

April 19, 2023

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Naples, Florida, April 19, 2023

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, the Collier County Parks & 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 North Collier Regional Park, 15000 Livingston Road, Naples, 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 (alternate)

ALSO PRESENT: Olema Edwards, Director, Parks & Recreation  
Miguel Rojas Jr., Admin. Assistant, Parks & Recreation  
James Hanrahan, Interim Region 5 Parks Manager  
Jesus Villareal, Aquatics Program Leader, Eagle Lakes  
Jeanine McPherson, Sr. Operations Analyst, Parks & Rec  
David Michel, Interim Region 4 Parks Manager  
Aaron Hopkins, Region 2 Parks Manager  
Rick Garby, Maintenance Superintendent, Parks & Rec  
Britt Hirst, Program Spvr., Eagle Lakes Community Park  
Said Gomez, Program Spvr., Immokalee Sports Complex  
Dayne Atkinson, Principal Project Mgr., Public Services

*Any persons in need of a verbatim record of the meeting may request a copy of the Zoom recording and PowerPoint presentations 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 six was established.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation**

The board recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed an invocation/moment of silence.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

**Parks Director Edwards** asked that No. 5, Public and Board Comments, be moved to New Business, C.i., after the Pelican Bay Pickleball Concept item. She'd like the speakers to go after the presentation.

*Ms. Laemel moved to approve the agenda, as amended. The motion was seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.*

**IV. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

**Vice Chair Fruth** noted that the title page didn't say he was excused and asked that it be revised.

**Ms. Laemel** asked about a bullet after her comment on page 7, "There's not a lot of support for Naples Pickleball."

**Parks Director Edwards** explained that it refers to Naples Pickleball Center, NPC.

*Mr. Dixon moved to approve the March 15, 2023, meeting minutes, as amended. Ms. Laemel seconded it. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.*

**V. Public/Board Comments**

(See 8.c.i.)

**VI. New Business**

**a. Welcome to Donna Fiala Eagle Lakes Community Park [Hanrahan]**

**Mr. Hanrahan** said he has a PowerPoint presentation and noted that Donna Fiala also is here. He introduced himself as the Region 5 Parks Manager.

**Hanrahan detailed a PowerPoint presentation, telling the PARAB:**

- The park has a ball field, a softball field, one official turf field, one grass field and a rectangular field.
- We have two MOUs, sports partners – Mexi-Soccer, which has a wonderful program that runs soccer here, and the Golden Gate National League, which uses Cindy Mysels Park, as well as Eagle Lakes.
- The playground is to the side of the aquatics center, where we also have basketball and tennis courts.
- The nature trail is one of the most beautiful park amenities we offer for families. Going on the trail, you can see a beautiful part of the park and the area. There are cool and scary things, such as alligators and black bears, but we make sure it's safe.

**Jesus Villareal, aquatics program manager, told the PARAB:**

- He oversees the Aquatic Facility on the other side of the park.
- The hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Our main pool has lap-swim and dive areas.
- The family pool has water features for families so they can sit around and lounge. There are

two slides, a blue open-slide and a yellow closed-slide.

- There's a baby pool for infants and toddlers.
- We offer everything from fitness to childcare to special events at the Community Center.
- He organizes aquatic program events.
- For the lifeguard training swim classes, we try to target all age groups.
- We had an amazing special event, the underwater Aquatic Easter Egg Hunt and have others coming up in the next couple of months.

**Ms. Laemel** asked what Paint the Park is.

**Mr. Villareal** said Paint the Park is something we do with chalk. People pay the park admission fee and we come up with a theme for them to paint and provide pictures. We also have talented drawers on staff, so they draw a little gallery and kids can color it in. We do contests and games, with prizes and there were also food and beverage vendors.

**Ms. Fiala** noted that East Naples Fire Department used to work out at the beaches until after Hurricane Ian, when beaches were contaminated. Then they found out about Eagle Lakes Community Park's pool and told her how great it was.

**b. Volunteer Recognition [McPherson]**  
*[See award sheet for information on each award]*

**Excellence Award**

**Ms. McPherson** asked Ms. Sharon Truluck and Ms. Christine Blanchard, the organizational leads, to come up and accept the Excellence Award for the group, which also includes Patricia Osheroff, Jo Ann Jany, Deanne Coffey Johnson and James Truluck Jr.

**Ms. Truluck** thanked her for the award and said the group can always use more help, especially after Hurricanes Ian and Irma and whatever else might come. If there's anyone interested in participating at Clam Pass with our group, we do it once a week, sometimes twice. We'd love to have anyone join us. We'd be glad to have you.

**Leadership Award**

**Ms. McPherson** asked Connie Nagele, the lead for the Volunteer Garden Program, to accept the Leadership Award.

**Ms. Nagele** told the PARAB and audience that she wanted to promote the butterfly gardens. We're at North Collier Regional Park and have a small garden at Veterans Community Park. Earth Day is Saturday and we have games and hunts for the kids in the garden, as well as prizes. We're being joined by several other community and other organizations, including the library, Pollution Control and the Florida Native Plant Society. Please check us out. We also can use volunteers.

**Years of Service Award**

**Ms. McPherson** said Margaret Winn, of Friends of Barefoot Beach, is the winner of the Years of Service Award, due to over 25 years of service with CCPRD. She then read a statement by Ms. Winn, which included recommendations for the future of Barefoot Beach Preserve.

**c. Pelican Bay Pickleball Proposed Concepts**

**Mr. Jim Hoppensteadt** introduced himself as the president of the Pelican Bay Foundation, and introduced Mike Ruffolo, the chairman of the Pelican Bay Foundation board.

**Mr. Hoppensteadt detailed a PowerPoint presentation showing the concepts:**

- We've been working in conjunction with the county and Parks & Rec for over eight years on different plans that that might produce a win-win, improve the park and bring an additional amenity to Pelican Bay Community Park.

