MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

North Collier Regional Park

15000 Livingston Road

Naples, Florida 34109

January 20, 2021

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. Barry Williams, Director, Parks and Recreation

Ms. Jeanine McPherson, Assistant Director, Parks and Recreation

Mr. James French, Department Head, Public Services Division

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

Mr. Aaron Hopkins, Regional Manager, 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**

**Changes to the Agenda:**

1. Add discussion of Advisory Board member voting eligibility via remote meetingattendance; zoom or phone-in.
2. Add introduction of Mr. James French, Department Head, Public Services Division.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to approve the January 20, 2021 meeting agenda, with the noted changes. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2020**

Correction to November 18, 2020 minutes: Capital Projects, Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park Center; strike sentence regarding design and permitting of expansion of the right wing.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to approve the November 18, 2020 meeting minutes, with the noted correction. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gibson-Laemel. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

**V. Public/Board Comments**

+There were no additional comments by Advisory Board members.

+There were no public comments.

**VI. Capital Projects Update**

**+Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park:**  Substantial completion of Phase 1A (northern portion) is now targeted for April 2021, following a delay which resulted from field drainage issues and subsequent correction by the contractor. Mr. French noted an interest in a greater focus on maintaining contractor dependability and accountability. Delivery of Phase 1B (southern portion) of the park is scheduled for summer 2021. Phase II currently remains in the design process. Aerial photographs of park construction and design elements were shared with PARAB. Ms. Randi Hopkins has been selected as the Park Supervisor for this location. Ms. Hopkins presents with extensive experience through her work for the YMCA.

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**+Sun-N-Fun Lagoon:** The bridge and slide pool remain under construction. Construction bids for work on the activity pool have been advertised, with the project planned to be presented to the Board of County Commissioners at the March 2021 meeting. Renovation of the large pools is planned to begin in March/April, still currently in design. Mr. Brougham inquired as to financial impacts which may result from the year-long closure of the facility. Mr. Williams noted significant savings in labor costs during this time. The plan to renovate the park was facilitated by park closure due to the pandemic.

**+Golden Gate Community Park:** Bids have been solicited for the activity pool renovation. The competitive pool and slide tower are currently under design. Renovation of the pools is planned to commence with the opening of Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park and Sun-n-Fun Lagoon to ensure adequate aquatic access to the public.

**+National Fitness Court Slab:** The Fitness Court, planned for installation at North Collier Regional Park is currently in the design phase. Consideration of electrical and water access will assist in determining the location of the Fitness Court, with potential placement at the green space adjacent to the playground and the fitness center.

**VII. New Business**

1. **PARAB member vote participation:** A brief discussion was held in consideration of voting eligibility of PARAB members via remote meeting attendance; videoconference or telephone.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion for voting participation by Advisory Board members via remote meeting attendance, videoconference or telephone. Mr. Fruth seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

1. **Introduction of Mr. James French:** Mr. James French addressed PARAB to formally introduce himself as the newly appointed Department Head of the Public Services Division. Mr. French is a native of Collier County, working many years in the private sector and most recently, working in the Collier County Growth Management Department for 17+ years. Mr. French noted his commitment to Collier County and his support of Division Directors and County Staff, citing a unique perspective derived from his previous work in the private sector. Mr. French expressed his gratitude to Advisory Board members for their service and contribution to Parks and Recreation, and to the community. Mr. Brougham noted the commitment by PARAB in support of Parks and Recreation capital projects, as well as ongoing asset management and preventative maintenance.

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1. **Vote in Chair/Vice-Chair**

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to nominate Mr. Olesky as Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

***Mr. Fruth entered a motion to nominate Mr. Brougham as Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

1. **Vacancies**

There are two Advisory Board member vacancies, following the resignations of Mr. Saletko and Ms. Saunders. Six applications for Advisory Board membership are under consideration, with three applicants present at the meeting. The three applicants individually addressed PARAB to discuss credentials and interest in Board membership.

