

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes

June 3, 2009

Board Attendance Record

Ann Dever (62/71)

Bill Coy (53/64)

William Dryburgh (64/70)

Eugene Leapley (39/43)

Amber Gunderson (14/20)

Carl Johnson (0/1)

Maria Greenberg (1/1)

Present

Ann Dever

Bill Coy

William Dryburgh

Eugene Leapley

Maria Greenberg

County Representatives

Kelly Shoemaker, Acting Director/Assistant County Administrator

Commissioner Bob Starr, District 1

Mike Koenig, Business Services Manager

Joanne Larson, Recreation/Athletics Manager

Guests

Dorothea Zysko, Team Punta Gorda

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

I. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Bill Dryburgh and seconded by Bill Coy to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2009 meeting. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. New Business

A. Introduction of new board members

Maria Greenberg was appointed on 5/26/09 by Commissioner Duffy to represent District 5. She is a busy mom whose kids are involved in many activities. She is an avid tennis player. Carl Johnson, the new representative for District 4, was not in attendance.

B. Youth Sports Council Representative

After Paul Jones resigned, Amber Gunderson was asked to be the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board representative for the Youth Sports Council at the January 7, 2009 Advisory Board meeting. She has been unable to attend any of the Youth Sports Council meetings and they are asking for a new representative to be named.

Joe Karpach was the representative for the Adult Sports Council. His Parks & Recreation Advisory Board term is over and they will need a new representative for the Adult Sports Council.

Since several other board members' terms are up, it was discussed and agreed that we will wait until the next fully staffed meeting to choose new representatives.

C. Safety signage at Bayshore Live Oak Park and Edgewater Paw Park

The Charlotte Harbor CRA had wanted to discuss this with the board, but they decided against it during their meeting on 5/28/09, so this item has been pulled from the agenda.

III. Old Business

A. Smoking Ordinance Update

The Ordinance prohibiting smoking, except in designated areas, will be on the 6/23/09 Board of County Commissioner agenda requesting a Public Hearing. The Public Hearing will take place at the Board of County Commissioners meeting on July 14, 2009.

IV. Sports Council Update

Youth Sports Council – Joanne Larson discussed the Youth Sports Council, which consists of 15 members. They meet the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30pm. The group has been discussing Emergency Action Plans, including information on how EMS would get to injured players in case of an accident. Recently we reviewed the damage that can be done to the fields and showed the leagues that, not only does it cost the County money to fix them, but it also costs the leagues because they lose the ability to play on the damaged fields. We are working on updating the League Agreements. This includes working with the leagues to perform in-kind services to help the County reduce costs and to form a partnership with them. Bill Dryburgh asked about the new grass that they are testing at South County Regional Park. Joanne reported that it is working well and Mike Reber has been working with it and is pretty comfortable with it. Bill Dryburgh inquired about the fishing tournaments at South County Regional Park, that had been discussed in the past. Joanne reported that they have had a tournament and are planning to have it every year.

Adult Sports Council – Joanne Larson gave a report on the Adult Sports Council. They have had a couple of meetings. There are 8 leagues that are potential members. At the last meeting, they agreed to only meet quarterly. The next meeting is on July 22, 2009 at 6 p.m. at Charlotte Sports Park. They are having trouble getting the groups to attend. So far they have had discussions on field usage, practices and field closures for repair/maintenance. They are currently trying to decide what the criteria is for membership. Since Joe Karpach was the representative from Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and is no longer a board member, they will need a new representative.

V. Member Issues

Commissioner Starr

- The primitive camping proposal did not receive any traction from the Board of County Commissioners. He still believes that it is a worth while idea, but will not push it at this time. If you have an interest in revisiting this, you can email your Commissioner.
- Very happy with the outcome of the budget workshops. The only controversial thing was spending the money to fix Port Charlotte Beach Pool. Staff has done an outstanding job.
- Has received a complaint about Oyster Creek Regional Park. The area near the gazebo that has sugar sand, is very difficult to park/drive on. People are getting stuck in the sand. He believes we should shell this area.