- A couple years ago, we worked with the county to do a survey, but there were many transitions within the county, including Olema, new County Manager Amy Patterson and some new county commissioners, so we re-energized this approach.
- The objective is to have a win-win scenario where Pelican Bay gets involved with the county in a public-private partnership.
- The concept is to have a land-lease, which is not an unusual structure between the county and a private entity. Pelican Bay Foundation would make the improvements and it would then be accessible to the public.
- In Scenario 1, there's a 50-50 split of public-private accessibility. That's primarily due to Pelican Bay Foundation investing over \$4 million in this and covering annual maintenance costs of over \$200,000 a year for this facility.
- Unlike past proposals that we've talked about, some with the public, this is a scenario where we are proposing to come in and make the improvements and maintain the park.
- Within Pelican Bay, we did a survey and the county did one outside Pelican Bay and saw great demand for pickleball. We saw an opportunity to be able to help and Dayne, Rick and Olema began considering different proposals that could preserve green space, expand parking and bring pickleball to this area.
- We ended up with three scenarios. In all three, we get 20 pickleball courts and we take tennis courts down from eight to six. We also fix the courts and fencing, which aren't in good shape and need to be redone.
- We'd provide additional parking by expanding the existing parking area.
- We'd create a pro-shop facility in the middle of tennis courts that will be a gathering place that also will handle operations for tennis pros and pro-shop staff.
- We anticipate taking the existing maintenance building by the racquetball courts, tearing that down and rebuilding it so it can function both as a county maintenance barn and for the Pelican Bay Foundation.
- The county will maintain the grass areas, playground and green space, and the Pelican Bay Foundation will maintain the rest, including fencing, lighting, netting, and regularly resurfacing the courts.
- The pickleball courts don't require the same level of maintenance because they're not Har-Tru regulation. We tested playing pickleball on Har-Tru, which was better than nothing, but not well received by people who want to play competitive pickleball.
- Our intention is to build these courts to the same specifications as the pickleball courts at East Naples Community Park.
- In this scenario, the pickleball courts project more into the green space, so we weren't happy with that.
- In the next scenario, Scenario 9, we use the area where the racquetball courts are and turn those into operation centers. That maintains the most green space, but it limits our ability to see the courts and to have control over the courts. Although it maintains the most green space, it separates oversight and control, and Pelican Bay places a high priority on safety and security.
- These courts are in hot areas and the safety response must be addressed, to get to people quickly after calling 911. Thankfully, emergency response is across the street and all our staff are trained in first aid, CPR and AED.
- Scenario 10 is the one we like the most. It positions the pro-shop next to the tennis courts and provides an additional barrier to Avalon (at Pelican Bay), which is directly to the south. It provides good oversight of the tennis and pickleball courts. We envision this as a raised building with a wrap-around deck that functions as social and gathering area. The pickleball courts don't stack directly on top of each other, but we have aligned them along Vanderbilt Beach Road, which is important because that helps with sound mitigation.
- We looked at the sound in this area and the closest residents are 165 feet across Vanderbilt Beach Road at Beach Walk. We've looked at sound mitigation there with the sound attenuation coming off Vanderbilt Beach Road. Without any other mitigation, we can get the

sound mitigation down to 59-58 decibels, which is below the 60-decibel threshold. Pickleball courts generally produce around 80 decibels, so getting below 60 is our goal. We can do that for Beach Walk and Avalon, which is about 400 feet away from the courts.

- We have the advantage of already ambient going in that location with Vanderbilt Beach Road and the advantage of the distance from the back racquetball courts and pickleball courts to Avalon with distance and landscape.
- The plan incorporates the use of an acoustic fence. Acoustiblok, made of very dense material that also decreases airflow, so if you're a pickleball player and you're completely surrounded by this material, it reduces air flow to the poles. We don't want to use that all the way around it, but would if we found there were sound problems, we could use the Acoustiblok there.
- During preliminary conversations with Avalon, they asked for that fence to be one of the elements of this plan.
- We have supporters and opponents, or people who are concerned.
- He can answer questions by the PARAB and let them turn it over to the public.

**Parks Director Edwards** told the audience and PARAB that there are 17 speakers, who will have three minutes each due to the time.

## **C.i Public and Board Comments**

### **Public Comments**

#### ***Marsha Oenick, of Naples Park, told the PARAB:***

- She uses the community park and said Pelican Bay has a pickleball dilemma. They don't have pickleball onsite and they need to remain competitive with other HOAs that have them.
- These options aren't easy or inexpensive. It serves Pelican Bay's needs and helps the county feed north Collier County's appetite for pickleball courts, while helping the county's budget.
- The deal includes exclusive access to half the courts for Pelican Bay residents and management by Pelican Bay. There are risks with us for the public and Pelican Bay.
- How do we ensure public access is maintained? Will fees be the same for the public and Pelican Bay members?
- What is the incentive for the Pelican Bay Foundation to operate the facility for the benefit of both the public and their members who will oversee Pelican Bay's management of the complex to deal with issues that may arise?
- How do you ensure the deal is sellable to all parties now and that they remain delighted with the deal through the length of the contract?
- How do you ensure the public remains so delighted to have more pickleball courts and renovated tennis courts that they can set aside feelings of animosity because they have exclusive access to some of the courts and they call the shots about the park's operation?
- If the deal happens, let's ensure that it's wildly successful now and going forward.
- She worked 29 years in product-development and knows good product design, how to identify potential problems and mitigate them before introducing a product. This leads to a product that serves all customers' needs over the product's lifetime. This product is a combination of the complex's design, its operations and a contract that cements the deal.
- Create a panel of pickleball players, park users and neighbors, including the public, to work through the risks and problems that could come up, so that approaches for informing the specific design of the complex, its operations and contracts can be learned now versus later. The advisory panel will also likely enable public support of the project because they're engaged with making this deal successful.
- Please get started before it's too late. Don't rush the deal and find the issues later, resulting in disappointment, unhappiness and resentment of Pelican Bay residents and their community, as well as disappointment, unhappiness and resentment if the county staff and officials agree to it prematurely. Don't be premature. Make this wildly successful if it's

going to happen.

**Susan Zehnder told the PARAB:**

- She lives near Pelican Bay Community Park and visits it frequently.
- The Pelican Bay Foundation represents the interest of Pelican Bay Foundation members. The general public relies on the county to represent our interests.
- The county has been in discussions with the Pelican Bay Foundation about this park for four years. Why were surrounding communities not asked for feedback as plans progressed?
- The county survey in 2021 was a good first step in soliciting community feedback, however, the survey results were never reported to the public and the surrounding community has never been informed that the plan includes creating private pickleball courts in a public park.
- Waiting until the plan is scheduled for a vote is way too late to ask for public comment, especially when the plan involves reserving part of the park for private use.
- She plays pickleball at Veterans Community Park, which is always crowded with long lines. Yesterday morning, all eight courts were full, with 48 people waiting to play, and it's more crowded during season.
- If the Pelican Bay Foundation is permitted to have private courts in a public park, the county will be flooded with emails from angry constituents, when they see that Pelican Bay Foundation residents have their own private courts with no waiting time while the public courts have dozens of players waiting.
- Once this plan is implemented, is there any possibility of reversing it?
- Before creating private courts in our public park, she suggests a test drive of this plan for a one-week period at Veterans Park. Close half the pickleball courts to the general public from 8 a.m. to noon and allow only a select group of players to use the private courts without having to wait their turn. Have a volunteer there to answer questions about the proposed plan and distribute the plan details with a link to provide feedback to the county.
- That's the only accurate way to understand the consequences of creating private courts in a public park.

