MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

15000 Livingston Road

Naples, Florida 34109

November 18, 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

Ms. Olema Edwards, Regional Manager, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Rick Garby, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Peg Ruby, Marketing Coordinator, Parks and Recreation

Mr. Miguel Rojas, Jr., Administrative Assistant, 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 November 18, 2020 meeting agenda. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – October 21, 2020**

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

**V. Public/Board Comments**

+Mr. Brougham suggested that two wooden benches located on the walkway leading up to the Administration Building at NCRP be refurbished.

 +Mr. Brougham expressed his thanks to all in attendance at the dedication ceremony at the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park. The event was noted to be a great success.

+Mr. Fruth congratulated Parks Staff on achieving its fourth full accreditation status.

**VI. Capital Projects Update**

**+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park:** The project is progressing, currently with focus on the soil composition of the athletic fields. Delivery of Phase I of the park, which includes the athletic fields, softball multipurpose fields, and concession area remains on target for January 2021. Consideration is being given for a soft opening ceremony at the completion of phase I, versus a formal ribbon cutting ceremony at the time of delivery of the complete park, which is currently on track for July 2021. Phase II of the park will include the Community Center, Great Lawn, playground, and the Aquatics Facility. Aerial photographs of the park will be shared with PARAB members at the next meeting. Mr. Dave Closas is the Project Manager, working with Facilities Management.

**+Clam Pass Boardwalk:** The Clam Pass boardwalk, which was shut down in September 2020 for renovation is scheduled to be reopened on Monday, November 23, 2021, the week of the Thanksgiving holiday. The renovation project also included restroom expansion.

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**+Ann Olesky Park Erosion Control:** An enhanced cultural survey was submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers in summer 2020. Additionally, questions submitted by the Seminole Tribe of Florida regarding the project have been answered. Receipt of a permit for the project remains pending.

**+Caxambas Community Center:** Bid solicitation for the project was initiated in October 2020, with 13 responses received. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is contributing $70K towards the project. The project and final contractor selection are anticipated to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the January 2021 meeting, with groundbreaking in February/March 2021. A ribbon cutting ceremony is planned upon completion of the project.

**+Caxambas Storm Damage:** Multiple storm events resulted in significant damage to the boat ramp, docks, and fueling station. The fueling station was repaired emergently, with restoration prior to the Labor Day holiday. Short-term repairs of the boat ramp and dock will be done emergently where necessary, followed by permanent restoration of the aged bulkhead and dock.

**+Sun-N-Fun Lagoon:** Debt service has been approved by the BCC, with the Parks Division to receive $20M to be used for maintenance projects, particularly at aquatic facilities. The Sun-N-Fun waterpark rejuvenation project is under design by Water Technology, Inc. Solicitation and selection of a construction contractor was done, with presentation to the BCC at the last meeting. A-Square Construction will work with Water Technology, Inc. to expedite the project. The renovation project is planned to begin in January 2021, with target completion by Memorial Day 2021. Mr. Brian Vehovec, Project Manager, will be invited to the December PARAB meeting to further discuss pending aquatic renovations at the Golden Gate Community Park and the Immokalee Sports Complex. Parks Staff is planned to meet with the design team at the Immokalee Sports Complex in the coming week to discuss improvements at that facility.

**+East Naples Community Park Welcome Center:** The new Welcome Center will be located at the former maintenance area, which has been removed. Jacobs Engineering Group is performing the design work for the project, which is scheduled to be completed in mid-December. Bid solicitation will be done in January, with construction planned to begin following the U.S. Pickleball Championship in April 2021.

**+Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park Center:** Discussions are ongoing with the design team (Stantec, Inc.) regarding existing programming at the Community Center, as well as potential programming. A public charrette is planned in January/February 2021 to solicit community feedback on desired amenities. The addition of a gymnasium, playrooms, and expansion of the fitness center have previously been identified as desirable amenities within the design.

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Design and permitting of expansion of the right wing has been completed. Mr. Williams will provide further information as to the format of the public meeting, in view of the pandemic environment. Mr. Brougham noted that the East Naples Civic Association has expressed interest in the project and suggested that target dates for the project be assigned as allowable, in consideration of Covid-19.