Ann Dever

- Heard that we are accepting donations of small parcels of land. Is this correct?
 - Kelly clarified that it is not that we are looking for small parcels, but that we plan to minimize the upkeep of some of the smaller parcel parks. There is a possibility that we might even sell some of these parcels.
- Read in the newspaper that there was some kind of festival at the sports park this past weekend. She said that people told her that food and drink were free. People will complain that we're cutting budgets, yet giving away free food and drink at our events.
 - Joanne Larson cleared this up. The food and drink were not free. There was no entrance fee, only a \$3.00 parking fee. The food and drink were sold by vendors.
- Can we get advanced notice of events, so we can try to attend?
 - Joanne Larson explained that there will be a Dinner on the Diamond event and they are currently planning a concert event
 - Upcoming events will be added to future Parks & Recreation Advisory Board agendas.

Maria Greenberg

- Would like to see some of the past months meeting minutes to get caught up on what the issues are.
 - Kathy Harriott will email the meeting minutes.

Bill Coy

- No concerns or comments

Bill Dryburgh

- Would like to thank Kelly for doing such a great job with the budget work.
- The Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center RFP bids are in. He thinks that this will save us a lot of money
 - Bob Star added that they will be scrutinizing the bids to make sure that the level of service will be great.
- Would like to know if there is any staff that are on duty “after hours” (after 5pm) that can be contacted if lights are left on at South County Regional Park.
 - Kelly stated that we are working with the leagues to get their schedules so we can program the lights for when their practices and games take place. We have asked the leagues to turn off the lights if their games/practices are over early. We might need to start charging them if they do not cooperate.
 - Bill Coy asked if there will be a problem with vandalism when the lights are out?
 - Kelly confirmed that there is still security lighting on, but the big sports lights are what we are talking about here.
 - Bob Star asked why he sees lights on at the sports park when it there is still daylight.
 - Joanne Larson explained that the sports lights take 45 minutes to an hour to get to “full power” and major league regulations require the lights to be on at full power before a game can start. That is why the lights go on early for the night games.

Eugene Leaply

- The flood light at Harbor Heights boat ramp is still on 24 hours a day/7 days a week
 - Kelly will have staff look into the light at Harbor Heights boat ramp.

VI. Director’s Report – Kelly Shoemaker, Acting Director/Assistant County Administrator
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources Director

- John Jackson has been hired and will start on June 15th. He will be having an informal meeting with the managers on Friday.

Push Cart Vendors – Mike Koenig

- The push cart vendor contracts for Englewood Beach and Port Charlotte Beach will be over at the end of June.

Mobile Concession RFP – Mike Koenig

- The mobile concession RFP has been completed. The contract has been split between two vendors. Jack's Dogs will have the concessions at Port Charlotte Beach. Liberty Concession will be at Englewood Beach. The contracts state that they will be open 5 days a week, including Saturday and Sunday, from 11 a.m. to Sunset. There will not be alcohol. Kelly added that we will be looking to expand the concession offerings in the future to include, but not limited to - kayak rentals, beach umbrellas, sunscreen, etc. The vendor is responsible for the trash in a 10 yard radius. Englewood Beach vendor has a trailer and a pushcart. The County is receiving a 25% commission. Kelly stated that these concessions are a revenue generator and we would love to hear more ideas from the citizens and advisory board members.

VII. Citizen Input

- Dorothea Zysko introduced herself as the representative of Team Punta Gorda.

VIII. Announcements

- None

Meeting Adjourned

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:55 p.m. by Bill Dryburgh, seconded by Bill Coy, and the vote was unanimous.

Attachments: None

Copy: Commissioner Robert Skidmore, District 1
Commissioner Adam Cummings, District 2
Commissioner Robert Starr, District 3
Commissioner Richard Loftus, District 4
Commissioner Tricia Duffy, District 5
Mr. Roger Baltz, County Administrator