***Peter Fagan, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- The Florida Constitution, Article Two, Section 7, Natural Resources and Scenic Beauty, says it shall be the policy of the state to conserve and protect its natural resources and scenic beauty. Adequate provision shall be made by law for the abatement of air and water pollution and of excessive and unnecessary noise and for the conservation and protection of natural resources.
- The project, black-topping 2½ acres of parkland, a natural resource, and cutting down shade trees, will raise park temperatures and increase flooding.
- Recent rains in Fort Lauderdale are a foreshadowing of our future.
- There will be increased traffic, noise and air pollution on already congested Vanderbilt Beach Road.
- 20 pickleball courts are excessive and unnecessary, a violation of the Florida Constitution.
- The foundation president deeding public property for the exclusive use of a private community for a price is blatant corruption. Follow the money.
- The ongoing battles over public access to the beach will be repeated here. Public lands must be dedicated to public use.

***Jean Warters, an Avalon at Pelican Bay resident, told the PARAB:***

- The documents that transferred this part property to Collier County clearly indicate that this park was to be a community park for the enjoyment of all Collier residents. It was not to be a park in any way dedicated, in whole or in part, to Pelican Bay residents.
- Pelican Bay Foundation is required to impartially review any application from the county regarding proposed projects for the park, including pickleball, to ensure the proposed design prevents nuisance conditions or design flaws that would diminish quality of life or property.

- For the foundation to engage in negotiations to obtain an exclusive benefit for Pelican Bay pickleball players is a conflict of interest, is contrary to the foundation's role as the reviewing authority, contrary to the requirement that the park be for the entire community and not in any way exclusive to Pelican Bay.
- The foundation has a role to protect all Pelican Bay residents, not just pickleball players.
- The county and/or the foundation should adopt a 600-foot set-back requirement between any new outdoor pickleball courts and nearby homes. This setback is recommended by noise specialists and litigation attorneys when choosing sites for new pickleball courts.
- Both the county and the foundation have been less than forthcoming in this process.
- She worked for the state of Massachusetts and measured noise. You're not going to measure the noise of this with a regular decibel meter. This is impact noise. It causes a lot of anxiety and stress, high blood pressure, etc. You need specialized equipment.
- Once you site something within 600 feet, you'll be into mitigation wars and it's going to be expensive to mitigate. Expensive consultants will increase the cost of this for everybody.
- Pickleball players are not the majority in the Pelican Bay Foundation. We are not in favor of making a community park that Pelican Bay in 1994 deeded to the county as a condition of being able to build Pelican Bay.
- This is taking back a park that Pelican Bay was required to deed to the community.

***Christine Bonarrigo, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- We've talked about tennis and pickleball courts, but ignored the fact that the green space, which is the size of a postage stamp, is a very well-used space used for football practice, soccer practice, baseball, anyone who needs to run with their dog or children, play with their children and bicycle ride with kids.
- Avalon grandparents use this park for their grandchildren because there are no open spaces for kids to run around in Pelican Bay.
- Physical activity benefits children and improves balance, social behavior and mental health.
- You can visibly see when a child is engaged, taking risks, doing something negative, discovering something, finding a sense of self and a sense of wonder.
- This is what we'll be losing if too much green space is taken.
- The green space also helps with mitigating noise and the possibility of flooding.
- This park is attuned to children.
- We need to tweak our thinking. We're losing an area that's well used and developed.
- Pelican Bay and Naples Park use it.
- When the Ritz-Carlton reopens, traffic and noise will worsen, and Naples One isn't built yet.
- She's an educator, a mother of three, a grandmother of two. She's been an educator for over 30 years. She and her husband also play pickleball.
- It's an important concept and there's a handful of courts that aren't used after noon.
- It's a waste of time, space and money to do this. Maybe you can take some tennis courts and put pickleball courts there?

***Don Bonarrigo, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- He's Christine's husband and a former lawyer. The documents that transferred this land to Collier County in 1994 say the use shall be a community park. There's a 10-page declaration of restrictions.
- Article 3, Section 1A, says the community park site described herein is intended to serve as a community park. Section 1C says, "The community park site may be divided or subdivided, provided that such dividing, subdividing or use of said divided or subdivided portion does not result in a violation of the declaration." It is a violation of the declaration.
- Pelican Bay Foundation should not be involved with a community park. The Pelican Bay Foundation has no right to take any of this land and convert it to private use.
- This is a classic power grab, not a win-win, but a win-lose and the community loses. They

lose the green space.

- They come in with their money and you're making a deal with the devil. They say we're going to do this for you. It's a bunch of privileged people taking over a park.

*[Audience commotion]*

*[Parks Director Edwards warned everyone to be respectful and avoid outbursts.]*

**Michael Freed, a Pelican Bay resident, told the PARAB:**

- He understands they're volunteering and putting up with a lot of our emotions so he thanked them for their effort.
- He's already written a letter on this, so he'll just summarize. Pelican Bay Community Park represents the best of America. He speaks Portuguese and meets Brazilians there, more than any other place. Park visitors represent a cross section of who we are.
- He has three grandchildren nearby in Naples Park. Their playground is their sloped front driveway, so there's no real place for them to play. They go to Pelican Bay Community Park.
- He bikes a lot and is teaching those children to bike 1½ miles to that park because that's their park, their backyard.
- The demographics of Naples Park indicate that 79% of the people are white, they have a household income of \$72,000 and the average age is 53-54 years.
- Like Collier County, almost two-thirds of Naples Park Elementary students receive free or reduced-price lunches. Pelican Bay demographics indicate we're almost 95% white, with a \$145,000 median income, a mean of \$244,000, and an average age of nearly 70.
- He advises them not to take green space away from the children of Naples Park and the county at large to benefit a portion of the community that is wealthier.
- You should ask Pelican Bay to donate money for the park's upkeep.
- Someone's grandparents are taking away green space from someone else's children. You will be taking resources away from young families living in the area.
- He's privileged while other residents may be in the midst of many life problems.
- There are plenty of other places where pickleball can be considered. A community park shouldn't be one. Please keep the green space as it is – a park.

