

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Naples, Florida, August 17, 2022

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board inand for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at

2 P.M. in REGULAR SESSION at East Naples Community Park, 3500 Thomasson Dr., Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

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

ALSO PRESENT: Miguel Rojas Jr., Admin. Assistant, Parks & Recreation  
Randi Hopkins, Interim Regional Mgr., Parks & Recreation  
Dayne Atkinson, Principal Project Manager, Public Services  
Dave Closas, Principal Project Manager, Facilities  
Tanya Williams, Director, Public Services Department  
Derrick "Rick" Garby, Superintendent, Parks & Recreation  
James Hanrahan, Spvr., North Collier Regional Park Rec-Plex  
Aaron Hopkins, Regional Manager, Parks & Recreation  
Jeanine McPherson, Parks Manager, Parks & Recreation

*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**

Chairman Olesky called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.  
A quorum of seven was established.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

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

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Mr. Garby said he was representing Acting Parks Director Olema Edwards, who could not make it to the meeting today. There are no changes to the agenda.*

*Ms. Heuser moved to approve the agenda. Second by Vice Chair Fruth. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.*

**IV. Previous Meeting Minutes**

*Ms. Gibson-Laemel moved to approve the June 15, 2022, meeting minutes. Ms. Heuser seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.*

**V. Public/Board Comments**

Ms. Fiala thanked the Board for allowing her to return after a lengthy absence. She was recovering from an accident.

Chairman Olesky thanked her for returning.

Ms. Gibson-Laemel thanked Mr. Garby for providing the new PARAB name tags that she requested.

**VI. Welcome to ENCP Capital Projects [Kathy Topoleski, ENCP Parks Supervisor]**

Ms. Topoleski gave a presentation/handout on the park's history and the following points were made:

- She's worked for the County since 1997 and moved to the park in 2005 after it reorganized.
- She created a brochure for park programs, noting Naples is the Pickleball Capital of the World.
- Jim Thomas brought pickleball to the park in March 2011 and women taped the courts with blue tape to play.
- In January 2014, she told then-Parks Director Barry Williams that they had a dilapidated hockey rink and asked to convert it to pickleball; he agreed.
- In November 2014, they started an annual pickleball membership program using nine courts that were converted from the hockey rink and six tennis courts that were taped.
- In December 2014, PARAB approved officially turning the courts into pickleball courts as membership increased.
- In 2016, six courts were permanently made into pickleball courts and resurfaced; the skatepark was turned into 12 pickleball courts for the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships; and they had 900 participants.
- In 2016, staff managed and monitored 700 pickleball members.

- In 2017, parks staff still managing pickleball, which had just over 1,200 members; U.S. Pickleball rented courts from the park; shade structures were installed; 1,200 attended the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships; and a concessionaire also began that year.
- In 2018, Pickleball Enterprise became the contracted concessionaire; 10 more pickleball courts were built; another soccer field was added for parking; and 2,000 attended the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships.
- In 2019, they converted the last two tennis courts to pickleball courts; 2,300 attended the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships; and membership fees doubled from \$25 to \$50.
- In 2020, 10 more pickleball courts were built; Pickleball Enterprises requested that membership fees be doubled to \$100 and was declined; and about 2,600 attended the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships.
- In 2021, Naples Pickleball Center (NPC) took over as the concessionaire, and the U.S. Open was canceled due to COVID.
- In 2022, the Welcome Center was built; NPC had about 4,000 members; and just under 3,000 attended the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships.

**Ms. Fiala** noted that before pickleball, the East Naples Civic Association adopted this park because it needed help. There was nothing for children to do. There was no swing set. The park had no cash to fix it up. It was terrible, just leaves and shrubs. The difference between then and now is amazing.

**Ms. Topoleski** said that when she arrived in 2005, there was a playground and basketball courts.

## **VII. Capital Projects Update [Dayne Atkinson and Dave Closas]**

**Mr. Closas** showed a PowerPoint presentation and gave a report on the status of capital projects:

- The 951 Boat Ramp improvement and floating dock needed a more permanent repair to improve the seawall and add boat ramps; there were earlier minor repairs.

