the Bayview Park entrance. Mr. Williams clarified that a work order has been generated for Parks Maintenance to investigate this issue. The issue has also been discussed with a project manager with Coastal Zone, as well as the Quality manager. Bollard posts which were not damaged have been put back into place, with new posts being purchased to replace the damaged ones. Residents along Danford Street have been apprised of the status of this project.

+A list of closed projects has now been added to the capital projects report and will be maintained on an ongoing basis. Closed projects will remain on the capital projects report until any remaining funds have been reallocated to other open projects on the list.

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**VII. New Business**

1. **Sugden Land Management Plan – Mr. Williams**

Mr. Williams stated that the Land Management Plan for Sugden Regional Park is in the process of being updated. The Land Management Plan is a guide as to how a park may be used. A copy of the current Plan for Sugden Park was shared with PARAB for their review, which includes standard operating procedures for use of the lake. While the Parks Division is open to consideration of different uses of the lake, feedback received from local residents has generally not been in favor of the use of motorized vessels on Lake Avalon. The update is typically performed within a five-year window and is currently being carried out with the assistance of a consultant. The updated Land Management Plan for Sugden Park will be presented to PARAB for endorsement, prior to presentation to the BCC for approval, and lastly, for State approval.

Mr. Brougham requested that changes to the existing plan be highlighted for easier review of the revised document, with which Mr. Williams was agreeable. Ms. Bills requested clarification as to whether Florida Communities Trust (FTC) approval is required for revenue producing enterprises at the Park, such as concerts and private events previously approved by PARAB. Mr. Williams confirmed that FTC approval is a requirement, as stated in the Land Management Plan.

1. **Lightning Detection – Ms. McPherson**

Standardization of lightning prediction system settings throughout the Parks Division is under consideration. Differentiation was made between a lightning prediction system, which determines atmospherically whether lighting is likely to occur, versus a real-time lightning detection system. Collier County utilizes a prediction system across all facilities, including the school system, who utilizes a less conservative setting than Parks locations. There is currently a difference in lighting prediction settings between aquatics facilities and open field settings, with an interest to err more conservatively, which would allow greater reaction time. Each park location has previously chosen the setting based upon the experience at that location. Mr. Brougham noted the difficulty in implementing a standardized sensitivity level due to the density of people at different locations; for example, Sun-N-Fun lagoon versus a ballfield. Ms. Bills noted confusion caused by differences in detection settings between Parks locations which may be located near a school. Mr. Williams stated that a global review is necessary, the results of which will be shared with PARAB members.

1. **TDC Grant Applications**

+An endorsement was sought from PARAB of a Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) Grant Application in the amount of $1,047,059 for repairs at the Vanderbilt Beach parking garage.

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The 18-year-old structure serves thousands of Collier County visitors each year and is in need of repairs, including joint sealant, traffic topping, trellis coating, concrete repair and coating.

***Ms. Gibson-Laemel entered a motion to approve the Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) Grant Application in the amount of $1,047,059 for repairs at the Vanderbilt Beach parking garage, which will assist in the promotion of tourism. Ms. Bills seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

+An endorsement was sought from PARAB of a Collier County Tourist Development Council (TDC) Grant Application for Beach Park Facilities in the amount of $60,000 for design and permitting services of a permanent Barefoot Beach Ranger Station for FY 2021. The Ranger Station had been converted for concessionaire use in the past, with the Rangers based in a modular home located in the parking lot for several years. The State approved Land Management Plan requires a public and natural resources safety and security staff member to be located on-site (Collier County Park Ranger). The TDC had previously approved funding for the project in 2018 in the amount of $100K, however an updated quote for design and permitting services from Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. necessitates the out of cycle request for $60K in additional funding. The project is anticipated to begin December 2020.

***Ms. Bills entered a motion to approve the Tourist Development Council Beach Park Facilities grant application for funding in the amount of $60,000 for Design and Permitting services for the Barefoot Beach Ranger Station, which will assist with the promotion of tourism. Mr. Brougham seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

1. **Swimwear SOP**

More clearly defined swimwear guidelines for Collier County Parks aquatics facilities are proposed. A survey of primarily government operated aquatics centers throughout Central and South Florida, as well as YMCAs, yielded mixed results in terms of swimwear guidelines, with some locales having no guidelines at all related to swimwear. The language which is now proposed for the Collier County Parks & Recreation Practices and Procedures Manual for Pool Rules & Enforcement states that “swim wear is required, no street clothes, no see-through clothing (wet or dry), no G-string bathing suits.” Aquatics staff will be counseled to consult a Supervisor to assist with the determination of whether the definition of appropriate attire has been violated prior to discussion with a patron.

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***Mr. Fruth entered a motion to endorse the revised swim wear guidelines as stated in the Collier County Parks and Recreation Practices and Procedures Manual for Pool Rules and Enforcement at Aquatics Facilities; PROCEDURE A. 2(d) to read:***

***“Swim wear required – NO street clothes, NO see-through clothing (wet or dry), NO G-string Bathing Suits.”***

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

1. **Adopt-A-Park Revisit**

The reinstitution of Adopt-A-Park visits by PARAB members, which were suspended with the onset of use of the 311 program, is open for consideration. A brief discussion resulted in a consensus of Board members for the continued use of the 311 system to report observed issues at Parks locations, including more global issues, such as scheduling of events at a location.

1. **Board Attendance**

A copy of the PARAB member attendance record was shared, with note made of the necessity for re-election of a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson prior to January 1.

Ms. Bills requested that moving forward, absences be identified as excused or non-excused on the report. Mr. Brougham suggested that Board members be contacted individually by Staff to discern their interest and ability to continue to serve as an active and contributing member. It was further noted by Mr. Brougham that a 7-member Board is beneficial in the event of a tie-breaking vote. Mr. Williams was agreeable to this recommendation and further stated that any members with excessive, unexcused absences may be asked their potential interest in relinquishing Board membership.

**VIII. Old Business**

1. **Cricket Pitch Update**

In response to a previous inquiry from PARAB regarding the use of the cricket pitch which had been installed at Eagle Lakes Park, Mr. Williams contacted local cricket players to discuss the issue. It was reported that COVID-19 had resulted in reduced to nil cricket play for the past several months, however strong interest remains in the use of the pitch. The players expressed an appreciation for the pitch having been constructed and have made plans to resume play safely. Mr. Olesky acknowledged the difficulties caused by the virus and suggested that use of the cricket pitch will increase with resolution of the pandemic. Staff is in agreement and will continue to monitor usage over time.

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1. **Softball Umpire Update**

An agreement has been reached with the Baseball/Softball Umpires Association to continue to provide services for the League under the current contract through February 2021, utilizing two umpires at $29 per umpire/per game. An option for a second extension to May, if necessary, is possible. Staff is surveying the League as to preference of the use of one umpire per game, versus two. A decision by Staff to continue with the terms of the current contract or to seek to solicit for one umpire per game is pending receipt of survey results. Analysis of local municipalities has revealed the general use of one umpire per game. Ms. Bercher offered to share insight with Staff related to her professional insight and discussion with ballplayers.

**IX. Director’s Highlights**

**+**The Parks Division is undergoing a reorganization, with the Project Management team moved under the Facilities Management Group. Business Operations has also been reorganized into a central group under the Public Services Division, with functions including Procurement, Billing, Capital Planning and Projects consolidated under the Operations and Veterans Support (OVS) Division, led by Ms. Kim Grant. Mr. Williams noted an invitation may be extended to Ms. Grant to address PARAB at a future date to discuss this organizational change, if so desired.

+The renaming ceremony for the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Center is scheduled for November 5, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

**X. 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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