**Anne Georger Harris, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:**

- She asked county employee Steven Adams, the director of operations for the Collier County helicopter, three questions.
- How many times was this used in 2021-2023 and he said they average between two and 2.5 times yearly for those years.
- Do they have alternative landing sites? They strategically pick locations depending on the proximity to a patient, weather conditions and the site's availability. They have alternative sites nearby that may increase the time a patient can be transferred to a nearby hospital.
- If the space is reduced, will you have a pilot who's able to land? They can operate out of an area that's 100-by-100, but with more area available, the pilot's safety margin improves.
- If she needs to be rescued, that's a big problem.
- She is an original Avalon owner and bought it in 1993. The developer told us we were buying a great unit because we're protected from storm surge and water incursion due to mangroves on one side and by Pelican Bay Community Park on the other. It acts as a water retention area, a swale.
- It will be a tremendous liability.
- Is Pelican Bay in a situation to take on the liability of people getting hurt on this pickleball court because we already know that chiropractors and orthopedic doctors report that pickleball has its fair share of injuries? How many claims do we have against our liability insurance?



- Her chiropractor treats many patients for sound injuries due to pickleball. Many of them no longer play for that reason.
- People were fainting on the courts because it was too hot, then it was too loud, so those neighbors left.
- This will affect property values.

***Martha Harris, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- Avalon borders the green space and the community.
- One of the primary justifications for this proposal appears to be that the park's green space is currently underutilized. That can't be further from the truth.
- It's important to remember the property's intended use, a community park that provides a recreation area for the community.
- During our regular walks around the park, we've noticed the green space is used extensively by the community for a variety of activities. Adults and children kick around soccer balls and hit baseballs on weekends. There are soccer matches and baseball games, others use the field to throw Frisbees, to exercise dogs, do Tai Chi and yoga. Fishermen use it to practice casting. People sometimes sit on a bench or a blanket to read and enjoy the sun, meet friends, relax and enjoy the peace and quiet of the green space.
- The green space is fully utilized for its intended purpose and taking a chunk of this property for pickleball would interfere with, rather than enhance, the community's use and enjoyment of this park.
- In the last year or two, the Pelican Bay Foundation has determined that pickleball should be added to the many amenities already available to its members.
- But putting pickleball courts anywhere on foundation property has been a challenge. Each time a proposal was made, the foundation received stiff opposition.
- Pickleball and Pelican Bay suffer from Not-In-My-Backyard syndrome. There's a good reason for this. Pickleball is an incredibly intrusive and disruptive activity that has no place in the middle of a densely populated, serene community such as Pelican Bay.
- In addition to the noise already discussed, putting 20 pickleball courts in the green space adds a potential for overcrowding, traffic and parking congestion.
- We're vehemently opposed to pickleball courts at Pelican Bay Community Park.

***George Harris, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- He opposes putting pickleball courts in the park and is very disappointed in our board for even proposing it. It's completely out of character to what we are in Pelican Bay.
- They tried to put pickleball in Pelican Bay, but no one wanted it. It's too intrusive, so they went outside Pelican Bay to put it in our backyards.
- He's disappointed pickleball is of greater value than green space, families enjoying it and the peace and quiet we get from that area.
- He'd be very disappointed in the advisory board if they support it. You don't pave paradise to put in a parking lot and courts.
- When you have 20 courts, you potentially will have 80 cars parking. That's a maximum and then you have 80 cars every hour going back and forth.
- We have two very small roads around the circumference of the park that lead to Pelican Bay Boulevard, North Point and Hammock Oak Boulevard. There's going to be a lot more traffic going down those streets.
- There's a bike path on those streets and that's dangerous because it takes a whole lane of traffic and now you're adding. There's also a walking path, with people pushing babies, that crosses those roads.
- There are a lot of potential accidents that will occur when you add that much more traffic to a residential neighborhood. He's very much opposed.

***Christine O'Sullivan, of Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- She thanks former commissioner Donna Fiala for doing so much in the past.
- She's a pickleball player and is distressed when she hears people talk about this being a community park. Pelican Bay is part of the community.
- This proposal helps all of North Naples, not just Pelican Bay.
- She plays at Veterans Community Park almost every day and drives along Pelican Bay Boulevard to U.S. 41 to get there and contributes to the heavy traffic.
- If she had pickleball closer to her Pelican Bay home, she might bike to pickleball at the park.
- You have to consider the larger community. This would relieve pressure on Veterans Community Park, which is crowded with a lot of people waiting. They need more courts there. Ten more courts in our community would help relieve some of that pressure. We would spread the load throughout the community.
- She knows Pelican Bay has been interested in this park since 2015 because she read all the minutes.
- This is an opportunity for the county to save a lot of money to do something better for our total community, not just my backyard.
- She appreciates that the foundation has gone to so much effort and has helped develop this plan. We should be more broad-minded.
- We need to do it right for everyone involved and sound mitigation makes sense for Avalon and the community at large.

***Eddie Verbesky, of Valencia in Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- Listening to everyone, she wonders if she lives in the same community. She drives back and forth to that little park at least four times a day and rarely sees anybody there, maybe someone with a dog or riding a bicycle or playing soccer.
- She's a 79-year-old pickleball player and supports this opportunity.
- She was at the U.S. Open (Pickleball Championships) for two days and that's a real community. There were 500 people participating six years ago when it started and there were 3,000 coming from all over the world this week.
- It brings \$10 million of business into the community.
- She provided staff with the name of a vendor who has fixed every objective about the noise. There are fences. There are five-star Ritz-Carlton residences that have pickleball.
- This is an opportunity. If you don't want to exercise, stay in bed. She wants to do this.

***Maurice Foucher, of Avalon at Pelican Bay, told the PARAB:***

- His and his wife's unit overlooks the park and they also play pickleball, so they have a unique perspective.
- We purchased that unit for the green space right behind us. It overlooks the park and the peace and the quiet.
- Maintaining some green space in the park is very important to us.
- We also have serious concerns about putting pickleball courts at the park. He'd like them far away from the residential area with as much sound mitigation as possible, so it doesn't detract from their quality of life, which is the reason they bought their home there.
- How do abutting homes become part of the design process to address concerns about sufficient sound mitigation?
- There shouldn't be any pickleball at night or lighted courts. They should be restricted to daytime use, from dawn to dusk or 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- The county should not be providing an amenity for an exclusive, wealthy community like Pelican Bay. That seems wrong. The community park is for all of Collier County, so Pelican Bay Foundation really needs to solve pickleball on its own.

