

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

August 21, 2025 MINUTES

4:30PM – GROWTH MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM
MARTIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
2401 SE MONTEREY RD STUART, FL 34996

PRESENT

District 2, Chair, Casey Cass
District 3, Doug Smith
At-Large, Michael Bocchino
At-Large, Vice Chair, Gary Clough
At-Large, Allan Mostoff

ABSENT

District 1, Vacant
District 4, Larry Sofield
District 5, Chris Pinkston
At-Large, Jack Mathison

STAFF PRESENT

Parks & Recreation Department Deputy Director, Kevin Kirwin
Marketing Manager, Nancy Johnson
Recreation Planning & Grant Coordinator, Katie Comack

*Indicates a motion **Indicates a vote ***For the record comment

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm.

II. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS

Casey Cass disclosed another PRAB member Larry Sofield contacted him by phone. During their conversation, Larry shared with Casey his frustration about the adding of naming of beach café to the recent agenda and comp plan presentation to board. Larry shared he felt the meetings are a waste of time, information discussed during the meeting does not make it to the commissioners, and we are just checking boxes. Larry also shared he is planning to speak with his commissioner and potentially quit the board.

Casey Cass shared he was confused about the request for a meeting with Kevin. Casey indicated he thought it could be a conflict of interest. Casey shared he attends the meeting monthly and would speak during PRAB meeting. Casey stated he was unsure about what fit with sunshine law.

Kevin Kirwin shared the meeting was to be with Kevin Abbate and himself to ask Casey's opinion about concerns voiced. Kevin shared department staff can meet with any PRAB member individually. Kevin shared with the sunshine law PRAB members cannot meet or discuss items outside of PRAB meetings.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes: June 19th 2025, MINUTES

Allan Mostoff asked for a correction to minutes to change his comment from requested to suggested in regard to the marketing presentation at a future meeting.

* Doug Smith motioned to approve Minutes with correction.

** Michael Bocchino seconded, and the motion carried 5-0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Naming of Café at Jensen Beach

Nancy Johnson presented the new name and logo of the Café at Jensen Beach. The new name for café is Sea Turtle Beach Café. Discussion.

Allan Mostoff asked about the status of the café construction project. Kevin Kirwin shared the update from Organized Web Listing (OWL), the project is in planning & design development stage and construction is estimated for FY2027. Discussion.

*Gary Clough motioned to support the name and logo of Sea Turtle Beach Café for new café in Jensen Beach.

**Mike Bocchino seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0

2. Sheriff's Department Update

Deputy Andy Adams shared Sheriff's Department update. Andy shared he was in support of the naming of the Sea Turtle Beach Café, as many deputies use the term currently for the beach area. Andy also shared the summer was quiet and lower level of activity than previous years. Andy shared cameras added to Lamar Howard and New Monrovia Parks have assisted department with handling vandalism cases. Andy shared the Department is prepping for Labor Day Weekend by adding additional patrols at beaches.

Casey Cass asked about the location of cameras at New Monrovia Park in relation to the upcoming project at the park. Kevin Kirwin shared the locations of the current cameras. Discussion.

Casey Cass asked about how other deputies report items to Deputy Adams for presentation at meeting. Deputy Adams shared he completes check-ins and receives reports from other deputies in the different districts. Deputy Adams shared he brings items that happen in parks to the next meeting.

Casey Cass asked about the status of addressing homeless in parks. Deputy Adams shared the department is continuing to work with the Parks Department to address homeless individuals and indicated the weather has been a factor. Deputy Adams shared a recent situation at Wojcieszack Park, where Parks Staff found a homeless individual and reported to Sheriff Department who addressed the situation. Discussion.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

None

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Heads Up

Kevin Kirwin shared an agenda budget item will be presented for a contract for resurfacing parking, the roadway and trail at Halpatiokee Regional Park at the August 26th commission meeting. Kevin shared the project is funded through the Parks Fixed Assessment Replacement Budget (FARB) and the cost is \$704,000. Kevin also shared the park will remain open during the project construction. Discussion.

VIII. PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM MASTERPLAN (DRAFT) – PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD FEEDBACK REVIEW

Kevin Kirwin shared overview of feedback received from PRAB members. Kevin indicated members could still send comments to Katie Comack if needed. Kevin shared meetings were held with commissioners and their feedback along the PRAB member comments will be shared with consultants. Kevin shared the next steps will be to compile the final draft and then present before the commissioners. Katie Comack will send PRAB member feedback collected to all members. Discussion.

IX. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RELATED ITEMS TO BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Nothing additional to what Kevin Kirwin shared during Heads up item.

X. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

1. Michael Bocchino shared there is no report. The next meeting is September 9th, 2025.

XI. 10. RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR MEMO TO BOCC

*Gary Clough motioned to support the name and logo of Sea Turtle Beach Café for new café in Jensen Beach.

**Mike Bocchino seconded the motion, and the motion carried 5-0

Casey Cass shared a reminder to the request to have a commissioner to attend a future meeting.

XII. 11. COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

1. Date of Next Meeting

Casey Cass informed the members that the next meeting will take place on September 18th, at 4:30PM. The location of the next meeting will be at the Growth Management Conference Room, Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road Stuart, FL 34996.

2. Members

Michael Bocchino shared he observed the pickleball courts at Langford Park were being resurfaced. Kevin Kirwin shared the department are using a new vendor for court resurfacing. Michael also shared he enjoyed the ribbon cutting ceremony at Langford Park playground.

Casey Cass asked about the status of the Langford Park Vince Bocchino community center renovation. Kevin Kirwin shared the department will be addressing the sewer and drainage before starting the building renovation.

Michael Bocchino asked about the AC units at Log Cabin. Kevin Kirwin shared the units need to be replaced and temporary AC units have been installed. Discussion.

Gary Clough shared thanks for paving of roadways at Phipps Park. Kevin Kirwin shared additional paving will be completed in the park. Gary also shared the new playground at Tropical Farms Park is having good reception from community. Discussion.

Casey Cass shared he is developing a park in Salerno Gardens, and he has an upcoming meeting with County to discuss the plans. Casey shared the park will include dog park, memorial area, botanical garden, and educational area.

3. Staff

None

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

* Michael Bocchino motioned to adjourn the meeting.

** Gary Clough seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

Casey Cass, Chair

Date

Kevin V. Abbate, Parks and Recreation Director, MPA, CPRP

Date