

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

March 19, 2026 MINUTES

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

PRESENT

District 1, Jean-Paul Albertelli
District 3, Doug Smith
District 4, Larry Sofield
At-Large, Allan Mostoff
At-Large, Fred Bowen Smith
At-Large, Vice Chair, Gary Clough

ABSENT

District 2, Vacant
District 5, Chris Pinkston
At-Large, Jack Mathison

STAFF PRESENT

Parks & Recreation Department Director, Kevin Abbate
Parks & Recreation Department Deputy Director, Jessica Ballash
Parks Administrator, Michael Saunders
Senior Assistant County Attorney, Melissa Pietrzyk
Recreation Planning & Grant Coordinator, Katie Comack

OTHERS PRESENT

Martin County Sheriff Office, Sergeant Joe Angelico
Martin County Sheriff Office, Deputy Andy Adams

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 pm.

II. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS

None.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of Minutes: January 15, 2026 Minutes

* Larry Sofield motioned to approve Minutes.

** Doug Smith seconded, and the motion carried 6-0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Dragseth asked about how comments and recommendations are shared to Commissioners. Kevin Abbate shared if PRAB makes a motion to support a project or initiative, staff created an agenda item at BOCC meeting. Discussion. Jim also shared a report from Indian Hills Golf Course in Fort Pierce. He recommended something similar be produced for Sailfish Sands. Jim also shared feedback about cost of summer membership at Sailfish Sands.

V. PRESENTATIONS

1. Sheriff's Department Update

Sergeant Joe Angelico shared the department is working with Park staff to address fires during burn bans and at beaches. He shared the process how they provide citations and trespass. Discussion.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Francis Langford Dockside Pavilion Update

Kevin Abbate shared update on renovation of Francis Langford Dockside Pavilion. Commissioner Vargas and staff worked on interior furnishings. The new design includes Bride and Groom rooms along with new meeting rooms and office space. Received around \$370,000 insurance proceeds towards project. Construction tentative start in summer. Discussion.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

1. Heads Up

Kevin Abbate shared Deputy Director Kevin Kirwin is retiring in March and Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Todd Foust will be retiring in July. Kevin shared internal promotions to fill these roles: Jessica Ballash will be Deputy Director, Mario Arguelles will be Assistant Parks & Recreation, Michael Saunders will be Parks Administrator. Discussion.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

* Larry Sofield motioned for Gary Clough to become the new Chair.

** Allan Mostoff seconded, and the motion carried 6-0

* Allan Mostoff motioned for Larry Sofield to become the new Vice Chair.

** Gary Clough seconded, and the motion carried 6-0

3. Review Tentative Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for FY27

Kevin Abbate shared the Tentative Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for F27 for the Department. Discussion.

Larry Sofield asked if the County uses reclaimed water. Kevin Abbate shared it does not currently and the City of Stuart does use reclaimed water. Kevin shared details about decision to use well system. Discussion.

Jean-Paul Albertelli asked about the process how projects are selected and given priority. Kevin Abbate shared process around moving money around to address projects that are ready to start and shift left over money to next project. Discussion.

* Allan Mostoff motioned to approve support of Tentative Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY27.

** Doug Smith seconded, and the motion carried 6-0

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

None.

IX. RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FOR MEMO TO BOCC

* Allan Mostoff motioned to approve support of Tentative Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) FY27.

** Doug Smith seconded, and the motion carried 6-0

X. 11. COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

1. Date of Next Meeting

Gary Clough informed the members that the next meeting will take place on May 21st, 2026 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

None.

3. Staff

Katie Comack shared the waterpark opened this week for Spring Break, summer camp registrations started. Next movie night is March 27th at Jock Leighton Park and Music at the Mansion will be April 12th.

4. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47pm.

* Larry Sofield motioned to adjourn the meeting.

** Gary Clough seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.

Gary Clough, Chair

Date

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

Date