**Chairman Olesky** asked if parking was being added.

**Mr. Closas** said that wasn't in the scope now and the parking lot was expanded in 2007

**Mr. Closas** continued his presentation:

- This \$600,000 project will expand the mooring area and boat ramp to bring it back to its original condition; it could potentially be a \$2.5 million project.
- The Caxambas seawall and docks are being repaired and replaced; it's in the 60% design phase now and going through U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting, which will take time; there will be a major investment and upgrade to the water facilities.

**Mr. Dixon** asked what the estimated time frame was, about six months?

**Mr. Closas** said one year and it will be completed next year.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if they'd be charging residents dock and ramp fees when they won't be able to use the facility.

**Mr. Closas** said the operational side will be handling that.

**Mr. Dixon** said that will be a major problem.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if anyone had looked at that.

**Mr. Closas** said it's being looked at.

**Mr. Dixon** said there need to be some contingencies here because we were just talking about raising fees and now you're going to tell residents that they can't use that for a year.

**Vice Chair Fruth** noted that it has to be done, but they must issue a public notice.

**Mr. Garby** said there will be a public notice if it's shut down. People can go to another facility

and fees can be suspended or reduced.

**Ms. Williams** said that the County manager is having these conversations about operational concerns during the shutdown. We have operational issues at that park now. We don't have an answer yet, but it's on their radar. There will be notice to the public and the PARAB.

**Mr. Closas** said they will have a better idea of the timeline once the Army Corps permit is approved.

**Mr. Dixon** said he understands the need but was pointing out the obvious.

**Mr. Closas** said we understand the residents' needs. We could open portions in phases.

**Mr. Closas** continued his presentation:

- Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park is 91% completed. We're 1½ years behind. It was very complicated due to COVID and was a challenge. The biggest thing they just completed was turning over the Community Center to Parks & Recreation. The aquatic center is the last piece they'll turn over, with four pools, an aquatic building and a slide pool. They have a TCO to occupy the main building and support construction efforts. It's a \$45 million project.
- BCIRP Phase 1 includes four soccer fields, two softball fields, a north concession stand, outdoor basketball courts, tennis and pickleball courts, a playground, maintenance building and event lawn.
- The Community Center has a ballroom, daycare and administration area.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if ENCP has a ballroom.

**East Naples Staff (audience)** said this meeting room is the largest room we have.

**Mr. Closas** continued his presentation:

- Phase 2 brings a fitness center and they just got notice to proceed with its design. It will be similar to the North Collier Regional Park fitness center.
- An access road will be added so there are two entrances due to frequent traffic backups.
- The \$45 million phased-in project will add additional softball and multipurpose fields.
- There's a wetlands area, so it's challenging.
- They're building the access road now and preparing for the fitness center and providing other amenities.
- The road is being designed now and they hope to bring that before the BCC in October or November to solicit bids.

**Mr. Dixon** asked how many lanes the access road will have.

**Mr. Closas** said there will be two lanes. The easement of utilities will support the water treatment plant. We're limited in the space we have. It's surrounded by commercial and housing developments. We were given the opportunity to build the access road to service the park and future commercial development.

**Mr. Dixon** said that it's inevitable that every time you build a two-lane road that in 10 years, you're going to need four lanes.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if they were going to fill in wetlands.

**Mr. Closas** said that they will use portions of the area to shape the area for drainage. They'll have to dig out an entire lake feature. The focus is to bring in the key amenities so we're looking at the costs due to high costs now. Do we squeeze in the lake or do we give funding back to build newer facilities?

**Mr. Dixon** asked if it's really wetlands or is it just a low-lying area that's just wet.

**Mr. Closas** said the mitigation has been completed. It is wetlands.

**Mr. Closas** continued his presentation:

- The East Naples Community Park Welcome Center will be a 12,000-square-foot facility, with a 2,000-square-foot pro shop, restrooms, with showers, locker rooms and storage, as well as a covered patio. This will support pickleball events. It's a \$3 million project and they're closing out about 300 punch-list items now.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if it was on budget.

