



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

APRIL 18, 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
William "Bo" Browne, Vice Chairman
Casey Van Rysdam
Vijay Panneerselvam
Bert Watson
Jillian McNiff Villemaire
Deb Chapin
Commissioner Paul Waldron
Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator
Billy Zeits, Assistant Director
Paul Abbatinozzi, School Board Representative
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Teddy Meyer, Facilities Manager, Diane Gorski, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Bill Hennessey, resident, Bill Crane, Villages Baseball.

Meeting is called to order at 3:05 pm with a quorum. Motion to approve March's Minutes by Mr. VanRysdam with a second by Vice Chair. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Bill Hennessey presents for public comment in regards to the Palmetto Boat Ramp. Mr. Zeits ensures that Mr. Hennessey's issue is being handled by various County agencies on this issue and details what is being done currently and long term.

Chair distributes the resume of the Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Doug Bataille, to the Board members. Ms. Andrews states that Mr. Bataille's start day with Parks and Recreation is Monday, April 22nd.

Ms. Andrews reports that the two main issues being worked on at this time for Parks and Recreation are the updates to the Fee Schedule and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Vision Draft.

Mr. Zeits reports the recent announcement of the earlier than expected retirement of the Parks and Recreation Maintenance Superintendent, Dale Vaughn and discusses briefly.

Mr. Abbatinozzi informs that there is currently no legislation that will impact St. Johns County in any way. Also discusses the news signs posted at High School sites regarding spectator behavior - such as rules and guidelines due to the increased challenges along those lines. Summer Wednesdays will still be going on for this coming summer.

Commissioner Waldron discusses the upcoming BCC meeting on May 7th and items that will be discussed.

Mr. Zeits discusses the Fee Schedule proposed changes and reviews the chart that has been made available to the Board members. Mr. Zeits states that the strategy is to bring the revisions to the BCC after the RAB renders a recommendation. Ms. Andrews reminds the Board that the mission of Parks and Recreation is to not to provide competitive sports opportunity. Our core mission is to provide recreational opportunities. There is lengthy discussion on this issue. Mr. Bill Crane, with Villages Baseball, in attendance at today's meeting, inquires on how competitive levels, in regards to little leagues, will be managed. Mr. Watson explains competitive vs. recreation. Chair recommends the following 2 top priorities: 1) dedicating one location in the Park for the public's (families) use during scheduled activities. 2) Make certain that the "in-County recreation" remains affordable and accessible for all residents.

Commissioner Waldron and Ms. Andrews exit the meeting at 3:43 pm.

At March's BCC meeting, Parks and Recreation staff had been directed to review the recent field use request of the SJMSSA. This SJMSSA update is discussed and explained by Mr. Meyer as the Board members review the project summary provided to them. Mr. Abbatinuzzi discusses how his staff works with this process. There is lengthy discussion among members. Mr. Zeits' recommendation is to modify the MOU to only have SJCSO facilities that have existing infrastructure available for reservation.

Chair begins discussion on the Executive Summary – A Vision for the St. Johns County Parks and Recreation System. Chair remarks that the County Commission may want to make some modifications to the Land Development Code based on recommendations in there. Mr. Zeits informs that the Board has twice approved the funding for this Master Plan and a second presentation from the Consultants has been heard by the BCC. This summary is discussed amongst the members.

Creeks Athletics Association Summary – The Florida Elite Soccer Academy (FESA) partnership with St. Johns County request is discussed by Mr. Meyer. Parks and Recreation requests the RAB to advise on a decision whether to allow FESA to become an official partner organization. Brief discussion follows. Mr. Watson motions to bring FESA in as a partner with St. Johns County. Ms. Chapin seconds the motion. There is no discussion. A vote is held- results are: 6 yes 1 no. Majority rules and the motion passes.

Mr. Zeits discusses TDC long term funding and calls for RAB direction. There is brief discussion amongst the Board members. RAB requests that Mr. Zeits brings back to this Board, conditions for TDC funding including a post event assessment form.

Chair would like the Board members to come up with a specific area that they would personally like to get involved with in some of the areas that have been discussed in previous meetings and to further discuss at next month's meeting. Mr. Zeits states that Parks and Rec staff will be accessible.

Mr. VanRysdam discusses a letter to the editor regarding side of the road Boat Ramp parking and conversation on social media regarding Davis Park. Mr. VanRysdam will share the information with the Parks Department.

Mr. Zeits reminds that the new Parks and Recreation Director will be starting on Monday and that he will likely be taking over Mr. Zeits' position for the RAB. Mr. Zeits thanks the Board for being extremely invested in Recreation and helping to reshape what's being done with the RAB and also remarks that it's been beneficial and productive. Mr. Zeits also informs he'll be taking over a leadership role over the Maintenance division for at least the near future due to the recent earlier than expected retirement of the Maintenance Superintendent.

Mr. Watson noted that although Mr. Bill Crane was in attendance at today's meeting, he didn't make any formal public comments. Mr. Watson then requested that Mr. Meyer please reach out to Mr. Crane to let him know that he may contact him (Mr. Watson) if he would like to have a discussion.

Meeting adjourns at 4:52 pm.