

April 20, 2022

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Naples, Florida, April 20, 2022

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 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at the North Collier Regional Park Administration Building, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: Edward "Ski" Olesky (excused)  
VICE CHAIR: Joshua Fruth  
Paul DeMarco  
Rebecca Gibson-Laemel  
Kristina Heuser  
Kenneth Lee Dixon  
Jessica Bergel  
Donna Fiala (alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Miguel Rojas Jr., Administrative Assistant, Parks & Recreation  
Olema Edwards, Regional Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Dayne Atkinson, Principal Project Manager  
Melissa Hennig, Regional Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Aaron Hopkins, Regional Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Randy Hopkins, Interim Regional Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Said Gomez, Sports Complex Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Rick Garby, County Parks Superintendent  
Jeanine McPherson Hogle, Assistant Director, Parks & Recreation  
Commissioner Bill McDaniel  
Stan Chrzanowski  
Duke Vasey  
James Hanrahan

*Any persons in need of a verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the Zoom recording from the Collier County Parks & Recreation Department.*

**I. Call to Order**

**Acting Chairman Fruth** called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and an invocation/moment of silence was observed.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Acting Chair Fruth moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded. The motion was carried unanimously, 6-0.*

**IV. Previous Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Gibson-Laemel moved to approve the March 16, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bergel. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.*

**V. Public/Board Comments**

None

**VI. Capital Projects [Dayne Atkinson – Parks Project Updates]**

**Mr. Atkinson** detailed a PowerPoint presentation and reported that:

**Sugden Regional Park:** They are replacing the top rails, and completely replaced the dock decks this month using marine-grade lumber. The main support bolts on Dock 1 pilings were replaced. Dock 4, which was burned on New Year's Eve 2021, is being completely replaced and pilings were replaced. They're working on getting lights back up. The decking is 90% done. They're looking at doing a shade structure at the amphitheater and working on Dock 5 this fiscal year.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked which docks those were.

**Mr. Atkinson** said Dock 1 is the one used for water skiing and Dock 2 is special needs. We did do some work around there. We added dock cleats and bumpers, but didn't replace the decking at Dock 2. Docks 1 and 2 are in the same location. Dock 2 is concrete and Dock 3 is next to it.

**East Naples Welcome Center:** We'll be able to occupy the Welcome Center for the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships this week. We received a TCO on April 14, but there is still work to be done. We can put furniture in it and occupy it for the U.S. Open. There's about six weeks of work that still needs to be done. There is nothing structural that will impact people in the building and it's safe. Sod was installed, as well as a new windscreen, and LED lights, lighting upgrades to the championship area.

**Veterans' Community Park:** We're making improvements for roller hockey. They're pressure washing the building in preparation for painting the exterior. They will install new AC. The building is nearly complete and we're working on a permit for the AC.

**Golden Gate Community Park:** We're waiting for progress on the pool. There's a push for Memorial Day for the Activities Pool.

**Sun-N-Fun Lagoon:** Work is ongoing. The push is to have all aquatic facilities and features there and at

all locations open by Memorial Day.

**Ms. Bergel** asked about the inspection on the building at Veterans Park, whether it's able to stand so they don't have to take it down.

**Mr. Atkinson** asked if she was talking about the roofing. The part we can't get a bid on is the insulation on the inside. We have nobody for that. We're waiting for a proposal from Advanced Roofing.

**Ms. Bergel** asked if it was a sound structure. She heard they'd have to close it for a year.

**Mr. Atkinson** said it was. They're recommending a roof repair, not a replacement, so they don't have to close it.

**Ms. Bergel** asked about the new fans and what they were going to do with the old fans. She knows someone who is interested in them.

**Ms. Edwards** said that if they are a County asset, worth over a certain amount each, they must dispose of them through the County. She will apprise her of that.

**Ms. Bergel** asked what he meant by AC.

**Mr. Atkinson** said they're putting in a new mini system, a sink and hot water. They're waiting for permits.

**Ms. Bergel** asked where they were going to put the sinks.

**Mr. Atkinson** said they would tie in to the same water source as the water fountain, outside the storage unit.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked how the buildings at Big Corkscrew were doing.

**Mr. Atkinson** said they were hoping to have the Maintenance Building done by May and the Aquatics Building should be done by June. There's an issue involving the third or fourth vendor for the pools. We hope to get the Community Building open for summer camp.

**Mr. Dixon** asked what keeps happening with the vendors.

**Mr. Atkinson** said sometimes they get smaller contractors who can't keep up with the schedule. The current contractor doesn't need the County business and if they get a bigger or better offer, they'll leave.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if they leave or get fired.