**Mr. Closas** said it was on budget and additional amenities were added so they added scope. They're scheduling cleaning there now.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if there was an update on the Immokalee seawall, the erosion project. **An ENCP staff manager (audience)** said they're working on that with Florida Fish & Wildlife, but the person handling that isn't here.

**Mr. Garby** said they'd follow up on that and get back to her with the information.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** said that would be good because it's a lot of money.

**Mr. Atkinson** introduced Luis Herrera, a new project manager who will be working with him on park projects. The Immokalee turf fields and stormwater are in the design phase. He just got the 30% design phase on stormwater and those were approved.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if they figured out how to get rid of the water.

**Mr. Atkinson** said the turf fields will absorb it. They will restructure and have perforated pipes and bubblers for a stormwater drain. The turf fields were needed for additional capacity. They've been working with the South Florida Water District. They're meeting with the pool designer tomorrow. The other aquatic projects involve Sun-N-Fun, which goes out to bid tomorrow. During the second meeting in September, the BCC will consider construction and it could start in October. Golden Gate is 100% designed. They're ready to send it out to procurement because it's ready to bid and permit. Sun-N-Fun already is in the permitting stage. We're hoping to start Golden Gate in mid-November. There are a lot of smaller projects they're scoping or getting ready to go out to design on.

**Chairman Olesky** asked about the turf field in Immokalee. He understood that they can't build unless they get it drained.

**Mr. Atkinson** said it would be built simultaneously to get stormwater improvements.

## **VIII. Director/Management Updates**

(No director updates)

### **Manager Updates [Rick Garby, Parks Superintendent]**

- Most fields are open.
- There were 60 semi-loads going out countywide, with 15 loads of sand.
- The sod has all been put down so they're in that process now.
- In Immokalee, there were six semi loads.
- Seven loads went to Veterans Park.
- North Collier Regional Park received 13 loads.
- For baseball and softball fields, there are 18 loads of clay and sand going out.
- Irrigation at the dog park was abandoned.

- They're working on the cellphone towers; other concepts are being worked out.
- Lights are being checked at all fields because they go out during storms.
- A carpenter is working on posting new signs and refurbishing tables; there are temporary tables out until that's complete.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked what they're doing in the south park in Immokalee.

**Mr. Garby** said they're installing a new playground. He has a working concept, but the prices are constantly changing due to volatility in the market. We're working on four playgrounds at a time.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if the playgrounds would have shade.

**Mr. Garby** said they will have a shade concept, but there's no funding for a shade structure.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked what they were doing to provide shade.

**Mr. Garby** said shade would be provided by hanging sails and umbrellas, which are permanent structures. It won't cover the entire playground but they will cover focus pieces.

### **Recreation Updates [Aaron Hopkins, Region 2 Manager]**

- We had a successful summer, with no incidents or accidents.
- We had a lot of new staff and a lot of returning staff.
- Kids enjoyed field trips, activities, games, arts and crafts.
- School began last week and after-school programs are now in full swing; kids from Avalon Elementary School come to this building every afternoon after school.
- VPK starts this Wednesday.
- We're with the kids pretty much 12 months of the year, but staff got a much-needed break.

**Ms. Bergel** asked who cleans the parks when the summer camp ends. For example, at Veterans Park, they use the hockey rink.

**Mr. Hopkins** asked if there was trash there.

**Ms. Bergel** said there was and there's quite a bit of damage to the rinks. She cleaned a lot of it this weekend. She reported it to Shannon, her husband reported it to you, and she reported it to Olema Edwards. There are broken boards and sharp metal handles. Her group maintains the rinks, but we're only contracted from August to June, then summer camp uses it. This summer, there was suntan lotion, bubble gum, food and other garbage and they reported it several times. All the County did was put signs up, but they didn't clean up, so we had to rent cleaning equipment. Should she submit a bill?

