



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA MINUTES OF MEETING

JANUARY 17, 2019

Proceedings of the regular monthly meeting of the St. Johns County Recreation Advisory Board held in the San Sebastian Room at the Administrative Offices, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: Al Guido, Chairman
Casey Van Rysdam
Vijay Panneerselvam
Bert Watson
Jillian McNiff Villemaire
Deb Chapin
Joy Andrews
Commissioner Paul Waldron
Billy Zeits
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Teddy Meyer, Facilities Manager, Sydney Lindblad, Beaches Supervisor, Diane Gorski, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Dale Vaughn, Parks and Rec Maintenance Superintendent, Tony VonDolteren and Taylor McCullough/representatives from Perfect Game, Mr. Gary Easom, PVAA President, Jennifer Brown, Creeks Baseball Club, Kevin White, president of American Association of Landscape Architects for the State of Florida, Bill Steinmetz, Lisa Ward, Ted Blanton, RAB applicants and Chuck Lubanowski.

Meeting is called to order at 3:02 pm with a quorum. Motion to approve December's Minutes by Mr. Van Rysdam and seconded by Mr. Watson. Minutes are unanimously approved.

Mr. Chuck Lubanowski presents for public comment requesting to obtain information on a Park that he believes has been planned for the Murabella area. Mr. Zeits offers to provide the requested information today to Mr. Lubanowski. Mr. Watson of the WGV area also offers his assistance.

Mr. Zeits speaks on Porpoise Point in regards access (beach driving) and provides a brief Golf Course update. Mr. Zeits also discusses the recent SJC Service Awards held at the County Administration Building. Mr. Van Rysdam inquires if employee turnover is tracked. Mr. Zeits offers to look into this if needed.

Commissioner Waldron updates the Board on the Beaches, Micklers, and Vilano/Porpoise Point. Also discussed are funds that are still being received from the Hurricane damage. Brief discussion follows.

There are four applicants to be considered for the one open position on this Board with one applicant being a current sitting member of the RAB, who is not in attendance today at this meeting but has made it known he would like to continue serving the Board. There are 3 present RAB applicants, Bill Steinmetz, Lisa Ward and Ted Blanton. Each applicant introduces themselves, discuss why they'd like to be a member of this Board and take questions from the Board. A recommendation was not made today and this matter will be placed on February's Agenda. Mr. Zeits will confirm with Melissa Lundquist on proper protocol for informing applicants of this Board's recommendation.

In addition, Mr. Van Rysdam requests the applicants to this Board be notified accordingly and would like to have Mr. Zeits reach out to the School Board to determine what their expectations are, possibly have a conversation with Mr. Abbatozzi to see if there is an opportunity to appoint someone else that may have an opportunity to serve. Chair invites the 3 present applicants to attend next month's RAB meeting.

Jennifer Brown, representative with Creeks Baseball Club, presents to the Board to discuss the Jessie Malcom field sign request for Rivertown. Mr. Zeits states that the current commemorative policy can be reviewed by staff based on Ms. Andrews' direction and incorporate commemorating alternative items and bring back a list of items for the RAB to consider. Commissioner suggests RAB may make a motion to approve or disapprove based on reviewed policy AND after reviewing Rivertown's policy. Dr. Villemaire states that she would like somebody to see the sign in context to be sure the sign is appropriate and consistent with the look of the field. Ms. Chapin makes a motion to approve (recommend) to bring this to the BCC contingent upon this sign not violating any existing policies. Mr. Van Rysdam seconds the motion. There is no discussion. All are in favor and the motion passes.

Mr. Zeits updates the Board members on his recent discussions with Tera Meeks, TDC Director who is anticipating receiving additional revenue in upcoming budget year. There is lengthy discussion.

Mr. Zeits discussing the Triple Crown Contract and informs that the contract is not finalized as yet. Mr. Van Rysdam requests a summary of the imperative points that may have changed on the revised contract to be provided to the Board members by staff. Mr. Zeits states that he can have a one page summary prepared to offer the Board members.