**+Barefoot Beach:** The developers of Aqua at Pelican Isle made a $1M contribution towards the construction of a pier at Lely Barefoot Beach Preserve. The initial plan in the early 2000s was for the construction of a landing pier to facilitate shuttles to transport beachgoers to that location, however permitting for this purpose in 2020 would be extremely challenging. A secondary idea was for the expansion of boat trailer parking around Cocohatchee River Park, but with limited availability of land. At this time, consideration is being given to the construction of offsite parking, with shuttling of beachgoers to Barefoot Beach. Discussions have been had with the owners of the former Pewter Mug property, as well as an adjacent transporter business for development of parking and water taxi shuttling of beachgoers to Barefoot Beach. The water taxi concept would also assist with the reduction of traffic congestion on Barefoot Boulevard, a residential street. There is approximately $2M in funding availability, however further study of local interest and sustained profitability of the project is necessary.

**VII. New Business**

1. **Qualtrics Survey Results:** The Parks Division utilizes the Qualtrics survey platform, which measures customer service via QA/QC; quality assurance and quality control, studying operational effectiveness. 244 surveys are currently active, with 1 to 2 surveys conducted at each park monthly, distributed in a kiosk format at specified events. Survey results are downloaded and tabulated monthly, and Regional Managers share this information with respective supervisory staff to address any identified issues. Further, a marketing committee meets monthly to discuss all survey results received for the previous month. The Parks Staff Leadership team also utilizes survey results to evaluate customer satisfaction and identify any areas which may require improvement.
2. **Fourth National Accreditation:** Formal announcement was made of the Collier County Parks Division National accreditation, with credit given to Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Parks and Recreation Assistant Director, who managed and coordinated the extensive preparation required for the accreditation process. Recognition of this honor is planned as an agenda item at the BCC meeting on December 8, 2020.

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**VIII. Old Business**

1. **Umpire Updates:** A 10 question survey of all softball players was recently

conducted via IPads, with 240 responses received. A majority of the respondents expressed being very satisfied with the program and the value for cost. Regarding the number of umpires desired per game, responses were fairly even in support of having either one or two umpires per game during the regular season and two umpires at playoff games. 2/3 of respondents were in favor of maintaining existing fees, even at the cost of decreased service. Notable survey recommendations to improve the League included double elimination for playoffs, re-initiation of concessions, and the ability for scores to be updated online. Survey results of the desired number of umpires per game was shared with the Umpires Association.

Options which have been identified to achieve a reasonable cost recovery for the service include a reduction in the cost associated with service, an increase in fees to meet costs, or to remain status quo. Parks Staff is currently assessing value for cost and comparison to similar markets, which primarily utilize one umpire per game. The existing umpire agreement, which stipulates two umpires per game has been extended, with two one-year renewals; however, may be terminated at will by the Parks Division. Discussion of options for umpire procurement, without service reduction to the League remains ongoing, and includes further negotiation with the Umpire Association, consideration of third-party recruitment of umpires, or direct Parks solicitation for umpires.

***Mr. Fruth entered a motion for Parks Staff to explore a program fee increase to achieve a reasonable cost recovery and present findings to the Parks Advisory Board at the December 2020 meeting. Mr. Brougham seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IX. Director’s Highlights**

**+Paradise Coast Sports Complex**: The “Factory,” an outdoor fitness area is now open to the public, with a reduced admission price for a limited time. The Sports Complex is a unique part of the Parks system and is operated by SFI, a private recreation firm. Five additional fields are planned, with presentation to the BCC at the December 8, 2020 meeting regarding the next phase of construction, which will include a large open air pavilion and additional shade structures. The Alliance Cup soccer tournament was recently held at the Sports Complex, with overflow fields utilized at North Collier Regional Park. The tournament attracted 175 teams and was deemed a successful event.

+Ms. Kim Grant will address PARAB at the December 2020 meeting to discuss recent organizational changes.

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+Standardization of a lightning detection system throughout the County Parks system remains under review. The final result of the review will be presented to PARAB when the decision is made.

+Mr. David Saletko has resigned as a Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member. Mr. Saletko expressed appreciation at the opportunity to have served and wished his fellow Board members well. Parks Staff will solicit for a replacement for the position vacated by Mr. Saletko.

+Mr. Steve Carnell, Public Services Department Head has announced his retirement. Mr. Dan Rodriquez has been selected as his replacement.

+A successful drive-through Halloween event was held on October 30, 2020 at NCRP, which attracted 551 cars, with approximately 2100 attendees. A holiday lights display is planned for all County Community Centers, which will run from December 7, 2020 through New Years Day 2021. In partnership with the Collier Sheriff’s office, a virtual Santa will also make an appearance, allowing for photo opportunities for families. Photos with Santa will be emailed to participants.

**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**

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