**Mr. Hopkins** said no, the County will clean up. He will work with Rick, his team and staff at Veterans Park.

**Ms. Bergel** said she counted 32 piles of bubble gum and reported it. Shannon put up a sign about the littering but then asked her to clean it. No one cares about the gum as much as we do because we're using the rink.

**Mr. Garby** said he hadn't been told. That's something they need to discuss.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked her if she'd tried calling 311.

**Ms. Bergel** said she had. She sent them photos. The next time she went there was a sign, but she was still asked to clean it.

### **Region 2 Special Events [Aaron Hopkins, Region 2 Manager]**

- The Teamsters Local 79 (CCPS Teachers) is doing a back-to-school giveaway event at Southern Regional Park on Aug. 27.
- There will be a singles pickleball tournament at ENCP in September.
- Celebrating Safe Communities events at Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park and Sugden

Regional Park will be offered in October in partnership with the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

- A 5K sponsored by Legal Aid Services will be held in October.
- A pickleball tournament will be offered at Sugden Regional Park on October 21 or 23.
- Southern Regional Park will offer the Pro Watercross World Championships from Oct. 27-30.
- There will be a Veterans Tribute Pickleball Tournament at Veterans Community Park from Nov. 10-11.
- The Vegan Festival will be held at Sugden Regional Park on Nov. 13.
- There are talks about a Hispanic Arts Fair at Golden Gate Community Center in November.
- The Holiday Fun Festival and Pickleball Tournament will be held from Dec. 1-4.
- The Naples Boat Show, a shared event between the City Docks and Sugden Regional Park and sponsored by the Marine Industries of Collier County, will be held Jan. 19-22, 2023.
- MPC Pickleball Championships will be Feb. 2-5, 2023, at ENCP.
- A carnival will be held at ENCP in February 2023.
- Another camp will be held at ENCP in February 2023.
- There will be a Veterans Run at Sugden Regional Park in March 2023.
- The U.S. Open Pickleball Championships will be in April 2023.
- July 4, 2023, fireworks will be held at Sugden Regional Park.

**Ms. Fiala** asked if he could email the events list to her.

**Mr. Hopkins** said Miguel would email them to PARAB members.

### **Region 3 updates [Randi Hopkins, Interim Regional Manager]**

- The Big Corkscrew Island Park Community Center was completed on time, so it was converted into classrooms for kids this summer.
- They're working with DCF to get Veterans Park up to their standards.
- The community center hasn't been opened to the public due to unfinished punch-list items.
- On Oct. 22, they're partnering with the CCSO to offer a Celebrating Safe Communities event.
- They're partnering with the Tourism Department to promote art in Immokalee, with businesses and local organizations. It will include a small vendor fair by local art students.
- Christmas Around the World will be on Nov. 10.

**Mr. Dixon** asked how many people are using Corkscrew Regional Park,

**Ms. Hopkins** said that on an average night, there are 250 cars there, four soccer leagues playing, as well as people using pickleball, tennis and basketball courts.

**Mr. Garby** said there are not many parking spots open at night.

**Ms. Hopkins** said it will be really packed once the Community Center is fully open.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if there was additional parking.

**Ms. Hopkins** said some lots are closed due to construction now.

### **Region 4 Updates – North Collier Regional Park, Golden Gate, Eagle Lakes and Special Needs [James Hanrahan, North Collier Park Rec-Plex Supervisor]**

- Sun-N-Fun had amazing numbers for 72 days, with 72,000 going through its gates for a total revenue of of \$850,000.
- This was its best year since 2018, when 85,000 people went through the gates for a total of \$900,000, but that year included seven additional days.
- We will be closing at the end of September to focus on Lazy River and the Family Pool due to

patrons' feedback we received; they'd like to see more amenities at Lazy River.