Mr. Zeits updates the Board on the Fairgrounds/Cricket issue and advises that a suitable location is being sought for the Cricket community within the County. Further discussion follows.

Mr. Zeits briefs the Board on the latest with the Golf Course and informs that an item had been brought before the BCC at the Chair's request to discuss the negotiation with most qualified applicant through the RFP process. Lengthy discussion follows.

Royal Road Park issue is discussed. Mr. Zeits briefs the Board on last night's meeting held at the St. Augustine Improvement Association to discuss the lease agreement that had expired in 2016.

Mr. Van Rysdam, speaking on project summaries, would like staff to provide and include specific funded and unfunded financial figures if available. Mr. Zeits will include available information.

Waterway Access Management Program is discussed. Mr. Zeits briefs the Board on the FIND Grant Program. Applications have also been made to the Beach Port and Waterway District. The TDC allocation was also discussed.

Mr. Van Rysdam inquires about the pay for parking issue. There is no update to report per Commissioner Waldron.

Chair thanks Ms. Lindblad for the updated TDC Grant Funding Spreadsheet.

Mr. Zeits updates the Board on the Friends of Ron Parker Park. When the information is completed, FORP will present to the RAB.

Mr. Zeits speaks on the tennis courts at Ron Parker Park going out to bid next week as confirming specifications will be completed today. Mr. Zeits reminds that this work is a deferred maintenance project.

Perfect Game 2019 N. FL Kickoff Classics

1. March 22 – 24, 2019
2. April 5 – 7, 2019

Requesting: \$15,000 for each event (2 events total)
First Time Request

Ms. Lindblad briefs the Board members on this Funding request that includes two separate events. Mr. Tony Von Dolteren and Mr. Taylor McCullough present to the Board to discuss their event and take questions from the Board members on these two funding requests. Applicants state that there are four events slated, but have only brought two of these events for recommendation that are on the Agenda today. Lengthy discussion follows. Mr. Vaughn speaks on behalf of Perfect Game and gives a brief history of his positive working relationship with this group.

1. March 22 – 24, 2019
Mr. Van Rysdam motions to approve recommending \$7,500.00
Mr. Watson seconds the motion. There is no discussion, all are in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

GRANTED #1: \$7,500.00

2. April 5 – 7, 2019
Mr. Van Rysdam motions to approve recommending \$7,500.00
Ms. Chapin seconds the motion. There is no discussion, all are in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

GRANTED #2: \$7,500.00

Mr. Zeits speaks on his work with staff to research a partnership with Florida Elite to determine if that would negatively impact the relationship with Creeks Athletic Association. As Florida Elite is still in a partnership with Creeks with one year to go before expiring, Mr. Zeits states that when there is additional information available, he will bring that to this Board and further, would be hesitant to recommend a partnership with Florida Elite at this time. Mr. Gary Easom, with PVAA, states that it is his organization's view that they would be against this partnership due to the unknown aspect of the negative impact this would cause to the County's field; but also states that once more information is known in regards to this particular issue, their position may change. Lengthy discussion follows.

Public Comments

Mr. Kevin White, Landscape Architect, President of the American Society of Landscape Architects for this State, presents to the Board to request information on a site selection for an upcoming project. Mr. Zeits is aware of this issue and is going to follow up and provide contacts to Mr. White.

Ms. Chapin requests a calendar of upcoming events / tournaments. Mr. Watson requests this to be emailed.

Mr. Zeits requests direction from the Board in regards to the process of Board members receiving the RAB Agenda and the corresponding back up documents. After brief discussion, it is determined that the Agenda and project summary sheets will be sent out the Friday prior to the RAB meeting and TDC applications will be sent out to the RAB members as they are ready.

Mr. Panneerselvam questions whether an alternative method to email could possibly work. Mr. Zeits offered to look into alternative methods.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.