**Mr. Atkinson** said we've had both. The County has had issues getting qualified subcontractors for the pools.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if they were working for the general contractor.

**Mr. Atkinson** said yes, the GC.

**Mr. DeMarco** asked about the irrigation at Immokalee Park.

**Mr. Atkinson** said that's still in the design phase for stormwater. It's a 30-year-old site. It's currently not up to code because there's no outflow. You're supposed to keep 100% onsite and that's not possible. That's why it gets flooded all the time. They're looking at outflows and the pool calculations and are still in design and moving forward. He usually expects Site Civil to take three to four months, but they're telling him it will take six months due to calculations that have to be done. There are landscaping requirements that weren't there 30 years ago. We're calling permitting to see if there are workarounds. Setback requirements are now different. They're the same issues that DAS had on their site to bring it up to code. We had build-up of sand, grass, etc. We don't even meet the elevation we originally had.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if it was smarter to find other properties.

**Ms. Edwards** said she was glad she asked. We're working to find other viable sites. They're looking at using impact fees. It's probably going to cost more to replace what we have. As soon as she gets a location and more information, she will report that to the PARAB.

**Mr. Atkinson** said they're looking at both options to bring the best options to the community. They're weighing where money is better spent.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** said the bathroom situation was dire in Immokalee.

**Mr. Atkinson** said we're looking at whether to rent or buy. They're looking at what they did in Golden Gate. For construction they brought in bathrooms with showers. They may do that.

**Acting Chair Fruth** said he could ask their consultant to look into another option. State statutes and DEP allow for backwash into the sanitation water system. That might help with the stormwater.

## VII. New Business

### a. CAPRA Agency Accreditation: [Jeanine McPherson Hogle]

**Ms. Hogle** provided a PowerPoint presentation on the process and reported that:

- Collier County was originally accredited by the Commission for Accreditation for Parks and Recreation Agencies in 2005.
- Accreditation occurs every five years.
- In 2005, four people worked on the process, more were involved in 2010 and in 2015, they had work groups working on each section.
- Accreditation has been useful for the County. In 2005, they barely scraped by during accreditation and by 2020, they were marked 100% complete.
- The CAPRA process is about a self-assessment. They must achieve mandatory benchmarks and can miss only six non-required standards to be accredited.
- The commission is a 15-member board and all members vote on accreditation.
- Collier County supports accreditation because it validates that industry standards are being met and best practices are being used.
- There are many community benefits, including the knowledge that the County has a responsible parks system and a highly livable community.
- Accreditation helps secure financial support and reduces costs.
- It's a benefit for the agency and staff because it provides positive publicity and political recognition; the real benefit is self-esteem.
- It creates an environment for regular review of operations, policies and procedures, and promotes continual improvement.
- Collier County's parks are known as a world-class parks system.
- Parks employees, including one in the video, have been recruited from Collier County.
- Mecklenburg County, N.C., has sent Collier County its best people, including Olema Edwards.
- Accreditation allows us to monitor trends and research; they heard about pickleball 20 years ago.
- The needs assessment provided 2,500 responses.
- The County looks at the bios of the commission people who visit so they can seek advice.

### b. Paradise Coast Blueway Paddling Trail: [Melissa Hennig]

**Ms. Hennig** presented a PowerPoint presentation and reported that:

- The County has been trying to get it designated as a Blueway for years.
- The Blueway goes north to the Great Calusa Blueway in Fort Myers, all the way to Monroe County.

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- The designation connects trails in Florida, encourages conservation, provides recognition for trails and partners and raises public awareness.
- The County's goal is to get its Blueway linked to the State website: [Floridadep.gov/paddlingtrails](http://Floridadep.gov/paddlingtrails)
- The next steps, if the Board recommends submitting this, would be to go to the Florida Greenways Trails and Council Meeting in September.

**Mr. DeMarco** asked what the downside would be.

**Ms. Hennig** said the process could take years to get an agreement with other agencies. They're already actively managed. We talked about eventually putting markers on the Ten Thousand Island mangroves because they all look alike.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if there was a cost involved.

**Ms. Hennig** said there was no cost.

**Ms. Edwards** said there would be a cost to install the mangrove markers. They're looking into that.

**Mr. Vasey** said the County really doesn't need a navigational item.

**Ms. Hennig** asked for Board approval.

***Mr. Dixon recommended that the Board of County Commissioners apply for designation of the Paradise Coast Blueway Paddling Trail through the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.***

**c. Cinco de Mayo Request [Said Gomez]**

**Mr. Gomez** said they're asking for a permit for a Cinco de Mayo Celebration from noon-10:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 7, at the Immokalee Sports Complex. It was approved last year, but this year they plan to sell alcohol. There's a lot of interest and local partners have joined.