- We heard great feedback on the Pirate area getting new pirate water features, as well as the kiddy area.
- We have great collaboration for the Oct. 1 duck race, which promotes water safety. It will be held at Sun-N-Fun. It's a collaboration between the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department, Parks and Recreation, and NCH. People sponsor rubber duckies and win prizes.
- We were able to take 15 special-needs kids from the summer camp on a Princess tour on the water.
- Despite the national crises, we never had to close anything this summer and there were no drownings.
- Golden Gate will close for major renovations and their programs and staff will be shifted to Eagle Lakes.
- There was turnover on our aquatics team; we hired a senior program leader and really strong lifeguards.

**ENCP Staff (audience)** said we have a lot of children's programs, from 18 months old to high school age.

**Ms. Fiala** asked for her phone number so she could talk to her about that for her newsletter.

**Mr. Hanrahan** continued the Region 4 updates:

- We partner with Paradise Coast Sports Complex and are kicking up Labor Day weekend.
- We selected a new sports coordinator, his former position, and will make sure they have a great experience at North Collier and Big Corkscrew.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if they were able to retain lifeguards due to the pay.

**Mr. Hanrahan** said they absolutely were. He thanked Tanya and Olema for that. Staff pay went up, but they pushed to raise the KeyStaff pay. KeyStaff needed to get the same increases. In order to retain KeyStaff employees after summer at Sun-N-Fun, we're hoping to place them in other jobs. They make good crowd managers, rule followers, scorekeepers.

#### **Operations Update [Jeanine McPherson, Parks Manager]**

- We're keeping four characteristics at the forefront – Accountability, Community, Service and Innovation.
- We quantified what we do to support each measure.
- High points include 58 outreaches to staff this month regarding our newsletter, pep talks, reminders and updates.
- Staff also participated in four outreach events where they talked about the benefits of the parks and park programs; 5,018 people participated; we consider ourselves as park ambassadors.
- There were 1,108 social media hits and we're looking at boosting our hits.
- There were 14 different sessions, and participation is at 88.
- We had 2,345 volunteer hours this month.
- The area that excites us the most is innovation. Many staff members are getting ready to participate in the Florida Regional Parks Association (FRPA) conference, which is comparable to the NRPA, the national parks conference.
- Olema Edwards is a leadership academy mentor.
- They will be presenting information about our sailing program at FRPA's Therapeutic Recreation Institute.
- We are in the process of completing our needs assessment; we received over 2,500 responses.
- The website lists all park programs, but Peggy Ruby turned it into calendar form for special events.
- 791 programs were reviewed and properly put into the system.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if Ms. McPherson was part of a new department or section since she hadn't heard this information before.

**Ms. McPherson** said one of her burning desires was to better marry operations into the parks division. She worked hard on that and attributed their success to teamwork.

**IX. New Business**

**a. 17th Annual Iron Joe Turkey Ride Alcohol Request [Michelle Avola-Brown, Executive Director, Naples Pathways Coalition]**

**Ms. Brown** detailed the event and request:

- The non-profit Naples Pathways Coalition promotes safe biking and walking.
- The keystone is the Paradise Coast Trail, a 75-mile trail that will connect the Greenway to Bonita Springs, the Paradise Coast Sports Complex, Collier Seminole Park, Ave Maria and Immokalee.
- They offer two bike rides yearly as fundraisers to help build the Paradise Coast Trail.
- The Iron Joe Turkey Ride is held every year, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Last year was the first time they held it at Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Park. It used to be held in North Naples, but one of their members asked that it be moved to Eagle Lakes due to its beauty, less traffic and its location.
- We had record numbers of attendees last year.
- They serve a late breakfast and then hold a 62-mile ride, as well as 40-mile rides, 20, 10 and 5-mile rides; there's also a 2½-mile park walk and ride so families and kids can enjoy the park's beauty.
- After everyone returns, they're starving and enjoy a beer or two, so they serve a catered lunch with soft drinks and beer.
- We are asking for the PARAB to approve serving beer.
- We expect 350 people at the ride.
- All the information is listed on their NPC brochures.