***Gary Canino, a tennis player at Pelican Bay, read a noise specialist's recommendations:***

- He asked the president of Price Industries Ltd., a highly respected and leading noise-control firm that has worked with this type of scenario, to offer recommendations.
- The expert noted that proven, tested noise mitigation techniques can be designed and deployed so Pelican Bay neighbors next to the park won't experience any disruptive noise impacts from the proposed pickleball courts south of Vanderbilt Beach Road.
- We need to know about this issue to mitigate the effects. Disruptive noise is defined as sounds that are loud and background noise. Traffic on Vanderbilt Beach Road averaged more than 36,000 daily trips in spring 2022, which will produce sound levels that are 25% louder than the loudest pickleball activity. This equates to an average sound level of 60-65 decibels for the adjacent residential communities, and 50% decibels to the south.
- A properly engineered and designed noise barrier along the south side of the courts can reduce noise by up to 50%.
- The predicted noise at the nearest residence to the south, based on measurements of pickleball noise, distance to residences and the size of the park, is predicted at less than 50 decibels, which is 25% quieter than the City of Naples' nighttime noise ordinance.
- The ambient noise from existing activities, tennis, baseball, etc., in the park and traffic on Vanderbilt Beach Road are louder than the proposed pickleball noise and will help mask any disruption that might result from pickleball.
- Respectful use of the courts, such as hours of operation, lighting, if any, and conduct, should be encouraged and enforced.
- We would urge consultation with the adjacent neighbors and engaging with an experienced acoustical engineer to assist with the design and noise-control solution.
- As his personal comments, Mr. Canino said he understands both sides, but asked that they remain open-minded and start from a fresh position.

***Jim Egan told the PARAB:***

- He's greatly discouraged by some of the comments. He's done his homework on the proposal and this doesn't take away all the green space. There will still be fields and playgrounds. Pickleball won't replace that.
- People should learn what's being proposed before opposing it.
- The underutilization of the tennis courts is very factual based on his observation. He's lived in Pelican Bay for 23 years and there are only occasional tennis players. It's underutilized.
- He lives in a community on Cape Cod that had this same pickleball struggle. Noise was a concern. But the acoustical engineers do a fabulous job. They put up acoustically engineered curtains on the fencing, landscaping and raised it up to mitigate noise. It really does muffle the sound of pickleball and people speaking.
- He encouraged the advisory board to consider this because pickleball courts are underrepresented in North Naples and require some solutions. This is a fair solution to the county, residents of Pelican Bay and the North Naples community.

**Board Comments**

**Mr. Dixon** asked where the County Attorney stands stand on the issue.

***Parks Director Edwards told the PARAB and audience:***

- The County Attorney is reviewing this. We have submitted everything.
- When we were in negotiations with Pelican Bay, we looked at every avenue. We can't lose the green space. The first set of proposed plans from about mid-2022 to the end of 2022 gave up a significant amount of green space. It was shot down by our County Manager's Office and Parks & Rec, so we've been in negotiations and nothing has been finalized.
- Shes' very transparent. What you're seeing now is because of the negotiations. These are concepts we brought to the PARAB to review and see if they'd allow us to move forward.

- We're also going to have a Neighborhood Information Meeting to bring all the residents in because she knows their voices are important.
- We received a public records request and provided plans from two years ago because she didn't get these plans until April 10. That's why they were not included in the public records request. She's not trying to hold anything back from the community. She wants to build a relationship with the community. She's trying to do what's in the best interests of the community and look toward the future.
- The Pelican Bay Foundation brought this idea to us. She thought it could be a great opportunity for a public-private partnership.
- Pelican Bay is proposing to bring pickleball courts to the north end of Naples at a time we don't have funds to do it. She gets requests for pickleball courts all the time and nobody wants to drive to East Naples, where there are 64 courts.
- When Mr. Hoppensteadt brought up this proposal, he said the only thing that we're asking for is if you allow us to build these pickleball courts, we're asking for a long-term lease of the property. They're putting up all the capital and this is going to cost about \$4 million to bring 20 courts to the Pelican Bay Community Park. Ten will be reserved for Pelican Bay residents because they're putting up the money. The other 10 would be for the public.
- They're also making improvements. They're paving the walkways, adding a new inclusive playground. We do not have one inclusive playground for children in wheelchairs or for adults in wheelchairs. We just have mulch, but they're saying that's an ADA requirement. It's hard to roll a wheelchair from the beach in the sand. Pelican Bay said they'd give that to us, as well.
- She's looking to try to make public-private partnerships. She hears everyone here and wants to do what's in the best interests of everybody but wants them to understand why the county is considering this route.
- Parks & Rec's capital funds are limited. She oversees over 91 parks, including preserves, beaches, neighborhood, community and regional parks. The annual capital operating budget totals about \$6.7 million for the entire division. This proposal alone would cost \$4 million.
- If you're looking for pickleball courts in the next couple of years, give me three years and that will be the next priority because we have other priorities.
- By being transparent and having these talks and negotiations, she's thinking about the community. She's not trying to disrupt your quality of life. She understands pickleball makes a lot of noise. She's heard that from day one. The first time we designed it, all the pickleball courts faced the south side so we decided to put them toward the road because there's already noise coming from the road.
- We want to make sure we get barriers, fences, whatever we can get. These are the three concepts and she likes No. 10.
- [She pulled it up on the PowerPoint]. It does take away a bit of green space, but you still have a full soccer field and full Little League field. The only thing we took out was the back. We changed the side of where the softball base was in the field and moved it to the other side. That's all. You can see it blacked out and that's where the building is.
- We are trying to look at what's in the best interests of the community and to listen to everybody's side.
- She's a new director and wants to build relationships with the community. She doesn't want to impact you negatively. Their mission as Parks & Recreation professionals is to enrich the lives of the communities that we serve.
- Land is scarce. She's planning for the future and has to consider parking spaces for beaches. She understands they don't like parking lots, but there are a lot of people moving here and her job is to look out for the future.
- The board wants to hear their feedback. We're not making arbitrary decisions. She still reports to the PARAB, the County Manager's Office and the Board of County Commissioners.
- The final decision must go through the proper channels. Her job is to conduct due diligence.

- We have taken this to our County Attorney's Office to see if there's something we can possibly do. We haven't gotten a response yet. This is why we brought it to the PARAB and invited all of you so you can know that this is coming.
- This is the plan that we're kind of getting sold on. Once we get direction, she will hold a Neighborhood Information Meeting. She will send out information and market it so everyone can get involved and provide input.

**An audience member** asked if they were going to have meetings during season or summer when no one is here.

**Parks Director Edwards** said her plan today was to hear the PARAB's recommendation and then hold a meeting in May. Anyone can join remotely through Zoom. If you can't be here in person, we still have a forum for you to participate. The transcriber takes all the meeting minutes, so it will be documented. It will be transparent. She'd rather do this when all residents are here, but if we do get it approved, we're trying to have this completed by the next time season comes through.