**+Ms. Kristina Heuser** has been a resident of Collier County for 1-1/2 years and has become actively involved in the community with membership of multiple committees. Ms. Heuser is a former varsity athlete and coach, with an interest in health and fitness. She has two teenage daughters and is self-employed as an attorney, with a law degree from J.D. Brooklyn Law School. Ms. Heuser noted flexibility in her schedule and her availability to participate in Advisory Board meetings. Ms. Heuser is most familiar with North Collier Regional Park and is impressed with the facilities, as well as Freedom Park, and local beach park locations. Ms. Heuser noted her prior experience with competitive sports, interest in health and wellness, her education and profession, as well as a northeastern perspective as potential contributions to the Advisory Board.

**+Ms. Ruth Busman** has been a part-time resident of Collier County for 4-5 years, spending 7 months of the year in Naples and 5 months at a northern residence. Ms. Busman is a retired psychologist and University professor, also formerly involved in a design/build capacity on campus. Ms. Busman expressed a strong interest in community involvement and noted her education and work experience, as well as her perspective as a retired professional as potential contributions to the Advisory Board.

**+Mr. Paul DeMarco** has been a full-time resident of Collier County for 1-1/2 years. He earned a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and has recently started a consulting firm for project management, servicing hospitals. Mr. DeMarco noted attendance at nearly all County parks and has volunteered to work as a North Naples Little League umpire. Mr. DeMarco cited his experience in the management of multiple concurrent issues, as well as relationship management as strengths that he may contribute as an Advisory Board member.

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Mr. DeMarco noted flexibility in his work schedule and his availability to participate in Advisory Board meetings.

It was clarified that part-time residents of Collier County are eligible for Advisory Board membership, provided they are a resident and a registered voter in Collier County. Residency status may be taken into consideration as part of the candidate selection process.

An anonymous vote was held by PARAB members in attendance, utilizing a ranked system of candidates. Following tabulation, the two applicants selected to be advanced to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration of Advisory Board membership are Ms. Kristina Heuser and Mr. Paul DeMarco.

***Mr. Brougham entered a motion to advance the applications for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board membership for Ms. Kristina Heuser and Mr. Paul DeMarco for review and final approval by the Board of County Commissioners. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded the motion. All members were in favor. The motion was carried.***

1. **Aquatic Updates**

An overview of aquatics facilities rejuvenation projects, made possible with debt service funding, was reviewed with PARAB.

**+ Sun-N-Fun Lagoon**: Several projects are ongoing, which include the Lazy River Bridge replacement, IWF Control system electrical demolition, and IWF reservoir tank and slide pool repairs. Bid solicitation for the activity pool renovations have been received, with the low bid of $625K to be presented to the BCC in March 2021. A Construction Management at Risk firm (CMAR) is working directly with the design team on major water park renovations. The design is approximately 75% complete. Following BCC approval of the CMAR proposal, commencement of the construction phase is projected to begin in March 2021, with project completion in Summer 2021.

**+Golden Gate Community Park:** The activity pool reconstruction and restroom modifications projects are currently out for bid, scheduled to end on 01/26/2021. Following bid presentation to the BCC and approval, construction is projected to begin in March 2021, with completion targeted for Summer 2021. Competition pool resurfacing and slide tower renovation projects are currently in the design phase, projected to be completed in March 2021. The competition pool will not close for renovation pending Sun-Fun-Lagoon and Big Corkscrew Island Regional park aquatics facilities opening to the public.

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**+Immokalee Sports Complex:** Martin Aquatic Design and Engineering has been selected for design of the competition pool replacement project, currently awaiting the cost proposal in January 2021. The design is projected to be complete in Summer 2021.

Mr. Williams noted that the aquatics facility at Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park has been functioning well, with only correction of a heating issue this winter. Public attendance has been down, attributed to Covid-19, with reduced hours of operation implemented to offset the associated loss in revenue. Swim programs, as well as swim team use has remained ongoing at Park aquatic locations.