**Chairman Olesky** asked if they serve beer before the ride.

**Ms. Brown** said they only offer beer after the ride because people are hot and want to cool down. Online registration is open now, which just covers their expenses.

*Mr. Dixon made a motion to recommend allowing alcohol (beer) to be served at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Iron Joe Turkey Ride on Nov. 27. Second by Ms. Fiala. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.*

**b. Audubon Western Everglades [Brad Cornell, Southwest Florida Policy Director, and Brittany Piersma, Field Biologist]**

**Mr. Cornell** said they've had a successful collaboration with Parks & Recreation since 2020 to protect beach birds and they'd like to build on that. Olema Edwards and Rick Garby suggested they share some information with the PARAB about their work.

**Ms. Piersma** detailed a Powerpoint presentation about Shorebird Stewardship:

- Our job is to educate the public about migratory birds.
- We educate the public about not entering certain areas and doing certain activities.
- Shorebirds are vital to the beaches and include black skimmer, least terns, Wilson's plover and about 3 million species.
- They lay their eggs on the sand and can't survive with people and dogs running around.

- Sometimes nests aren't marked so the public needs to be educated.
- There is a mass migration to Clam Pass, with hundreds of thousands of birds, some of which use it as their resting place on the way to South America, or to spend the winter here.
- One day, there were about 3,000 laughing gulls there (photo shown).
- Other areas, such as Marco Island, Tigertail Beach, Caxambas, Ten Thousand Islands, and Dickmans Point, get migratory birds.
- We're trying to avoid disturbances by people and dogs because a lot of people like to run through the migratory birds.
- Birds are marked with individual bands with a code and number to track where they've traveled.
- You can check the number and report it to a website.
- We work with Rookery Bay, Audubon Florida and Florida Fish & Wildlife.
- Dogs are supposed to be on leashes, but many people don't adhere to that.
- There's a lack of enforcement.

**Mr. Cornell** continued the presentation, making the following points:

- We have been collaborating since 2018 at Tigertail Beach.
- We created signs to educate people about migratory birds – “Please respect nesting birds!”
- A lot of boats pull up to where nesting birds are.
- We want to conduct boating outreach as our next project.
- There are five critical wildlife areas – Big Marco Pass, Caxambas Pass Boating park, Dickmans Point, Second Chance (sandbar), and the Cape Romano Dome Houses.
- They've worked at Clam Pass and Tigertail beaches, and the Caxambas boat ramp.
- Audubon proposes expanding boating public outreach at other boat launches near sensitive coastal habitats, such as Caxambas Boating Park, Goodland Boating Park, Collier Boulevard Boating Park and the Isles of Capri Paddlecraft Park.
- Due to Parks & Recreation's resources, we'd like to partner with you to educate the boating public, the boat renters and owners.

**Ms. Piersma** told the PARAB and staff:

- They're open to ideas for signage, especially near marinas.
- We're looking at Dickmans Point and Caxambas Shoals. She surveyed that area for three years.
- This summer, she worked with Audubon and was assigned a staff member there.
- They always had good relations with ecotourist groups. They created a QR Code that shows resources for eco-tours.
- They offer ID sheets listing local birds, which is popular.
- They're trying to work with less paper.
- They're using a kayak to help with direct stewardship but need a place to lock the kayak, rather than having to carry it and drive it around.
- They provide marine education using tables at local marinas.
- They'd like more direct tables with educational materials to get the boating public's attention before they go out on the water. They use the sign, “Ask me about the birds.”
- We're hoping to do this year-round and she's already seen a huge difference.
- People know they're enforcing rules and are being watched.
- Eco-tourism groups are helping them to enforce rules and educate.
- They hope to start at Caxambas and the 951 Boat Ramp.

- They see a lot of wildlife rescues around Keewaydin Island.