**Another audience member** said that's the only green space west of U.S. 41 between 5th Avenue South and Bonita Springs. Why are we screwing with it? There are other properties. He also questioned the spend-risk attitude of the Pelican Bay board and foundation, which are ready to spend \$4 million, in addition to \$200,000 yearly for maintenance.

**Audience member's wife** said there are 115 tennis courts in Pelican Bay. What prevents them from putting in pickleball?

**An audience member** asked where they could get copies of the plans.

**Parks Director Edwards** said she can put them on the website.

***A discussion ensued and the following points were made:***

- Parks Director Edwards can provide a Zoom link for the NIM on Monday morning.
- The general public can find out about meetings on the Parks & Recreation website and Facebook page, as well as county press releases.
- The county publicizes all Neighborhood Information Meetings.
- This \$4 million will enable the county to use parks money elsewhere for priorities.
- Parks & Recreation did a study on the utilization of this green space.
- The county looks at the community's needs. It's short on athletic fields because we have so many kids and so many new organizations that are growing.
- Land is hard to find right now and it's very expensive.
- The county prioritizes needs and is now looking for soccer fields/multi-purpose fields that can accommodate soccer, football and lacrosse, which is another growing sport.
- The county is trying to convert natural grass fields into artificial turf. A lot of people don't like that, but it's better for longevity because grass fields must be rested for three or four months a year to allow grass to grow.
- Pelican Bay Community Park is not a prime area to expand those fields because the green space is so small. You could possibly get a Little League field out of it and have open space for soccer. Most kids play after 6 p.m. This is not a lit area and we're not trying to add light.
- Vineyards Community Park is a heavily utilized park for sports. That's the next place she will look to put in artificial turf so we can have more field time for people to utilize.
- School fields often can't be used because they're private. We have some school relationships, but not all schools. The school might let county parks utilize their fields after school, but the parks department is responsible for maintaining those fields, so we have to align them and cut them, despite only using them three hours out of the day.
- This proposal is a great idea for residents. If you want pickleball in the next 1½ years, the county won't be able to provide it because it's not in the budget and is not a priority now. There are other capital priorities that are more important.
- This is 20 courts and Pelican Bay gets 10, so the public is benefiting more than you think

from the Pelican Bay Foundation. Why would they put this type of money into this project? If they have the means, why not? If they can help us out, why not? No. 2, it provides new amenities to a park that can be spruced up.

- This does not take away the entire green space.
- There won't be lights on these courts.
- The Pelican Bay Foundation is meeting to discuss this on April 24, but this is a county decision.
- County commissioners support a public-private concept, but details haven't been worked out.
- We will move quickly through the design phase. That's why we wanted it on the agenda quickly.
- Nothing Pelican Bay looked at elsewhere would cost less than \$4 million. The county is putting up the land in this deal.
- An example of a public-private partnership is East Naples Community Park, where the Naples Pickleball Center manages the courts there, and the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships are operated by Spirit Promotions.

*[Parks Director Edwards closed the public comment portion of the meeting, and the PARAB took a break from 3:55-4 p.m.]*

**Mr. Dixon** asked how many parking spots are being added.

**Parks Director Edwards** said 40.

**Vice Chair Fruth** said he had to recuse himself from the vote because he's involved in the design. He noted that the proposal adds roughly one-third more parking spaces, so there would be 100.

***A discussion ensued and the following points were made:***

- The courts would be grouped by 10 for Pelican Bay and 10 for the public. The users will decide how to split them.
- If there was no one waiting for courts on the Pelican Bay side, Pelican Bay will be actively monitoring it and will handle that pressure. If it's equal pressure, it will be equal distribution.
- The courts will be regularly resurfaced, no matter which side needs it more.
- Pelican Bay looked at trying to acquire property, but it was within 100 feet of residential units, so they looked at properties in a park area and ran into grading and cost-benefit issues. It would have cost millions. They looked at other properties but encountered wetlands, de-mucking and Army Corps of Engineers issues that would have taken five to 10 years. They looked at Ridgewood Park and would have had to completely re-grade it, so it didn't make sense. So they looked at land that's already a park.
- Pelican Bay came before this board five or six years ago and the issue was green space then. We have to maintain green space, it's valuable and residents use it.
- It didn't make sense for Pelican Bay to convert its tennis courts.
- This plan keeps the racquetball courts.
- When Ms. Laemel first read Mike Freed's letter, she thought they couldn't take that green space away, but she later realized there will be enough green space.
- Ms. Laemel noted that the park's tennis courts aren't well-maintained and this plan would provide regular maintenance. This will solve the problem of not having enough pickleball courts in North Naples and we won't lose racquetball. This is a win-win.
- Ms. Heuser asked for more information on the deed restrictions; Parks Director Edwards said the County Attorney is reviewing those and they take precedence over any plan if they prohibit this.
- Mr. Dixon said the public must be protected as a full-equity partner in the public-private partnership and said a 30-year agreement is too long.

*Ms. Laemel moved to recommend moving forward with Option 10 as the county continues the process of searching for the best solution for the need for more pickleball courts. Second by Mr. Dixon. The motion passed 4-1; Ms. Heuser opposed; Vice Chair Fruth recused himself. (Fiala, an alternate, did not vote.)*

## VII. Old Business

### a. Veterans Community Park Pickleball

*[Survey results were part of the agenda packet]*

**Parks Director Edwards** said they told everyone at the last PARAB meeting that they'd conduct a survey about having a concessionaire at Veterans Community Park. She just got the results yesterday and closed it this morning. We'll take this up for a recommendation by the board. Any fees that must be changed or modified have to go to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. She doesn't have that authority but is just presenting the results.

*David Michel detailed a PowerPoint presentation showing the survey results:*

- It was a seven-question questionnaire that was out for eight days and they received 209 responses. They asked for everyone's name and email address so they can communicate with Veterans Community Park patrons. They will be kept in their database.
- We asked where they played and asked about suggestions about what they wanted and the pickleball services they wanted at Veterans Park.
- The majority of people who responded played in the morning.
- The majority play at Veterans Community Park.
- Open play was the most popular answer, followed by memberships and a concessionaire on contract being there.
- They were also asked about training and lessons, court rentals and tournaments or whether they wanted to rent courts and give lessons.
- 67 people wanted more courts.
- 35 people asked about adding more lights to the courts that don't have lights. That was the second largest suggestion.
- 34 wanted courts and facilities upgraded, including more shade structures, new benches, a new pathway in between the courts where there's stone.
- 18 people supported open play.
- 17 said they wanted a concessionaire there to help oversee games.
- 14 people wanted the courts resurfaced and said they were in rough shape. Hopefully, we're working on that process.
- 10 people did not want lessons held, especially during busy times.
- Miguel got a list of 50 people at the last meeting and emailed it to them. Flyers also were put up at the courts so people knew about the survey. He also was there for three days with an iPad going around to ask people to take the survey and we posted it on Facebook.
- It closed this morning after providing a week for everyone to finish it. He also sent people the link after they returned home after season.

