



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

AUGUST 15, 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
Bert Watson
Jillian McNiff-Villemaire
Deb Chapin
Doug Bataille, Director of Parks and Recreation
Billy Zeits, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Commissioner Waldron, BOCC Liaison
Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator
Paul Abbatinuzzi, School Board Representative
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Diane Gorski, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Sydney Lindblad, Beaches Supervisor, Joe Cona, North Florida Bicycle Club Treasurer,

Meeting is called to order at 3:05 pm with a quorum. July's Minutes were approved unanimously.

There is no public comment.

Chair informs that two Board members terms will be expiring in November 2019. Advertisements will be placed by Commission office for these two vacancies.

Ms. Andrews talks on the Budget Cycle/Hearings scheduled for 9/3 and 9/17 and reports the County is close to adopting the 2020 Budget. The \$15.5 million surplus is also discussed as well as the excessive list of CIPs. Commissioners will make the final decision after reviewing multiple criteria for projects in multiple categories. Parks and Recreation is a strong component in this process. Mr. Bataille reports work is currently being done on a Priority List to be made available by the September RAB meeting. Mr. Zeits informs that: 1) a notification will be sent to the RAB when the date that the BOCC will be discussing the \$15.5 million surplus is confirmed 2) a draft priority list discussion will be placed on September's Agenda. There is further discussion.

Commissioner Waldron discusses the Waterway Access. Also discussed were the Davis Park and WGV Park projects. Mr. Van Rysdam requests staff to share with the RAB, via email, a "situation analysis" for the WGV Park. Commissioner takes into consideration and discusses in detail. Commissioner also speaks to the CIP list and discusses needs vs. wants.

Chair questions Ms. Andrews regarding the rezoning of property next to Ron Parker Park. Commissioner explains and states this is a technical issue and there will be no changes.

TDC Application

Tour De Forts Classic (SM) / Bicycle Tour

North Florida Bicycle Club, Inc.

April 26, 2020

Various distances through St. Augustine & St. Johns County

Requesting: \$5,000.00
Received Last Year: \$3,000.00

Ms. Lindblad states that this is the third time this group has submitted a Funding Grant request with last year being the most recent. Mr. Joe Cona, NFBC Treasurer, presents to the Board to discuss this application for funding recommendation as well as take questions from the Board members. Mr. Van Rysdam remarks that he feels a good job was done communicating the marketing plan for this event and furthermore, feels that this could be a model from a template standpoint. Chair feels that this a good event as well as being well targeted. Mr. Van Rysdam feels this is a well-run organization. Mr. Watson concurs and further states he appreciates the group's transparency as well.

Mr. Watson motions to recommend \$4,000.00 for this event. Mr. Van Rysdam seconds the motion. There is no discussion and the motion passes unanimously.

Granted: \$4,000.00

Mr. Bataille distributes a detailed report to the Board members on the proposed fees and would like the members to review and discuss at the next meeting. Mr. Bataille and Mr. Zeits briefly discuss the list.

Mr. Zeits talks on the Park Maintenance Budget review and distributes this 3 page list to the Board members as an FYI. Mr. Zeits explains various items on this list. There is further discussion.

The Draft FIND list is discussed by Mr. Zeits and a handout is distributed and explained. Mr. Van Rysdam requests update on Vilano Water Taxi service. Mr. Zeits informs that although not commercially ready, it is on this list and is briefly discussed.

The RAB meeting schedule is discussed. Next month's meeting in September is going to be moved to September 12th. A legal ad will be placed accordingly per policy. After discussion among the Board members, Commissioner Waldron, Mr. Abbatinuzzi and Ms. Andrews, the Board unanimously approved moving the RAB meetings to the SECOND Thursday of month beginning with November's meeting. The legal ad will be placed accordingly.

Mr. Bataille discusses the Master Plan. Also discussed is the Park Foundation. Mr. Bataille would like to discuss the Park Foundation with this Board in more detail, in regards to the set-up, in a future meeting. Mr. Bataille also informed that he'd recently met with a local attorney, Mr. Syd Ansbacher who is amenable to assisting non-profits as well as Mr. Jim McCarthy with the NFL Land Trust who was also very interested in this venture. Mr. Bataille is continuing moving forward with helpful contacts for this project and is intending on holding a Parks Foundation Workshop in the future. Chair is pleased with this update and states that this will be significant long term. There is further discussion.

Mr. Zeits updates on the Golf Course and informs there is no new info to report. In addition, there is no confirmed date on when the Course will be closing as yet. There could be a meeting in September.

Mr. Zeits informs that the County has recently ended its contractual relationship with Triple Crown. At this time, Perfect Game has taken the many of the spots vacated.

Mr. Abbatinuzzi reports that in the first week of school, there reported to be 41,748 students in attendance which is actually 1,600 more students than the previous year (4.2% growth). There will be another boost in numbers as kindergarten classes

are staggered. The summer program was discussed and it was reported that it fluctuated as it normally does from time to time. Lack of quality green space is also discussed and is challenging.

Ms. Chapin gives an update on the Palm Valley Wharf and informs it will be completed within approximately 2 weeks with a ribbon cutting. There is brief discussion.

Mr. Van Rysdam commends Parks and Recreation's Facility Manager, Mr. Teddy Meyer, for his response and immediate handling of a recent issue involving a community member requesting maintenance and field work.

Mr. Van Rysdam also talks to the upcoming TDC October meeting where he will be in attendance and on their Agenda along with Ms. Lindblad and would like to request a pre planning meeting prior.

There was a brief discussion on the status of an issue from last year on a private sports marketing initiative that was to have been developed in conjunction with the TDC. Commissioner responds that this is still in the works. Mr. Van Rysdam requests that at the October TDC meeting, he and Ms. Lindblad request an update on that status. Commissioner suggests for Ms. Lindblad to contact Ms. Tera Meeks regarding same. There is brief discussion to follow.

Dr. McNiff-Villemaire reports that she'd met with Ms. Lindblad recently in regards to TDC Sports Marketing applications and advises that likely at next month's meeting there should be several to review.

Mr. Watson motions to adjourn the meeting at 4:11 pm.