**Mr. Cornell** said they have a formal agreement with the BCC and Parks & Recreation dated February 2020 to collaborate with the boating public. We're asking for your support. Keewaydin Island is no longer a wildlife habitat due to the number of boats. We want to show the public how to share it.

**Ms. Heuser** asked if they spoke to Commissioner LoCastro about the area.

**Mr. Cornell** said they hadn't yet, just about agriculture.

**Ms. Heuser** said it's encouraging people to stop and chat while there's a space issue.

**Mr. Cornell** said when they put up tables, they're hoping to make it a quick stop due to the QR Codes. We're not planning to have conferences. We try to drop our staff off. That's why we want a place for our kayak. The area is critical due to kite shoals. The 951 Boat Ramp is tough due to congestion.

**Ms. Piersma** said people and bike riders love the education.

**Mr. Garby** told the PARAB they're looking for their support and a vote.

**Ms. Heuser** asked if staff supported this.

**Mr. Garby** said they do.

**Mr. Dixon** asked what they're asking for support for. It's a public park.

**Mr. Garby** said they are asking for program support.

**Ms. Williams** clarified that they're seeking to add language to the current MOU.

**Mr. Cornell** said they want to include that they have staff and volunteers, enough staff for Caxambas Pass and Goodland Marina.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if they were looking to purchase kayaks.

**Mr. Cornell** said no. They're just looking for support to expand the MOU agreement. We have uniforms and go out with a formal program to education the public.

*Vice Chair Fruth made a motion to support expanding the MOU to allow Audubon Western Everglades to educate the boating public. Second by Ms. Fiala. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.*

**c. Pickleball TDC Grant [Tanya Williams, Director, Public Services Department]**

**Ms. Williams** noted that the Executive Summary is in their agenda packet and detailed the following:

- They're seeking up to \$670,000 for three items and are requesting this now because the PARAB didn't hold a July meeting, when U.S. Pickleball promoters were here.
- As a result, this was presented to the TDC first and was approved.
- The last tournament brought in 2,800 players over eight days, with 35,000 spectators and \$7.1 million in direct spending throughout Collier County.
- CBS TV provides international exposure for the area.
- The money will be used to resurface 40 of the 64 courts; U.S. Pickleball does the rest.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked who does the work.

**Ms. Williams** said it's contracted out.

**Ms. Williams** continued her presentation:

- \$20,000 will be used for windscreens.
- \$50,000 will be used for site preparation and staging for the event, including taking a back lot and turning it into an asphalt parking lot.

**Mr. Garby** noted that 57 stone was rolled.

**Ms. Williams** continued her presentation:

- Fencing needs to be replaced because it's rusting and bowing.
- Shade structures will be added for the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships and year-round players.
- The TDC unanimously approved this and the BCC Executive Summary has been prepared.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked how long it had been since the courts were resurfaced.

**Williams** said some of those courts have been going on for six or seven years and the surface is going away; they're slippery and some are worse than others.

**Vice Chair Fruth** asked what the estimate was on resurfacing.

**Ms. Williams** said the initial estimate was very high and the second one was greatly reduced.

**Vice Chair Fruth** asked who the initial contractor was.

**Ms. Williams** said it would go out to a formal RFP for quotes.

**Mr. Garby** said it was done through the project manager. The more courts you do, the cheaper it is. It was higher when there were fewer courts, but it's cheaper with 20, 30, 40 courts. Originally, it was 28 courts.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** asked if the fencing is the original fencing.

**Mr. Garby** said most is original and it was value-engineered, so there's not much support and it's bowing. There were no bottom or center cross-bars or cabling, so it's been deteriorating.

**Vice Chair Fruth** asked how much money the pickleball tournament provides to assist with maintenance.

**Ms. Williams** said nothing directly.

**Vice Chair Fruth** noted that they utilize the courts for a massive tournament.

**Mr. Garby** pointed out that they pay a rental fee.

**Vice Chair Fruth** asked if they had nothing in the general fund for resurfacing.

**Mr. Garby** said that was correct.

**Chairman Olesky** asked why the PARAB had to vote if the TDC already voted.

**Ms. Williams** said it's a formality.

**Vice Chair Fruth** said he still thinks the maintenance money should come from pickleball tournament fees because it's a massive event and they should pay for maintenance. We're not taking care of ourselves. We built all this, but don't put money aside for maintenance.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** noted that the event took in \$7.1 million.