## VIII. Staff/Capital Projects Updates

### Region 2 [Aaron Hopkins]

*Mr. Hopkins reported that:*

- The Junior Leader Program starts this month. Saturday, the 29<sup>th</sup>, is our first meeting.
- We have four different training dates or training and 47 new Junior Leaders registered and we have 11 returning. We leave registration open until the day before the first training date.
- Everyone here has a big role in summer camp. In Region 2's adaptive-inclusive recreation, we have nine kids registered and we're full.
- At Golden Gate Community Center, we have 80 kids registered for our elementary camp,

18 registered for the middle school camp and still have spots available.

- At Max Hasse Community Park, we have 125 kids registered, a really good number.
- They reported the Easter events last month, but they now have totals. There were 75 people who pre-registered for the Aquatic Easter Egg Hunt, 188 drop-ins, 265 people registered and over 500 people there, with parents, families and grandparents who paid a general admission fee to get into the pool. The other people paid the drop-in fee, so we made about \$800 for the registrations for that event. There also were two food trucks there.
- Max Hasse had a No-School Day Easter Party on April 7. We had 50 kids enrolled and made \$850 in revenues.
- The Golden Gate Community Center April 1 Spring Fling Celebration had 435 people registered and made \$1,971 in revenues. We had two food trucks; volunteers from the Golden Gate High School Key Club; DJ Jamie; a Zumba presentation; Gyro showed up; and our partners, CCSO, Greater Naples Fire, Naples BMX; county transportation management; the county library and two private organizations.
- The Adaptive-Inclusive Program had an Extra Special Eggstravaganza Easter Egg Hunt on April 1. There were 160 people registered split up into three age groups. They did egg hunts on three baseball fields and we had 10 volunteers from Golden Gate High School's Key Club. We also partnered with Golisano Children's Hospital, Topaz Assistance Dogs, Early Steps of Southwest Florida, Autism Support Project of Collier County, Greater Naples Fire, Easter Seals, David Lawrence Center, Autism Services of Florida, Best Buddies of Southwest Florida, Amazing Athletes of Naples, Naples Therapeutic Riding Center. We also had Earth, Wind & Fryer food truck and Rita's Italian Ice.
- There was a total of nine events in his region.

**Ms. Fiala** asked for his number because she'd like to write a newspaper article that mentions the events.

**Mr. Hopkins** told her she could call 239-252-4088. He can make sure she gets updates on upcoming events.

#### **Maintenance Report [Rick Garby, Parks Superintendent]**

**Mr. Garby reported that:**

- We replaced the main signs at Serenity Walk.
- We've been doing nonstop irrigation repairs all over. The Golden Gate Community Center was a big one last week.
- We did repairs to our maintenance shelters at Max Hasse Park for fertilizer equipment.
- We installed new ladders and dock boards at the Goodland Marina.
- We have installed about 200 feet of new fence at North Collier Regional Park where the fencing went bad and we removed concrete pathways where we had OSHA violations. We also did some grinding.
- We've installed our old sign, which was recovered after Hurricane Ian, at Cocohatchee River Park. It's a huge cedar sign that they recovered, sandblasted, cut and put back.
- We replaced the pitching backstop areas at Veterans Community Park.
- We performed best practices on most of our fields, whether it was pesticide or fertilizer applications, as well as on school fields on the days they're closed because the timing is limited on what we can do there.
- We did a lot of work at the U.S. Open Pickleball Championships and were funded through the TDC to do some of the work. His team, along with James Hanrahan and his team, did a lot of work, including tree trimming, installing 400 feet of new windscreens, new landscaping and mulch. They also power-washed the facility. We worked on the lighting and installed 280 tons of stone in the back parking lot, which we rolled over and over to get it to the consistency where people don't get stuck on the old soccer field, which is a sand-based field that isn't supposed to be a parking lot.
- We're still doing light repairs from Hurricane Ian and newer, current light repairs, so people



are complaining all over, but we're prioritizing as we go through the process and we're waiting for parts. It's a non-stop battle with lighting.

- My maintenance team and the recreation team have worked on numerous holiday events and ball field tournaments.

**Mr. Dixon** said he walks all the time at the Gordon River Greenway and sees lights out. Who does he call?

**Mr. Garby** said he can call 311 because those are maintained by the Facilities Department. Each pole has a number so he can report the pole number that's out. They're having problems with some of the circuitry because they're underwater and there are several issues they know about. He gets complaints, so please send them in because he emailed a work-order on that.

**Ms. Laemel** asked about his opinion on the plans for the new maintenance shed at Pelican Bay. You're directly affected. That's been a frustration for years.

**Mr. Garby** said the partnership could be great with the right documentation, the right contract going in. We don't have the funding for the infrastructure to do what we really need to do for the demands of the public. We know we have to keep a lot of the green space. There are 3.3 acres of turf on that field. They're not taking a lot of that. It also would provide parking. When we say it will take a couple of years, we've got \$40 million to 50-million in backlogged capital projects, so this would be a great partnership if it's done right. It's for the community, Pelican Bay and Naples Park residents. It would speed up the process and give the public a lot of quality amenities a lot faster than we can provide them.

#### **Region 5 [James Hanrahan]**

**Mr. Hanrahan** introduced Britt Hirst, who created the Eagle Lakes Park PowerPoint presentation, but wasn't able to be here because she was in leadership training. She's done an amazing job and has been with the county for 25 years at various parks and became the supervisor here in May a year ago. Normally, the parks supervisor makes the presentation.

**Ms. Hirst** thanked everyone for being there and said they have positions opening now, are looking for a stronger team and getting more activities here. It's really great. She loves the area and people here.