1. **ELCP Schedule Update**

The project is currently in the feasibility phase, assessing options for expansion at Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park. Three options currently under discussion include the addition of a gymnasium and a smaller, multipurpose room, a larger fitness room and a multipurpose room, or a double gymnasium. The best option for the community, the broad expected cost of each option, as well as funding sources are all under discussion. A public information meeting is planned for Spring, to solicit community feedback about desirable programs and features. Past focus groups generated community feedback, some of which were incorporated in the Park Master Plan.

The Stantec project schedule was shared with PARAB, however a funding source has yet to be identified for the expansion. Mr. French noted drainage issues related to an adjacent preserve, which will result in permitting delays. Maximization of the existing footprint at the lowest cost is the goal. Mr. Fruth suggested short-term buildout projects which generate revenue, such as soccer fields, pending identification of budget sources for further expansion.

Mr. Brougham noted that rooms are currently available which are dedicated to small children activities and suggested an activities area be made available for a broader age range, particularly teens. Mr. French concurred and recommended a larger, multipurpose area which addresses the most needs and uses, with flexibility for internal buildout modification of use over time. Extensive growth in the East Naples area supports the need to meet local demands, with the potential for fee revenue to offset maintenance costs.

**VIII. Old Business**

1. **Lely and Barefoot Beach**

In response to an earlier question regarding the origin of the names for Barefoot Beach and the Lely Resort, it was clarified that the Lely Development Corp, owned by the Van Der Lely family of the Netherlands, had purchased 2800 acres in the early 1980s and developed the Lely Resort.

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The Van Der Lely family were also the original developers of Barefoot Beach in the 1970s. The Van Der Lely family currently resides in Switzerland.

1. **Legends Concert Update**

Mr. Aaron Hopkins addressed PARAB to provide an update on the previously approved Legends Concert series to be held at Sugden Regional Park. The first of seven concerts took place on January 1, 2021, which was a Billy Joel and Elton John tribute. The concert was a sold-out event, with 1000 tickets sold. The promoter of the event rented the park for the entire day; however, the park was open for recreational activities until noon on the day of the event. Individuals who arrived after 12:00 p.m. were given press releases regarding the event and were referred to local East Naples Community Park and the Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park. The gates were reopened for the event at 4:00 p.m., with staff provided by the promoter for traffic control. There were no incidents or accidents throughout the event, which was deemed a success and attended by Commissioner LoCastro. Food and alcohol were available for purchase, with cleanup provided by the promoter. One concert is scheduled per month, through July 2021.

Additional Parks Staff was on hand to monitor adherence to CDC guideline protocols. Small flags were used as ground markers in support of appropriate socially distant seating. Park restroom facilities were open, as well as Port-A-Potty availability, with hand washing/sanitizing stations throughout the event space. Announcements were made during the event to remind attendees to remain socially distanced. Mr. Olesky suggested a note of appreciation be forwarded to the event promoter for efforts made in ensuring CDC guidelines were followed for public safety.

**IX. Director’s Highlights**

+Covid-10 vaccinations are being administered at the North Collier Regional Park. Mr. Williams remarked upon the excellent management of the process by Collier County Bureau of Emergency Services, Collier Department of Health, and the Collier County Sheriff’s Office.

+A community survey regarding the Pelican Bay Community Park is planned to begin in approximately one week. Parks Staff is working with the Pelican Bay Foundation on potential improvements at the Community Park. The introduction of pickleball play has previously been identified as a desired amenity, which is included in the Master Plan approved by the Board. Survey results will be shared with PARAB in the upcoming months.

+The current agreement with the Softball Umpires Association will remain in effect, utilizing two umpires per game. A team fee increase is not planned at this time, with alternative cost savings having been identified which support breakeven cost recovery.

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+The concessionaire agreement at East Naples Community Park stipulates three pickleball tournaments are to be held throughout the year, separate from the U.S. Open Pickleball Championship. The first tournament is scheduled for January 29-31, with 1000 registered participants. The concessionaire does have a Covid-19 protocol in place.

**X. 311**

A report of 311 calls for the previous month was shared with PARAB. Ms. Gibson-Laemel requested that the service location of 311 requests be added to the report.

**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**

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