**Ms. Williams** clarified that amount represented tourism dollars coming to the County.

**Mr. Dixon** said he didn't know why they were asking for money now when it's only an estimate. They don't know how much it costs and \$15,000-per-court is ridiculous.

**Ms. Bergel** said it's an unbalanced allocation across-the-board. A lot of parks are suffering. They're not getting anything. Is there a partnership?

**Ms. Williams** said this is a formal agreement between the BCC and the U.S. Pickleball Open.

**Ms. Gibson-Laemel** noted that once we complete this park, we're in a race with others (nationwide) to improve, such as Cincinnati and San Diego. If they have 100, we'll have to have 110.

**Mr. Dixon** said it's like keeping up with the Joneses.

**Vice Chair Fruth** asked who uses the park, kids? Do we have enough money to redo fields?

**Mr. Garby** said they have enough money.

**Vice Chair Fruth** said they need to spread the money across parks for general maintenance. Why do we keep approving funds that aren't coming from a vendor?

**Mr. Garby** pointed out that this is TDC money.

**Ms. Williams** said this money is specifically for the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships, which is separate from Naples Pickleball Enterprises. There is a formal agreement with the BCC and Spirit Promotions LLC, which is putting on the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships. She assured them she's not trying to sidestep grave concerns about park funding. Using TDC money to resurface the courts means the Parks & Recreation Department and the general fund don't have to deal with it. All our constituents will have access to those courts after the event.

**Mr. Garby** noted that this expenditure would beautify everything. He wouldn't be able to do that with Parks & Rec funds.

*Vice Chair Fruth made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$670,000 in Tourist Development Tax Promotion Funds for the U.S. Open Pickleball Championship; authorize necessary budget amendments; and found that this expenditure promotes tourism. Second by Ms. Gibson-Laemel. The motion passed 6-1; Mr. Dixon voted nay.*

**d. Proposed PARAB Changes [Miguel Rojas Jr., Administrative Assistant]**

**i. Meeting Times [Public Request]**

**Mr. Rojas** said some constituents suggested they hold meetings at 6 p.m. so working residents can attend. He provided a list of other advisory boards and the times they meet. Some meet in the mornings and some in the afternoons. The PARAB does offer Zoom meetings, but no one has been logging on.

**Vice Chair Fruth** said he joined this board for his children and wouldn't be able to participate at 6 p.m.

**Mr. Dixon** said holding meetings at night is something he's always agreed with. He's always had a problem with meeting times. He can't attend BCC or City Council meetings because he works. He won't agree to changing the PARAB meetings until the BCC agrees to change its time.

**Vice Chair Fruth** said he agreed.

*Ms. Gibson-Laemel made a motion to continue to have monthly meetings at 2 p.m. Second by Vice Chair Fruth. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.*

**ii. Agenda Delivery**

**Mr. Rojas** said this request was tailored to save trees and provide agendas electronically.

It's costing \$100 to ship agenda packets every month. Instead, he can email them and provide paper copies at the meetings. Immokalee staff can deliver an agenda packet to Chairman Olesky.

**The Board** agreed that was a good idea.

**X. Adjournment**  
**Future Meeting Dates**

**Mr. Rojas** passed out a list of future meeting dates and meeting locations, which will alternate with North Collier Regional Park:

Sept. 21, 2022, 2 p.m. (North Collier Regional Park)

Oct. 19, 2022, 2 p.m. (Big Corkscrew Island Regional Park)

Nov. 16, 2022 (North Collier Regional Park)

*A brief discussion ensued.*

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair at 3:55 p.m.**

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Edward "Ski" Olesky, Chairman**

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