**Mr. Hanrahan** said she's done an amazing job.

#### ***Mr. Hanrahan reported that:***

- In the time that he's been a manager, we've seen an explosion of growth in aquatics, fitness and more sports.
- We have an athletics program leader position open that also would manage the MOUs, as well as athletic programming. Here we do aquatics and fitness, but we need to build up the athletics program.
- The U.S. Open Pickleball Championships has been an amazing collaboration with parks and maintenance, along with growth management. We assisted the promoter with the permitting process, which is a huge process. Aaron was in charge of the region last year. He helped and was instrumental in making sure everything was done before the event, which will end Saturday.
- When we have conversations about all the things the community wants, when you actually see it happening, it is pretty cool. All the hard work and decisions you guys make and all the guidance you give us helps us to put on cool things for the community.
- Sugden Regional Park is doing an amazing job. They're about to slow down their season of programming to get ready for summer. They sold out the water-skiing camp in two minutes and the sailing camp sold out in seven minutes. It's ratio-based, but it's really cool that happened.

- Eagle Lake still has some spots available, as well as East Naples.
- Region 5 is getting ready for the summer.
- If you know anybody who would be a good program leader, we're also looking at other positions.

**Ms. Hirst** said they just chose the program leader today.

**Ms. Laemel** asked about the cricket area they converted a few years ago. How often is it used? Is there a cricket club?

**Ms. Hirst** said it's still currently used, but not as often as it was.

**Mr. Dixon** said they're getting ready to start the Special Olympics paddleboard program there in a few weeks at 7 p.m. Were you able to get that lightning system? They need it so practice isn't canceled.

**Hanrahan** said they're looking into it now.

### **Region 3 [Said Gomez, Immokalee Parks Program Manager]**

**Mr. Gomez reported that:**

- Ms. Swinderman is on vacation so he's providing her report.
- They had about 1,100 people at the Greater Corkscrew Easter egg event.
- They now have a dance class going on.
- They have tons of programs that are filling up quickly. VPK filled up already.
- The Easter egg event in Immokalee was smaller, with 150 people. The library and museum also did one, and unfortunately, they were all at the same time, so we're going to try to partner next time for an Easter egg hunt.
- They are remodeling fields at the Paradise Coast Sports Complex. There are a lot of programs going on. Soccer player Olivia Corvalho came to our soccer event. There were 300-plus people for the Easter event, along with kids. It was a huge performance and a great event. We look forward to doing it every year.

**Ms. Laemel** asked how they do the pickleball signups at Corkscrew Regional. Someone mentioned in the survey that Parks & Rec should do signup at Veterans like they do at Corkscrew. Is it a whiteboard?

**Parks Director Edwards** said they use a whiteboard.

**Mr. Michel** said they do first-come, first serve. Once in a while, when they have a program, they create a schedule and do a round-robin.

**Mr. Dixon** asked if they'd shut down the fields yet. When will they be shut down?

**Parks Director Edwards** said not yet, this summer.

**Mr. Garby** said the plan is for me not to shut them down for maintenance. We'll run them straight through and run them to the ground and let them use them as much as possible. They will be closed for maintenance. If the construction gets pushed back, that's going to change. That would be up to Dayne to reschedule.

### **Region 4 [David Michel]**

**Mr. Michel reported that:**

- At North Collier Regional Park, we just had a big tournament, the Bill Longshore High School Softball Tournament last Friday and Saturday. We partnered with the Naples High School.
- Next weekend, North Collier will have the South Florida Cup, which is over 100 soccer teams doing a tournament.
- Construction is continuing on the family pool. They've also started working on the slides to get the surface refinished, so hopefully we can open this summer.

- We're looking for lifeguards. We have lifeguards who can train lifeguards to become lifeguards at Eagle Lakes, Golden Gate and North Collier's Sun-N-Fun. We're looking for them for the summer here at the Rec Plex.
- We just opened our summer youth basketball program and 66 people signed up. They had it in the fall but had to use the Rec Plex as a shelter after Hurricane Ian. Their season got canceled, so we're doing a summer season session for them to make-up the time they missed out on. Registration is open for that.
- We had a Rover Run Easter Egg Dog Hunt, a great event. We had over 100 dogs and we hid eggs with treats inside. The dogs sniffed them out, found them and brought them to us. Olema came to the event. He grew up on a farm and loves animals and dogs.
- We had another Easter event at Vineyards. They did a weeklong pre-Easter Scavenger Hunt, so you could come to the park and get a sheet with different clues. You had to go around the park to find them. If you found all and checked them off your list, you could come to the office for a small prize. They've never done that before. It was thinking outside the box.
- The World of Robotics is at Vineyards Park now. It hasn't been done there before. Kids can build robots with Legos and they can help figure out how to program them. Anyone can call the parks to sign up for that.
- We need lifeguards countywide now. The job pays \$15.58 per hour.

### **Capital Projects [Dayne Atkinson]**

#### ***Dayne Atkinson detailed a PowerPoint presentation:***

- The Sun-N-Fun family pool is under construction now. We're also having major work done on the slides. We're resurfacing them. We also have work going on at the pump house, where we'll be doing re-plumbing and re-piping.
- We removed the island in the middle of the pool. The landscaping on the island was a hazard for lifeguards being able to see across the pool. They couldn't see. The island was replaced with a sun shelf, where you're in the pool, but you're sitting on the shelf in the water.
- At Golden Gate, we're repairing the big pool and slides. We're going to go out to bid in May. We're actively permitting that now.
- The 100% design on the turf-field stormwater is complete. We're back at 60% with the pool. Permitting is ongoing on the turf fields. Storm water and construction is expected this fall.
- On the turf 100% designs, everything is good. He already has South Florida Water Management District currently doing the ERP permitting, so we're moving forward. This is a new pool design. What we designed originally was a competition pool where 80% was about 9 feet deep or more. That wasn't a big family pool. It's basically for competition. Ave Maria and Pine Ridge train there but are planning to move to Big Corkscrew when it's open and we won't have a monthly swim team, so we redesigned the pool. There's a small place for kids to play, there are four competition lanes and a small section to play volleyball or basketball in the water. There will still be diving. This will be more all-inclusive and addresses needs for people who want to train for swimming and lap diving, but it also has amenities now with features that will bring in families. That's why we're back to 60% design.
- We're hoping to have Big Corkscrew Regional aquatics done by the end of May.
- In Region 1, the marinas and beaches, we've started soliciting for permanent repairs. All beach locations were opened after Hurricane Ian, except for Barefoot Beach Preserve.

**Ms. Fiala** asked who's in charge of the pool here.

**Mr. Atkinson** said he was.

**Ms. Fiala** said she wanted to speak to him later.

### **IX. Director Highlights (Olema Edwards)**

(No additional highlights)

**X. Adjournment**

**Next Meeting Date:**

May 17, 2023, 2 p.m. – North Collier Regional Park

**There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the chairman at 4:51 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 \_\_\_\_\_.