**Mr. DeMarco** said he was under the impression that if it was approved before, it would be approved the next year. If there's a major change, he didn't think they needed to review it.

**Ms. Edwards** said she thought so, but wanted to follow procedures just in case, because they were adding alcohol.

***Mr. DeMarco voted to recommend approving the permit for a Cinco de Mayo Celebration with alcohol on May 7. Ms. Gibson-Laemel seconded it. The motion carried unanimously, 6-0.***

**Mr. Said** noted that there's an Earth Day event this Friday and urged them to attend. There are many local partners and participants who will be helping clean up the Immokalee community.

**Acting Chair Fruth** asked if they tracked events and agreements in any way and asked if they could provide them to the Board.

**Ms. Edwards** said they could make a spreadsheet and include that on the Director's Highlights.

**Mr. DeMarco** said it wasn't too long ago that they allowed the alcohol requests to come before them first.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** suggested a list in the agenda. It's nice to know what's happening and what's coming up in the next month.

**d. Barry Williams' Retirement [Olema Edwards]**

**Ms. Edwards** said there will be a party for Barry Williams from 4-7 p.m. this Friday at The Cove Bar at the Paradise Coast Sports Complex. She invited everyone to come. His legacy is very important to the Division.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if there was a replacement yet.

**Ms. Edwards** said she's the interim director. They're waiting for a new County Manager to be hired before moving forward on Barry Williams' replacement.

**VIII. Director's Highlights [Olema Edwards]**

**Ms. Edwards** reported on past and upcoming events:

- There were five Easter events over the past two weeks. Eagle Lakes Community Park partnered with Golden Gate Community to offer an underwater egg hunt that drew 350 participants; an adaptive-inclusive Easter event drew more than 300 participants who painted at Golisano Children's Museum and Operation Topaz (dog rescue); more than 250 participants attended Immokalee Park's Easter event; Vineyards Community Park partnered with athletics and had more than 800 participants; more than 1,000 attended the Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park Easter event; the total was more than 2,700 at the County's five Easter events.
- Immokalee Park will hold an Earth Day event, as will Conner Park on Bluebill Avenue and North Collier Regional Park.
- There was a Volunteer Luncheon on April 16 to recognize parks volunteers, who saved the county the equivalent cost of nine FTEs working. Our volunteers are extraordinary, so we want to thank them.
- The U.S. Open Pickleball Championships start Friday and end Saturday, April 30. Participants come from around the world to play.

**Mr. DeMarco** asked if there was an update on the two discussions from last month, the cell towers and the horse event.

**Ms. Edwards** said that Horses on the Beach will not happen. The County Attorney says horses are not allowed on County beaches. She hasn't heard from the group since then.

**Mr. DeMarco** asked about the cell tower road application. We submitted our blessings, but there are representatives who own land the road will go through who didn't show up.

**Ms. Edwards** said Ms. Jahn, the attorney who represented the applicants, has been in contact with them and she understands some homeowners disagree with the application.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if there had been any Board action on that.

**Mr. Atkinson** said there had been none. The only contact they'd had with neighbors is that they're asking for proper lights around the parking spaces, sufficient lighting so it's well lit. They wanted additional lights in the parking lots, not just on the pass through.

**Mr. Dixon** said he just wanted to make sure they didn't want it brought back before the PARAB and that issues were resolved.

**Ms. Edwards** said she'd research that and speak to Ms. Jahn, the attorney who represented the cell tower applicants.

**Commissioner McDaniel** said if it hasn't come before the Board, was there an issue with the neighborhood?

**Mr. DeMarco** said there was a representative who owned property that this newly built road would touch on. Our decision was to work with the information we had.

**Commissioner McDaniel** said he was spearheading the effort to place cellphone towers on all County-owned property. Some require no rezoning, some require Planning Commission or BCC

approval. Who in this room can't say we need more cell service?

**Mr. Atkinson** said the road touches no properties. The alternative road would have touched on properties.

**Mr. Dixon** noted that they were getting those towers no matter which road was added.

**IX. 311**

**Ms. Edwards** reported that Miguel Rojas received many 311 calls this past month and all were completed. They involved fixing benches and other issues. They are waiting for some parts in Immokalee.

**X. Adjournment**

**Future Meeting Dates**

May 18, 2022, 2 p.m. (at Paradise Sports Complex)

June 15, 2022, 2 p.m.

July 20, 2022, 2 p.m.

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Vice Chair at 3:07 p.m.**

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

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**Edward "Ski" Olesky, Chairman**

These minutes were approved by the Board on \_\_\_\_\_, (check one) as presented, \_\_\_\_\_ or as amended \_\_\_\_\_.