

June 18, 2020
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
5:00PM – BLAKE LIBRARY
2351 SE MONTEREY ROAD, STUART, FL 34996

PRESENT

District 1.....Mike Antheil
District 2..... Thomas Campenni
District 4.....William Patrick Lepak
At-Large..... Jack Mathison
At-Large..... John Sedwitz via phone
At-Large.....Jennifer Ahern
At-Large.....Michael Bocchino

ABSENT

District 3..... Rob Kloska
District 5.....Jacqueline Blake

STAFF PRESENT

Deputy Director..... Mark Lynch
Recreation Administrator..... Katya Lysak
Recreation and Event Specialist..... Sarah Cortino
Recreation Coordinator Sports/Athletics.....Dave Gladding

OTHERS PRESENT

Sheriff's Department.....Deputy Andy Adams
Sheriff's Department..... Deputy Joe Angelico
Captec Engineering Inc. President.....Joseph Capra
Martin County Pioneers Lacrosse President..... Croft Meeker
Martin County Girls Fastpitch President.....Amanda Howard via phone
Martin County Girls Fastpitch Board Member..... JJ Howard via phone
Palm City Dolphins President.....Kristina Almy
Palm City Dolphins Football Commissioner.....Jay Scarry
Martin County North Little League Vice President..... Tad Sackeek

*** Indicates a motion**

**** Indicates a vote**

***** For the record comment**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. HYBRID MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

Mark Lynch gave the PRAB members instructions on how a hybrid remote public meeting should be conducted. Patrick Lepak, Chair, performed the roll call.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes: February 20, 2020

*** Mike Bocchino motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes as presented.**

**** Tom Campenni seconded and the motion carried 6-0.**

4. STAFF/MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

A. Staff Introductions

None.

B. PRAB Member Introductions

None.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Doc Meyers Park

John Sedwitz expressed that he thinks the pickleball courts at Doc Meyers Park turned out amazing and wanted to express that to the project manager.

6. PRESENTATIONS

A. Sheriff's Department Update

Deputy Angelico informed the PRAB members that there were no arrests in relation to beach restrictions for COVID-19 and the Sheriff's Office currently has a larger than normal presence at the beaches. He mentioned some activities at Stuart Beach and Jensen Beach Causeway that are being monitored. Discussion.

B. Renaming of Tropical Farms Storm Treatment Area

Mark Lynch gave a brief introduction regarding the location of the area to possibly be renamed, the biography of Rhett Russell Keene, and what the PRAB members are to consider. He showed the PRAB members the attachments to the agenda item and invited Mr. Joe Capra, president of Captec Engineering, to speak on Rhett Keene's behalf. Joe Capra spoke regarding Mr. Keene, his contributions to the County, and why he believes the storm treatment area should be renamed to the Rhett Russell Keene. P.E. LEED AP Memorial STA in his honor.

- * **Tom Campenni motioned the PRAB recommends to the County Commissioners that the Tropical Farms Storm Treatment Area be renamed to the Rhett Russell Keene, P.E. LEED AP Memorial STA.**

- ** **Jack Mathison seconded and the motion carried 7-0.**

C. North County, Palm City, and Hobe Sound Football Youth Sports Providers

Parks and Recreation, along with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) invited all the Youth Sports Providers (YSP's) to attend a PRAB meeting and give a presentation. In order to foster cooperation and keep the meetings manageable, it was decided that we would group them together based on the geographical location of each. So, the Hobe Sound area YSP's were invited in January, the Jensen Beach/North County YSP's are invited in February, the Palm City YSP's are invited in March and the Mid-County YSP's are invited in April. These dates were later updated due to COVID-19.

The YSP's were given direction to give a presentation of their program (i.e. sport, location, season, participation numbers, age groups, number of coaches, volunteers, trends, etc.) along with any issues /concerns/needs that they may have related to programs, facilities, services and how the Parks and Recreation Department is meeting their needs.

Croft Meeker, Martin County Pioneers Lacrosse President, spoke regarding the history of lacrosse, the history of the Pioneers Lacrosse League, and challenges currently being faced by the league. A few of the requests of the County are that the rebound wall is allowed to be painted, a second score board is installed, there is easier access to the fields to alleviate children jumping the fence, and a storage unit is allowed to be on site to accommodate the goals. Discussion.

Amanda Howard, Secretary of Martin County Girls Fastpitch, and JJ Howard, Martin County Girls Fastpitch board member, informed that they are a recreational softball league and have age groups of 8U, 10U, 12U, and 14U. They also have four divisions of travel ball named the Cruisers. They have a regular fall and spring season for recreation play and their home fields are at Lance Corporal Justin Wilson Park. They are a non-profit organization that utilizes all volunteers and they raise money by fundraising and donations. JJ noted that there is tremendous flooding between fields one and two and other areas when it rains. There is also a lighting issue and a path is needed to the batting cages. When asked to prioritize their needs and wants they indicated that first priority is the lighting issue, the drainage needs to be addressed, a concrete pad needs to be installed by the batting cages to assist with drainage, additional grass needs to be added in the outfield for proper dimensions, and a concrete slab for bleachers is also needed. Discussion.

Kristina Almy, President of Palm City Dolphins Football and Cheer, gave a brief history of the organization and its current operations. She mentioned their season kicks off in August with two weeks of conditioning and goes through October when bowl games are played for the football teams and cheer competitions occur. She mentioned the football league is comprised of five divisions from five to fourteen years old. She noted that the cheer program consists of six divisions after adding a Challenger Team last year. She noted that the Mighty Mites compete in show competitions and won the National Championship Title last year for the Pop Warner Program. She continued by stating that all volunteers are subject to background checks and must attain certifications. Jay Scarry, Football Commissioner, mentioned how scholarships are given and what is expected of scholarship participants. He noted the tremendous growth of football and the league in recent years and mentioned the expanse of locations that participate in play. He finished by mentioning some issues facing the league; the lack of parking, ice machine repair, and the sewer smell at Jock Leighton Park. They request power outlets be added between the fields to power the keyboards for the score boards and also more bleachers.

Tad Sacheck, Vice President of Martin County North Little League, introduced himself and informed regarding the league. He mentioned that in 2018 the league was comprised of 386 players, 384 in 2019, and grew to 459 this past season. The league provided 63 scholarships at \$135.00 per player. There are 24 board members currently and 42 teams in the league. He informed that the season runs January through May with All Stars running through August depending on game results. He finished by noting that their home park, Citrus Grove Park, is new and in great condition and they only request an additional bull pen, pitch counters, and to fix the broken air conditioning unit in the umpire room. Discussion.

The PRAB members requested that the remaining Youth Sports Providers be contacted and invited to come to a meeting and give a presentation. There was discussion on what to do with the information provided by the Youth Sports Providers. The PRAB members determined that they would like staff to bring a list of all Youth Sports Providers' requests to them to see if they can help in any way. There was also discussion on staff presenting regarding their relationships with Youth Sports Providers and what the County requires from them.

D. Project Updates

None.

E. Corona Virus Update

Mark Lynch gave a brief overview of what the Parks and Recreation Department has been doing since the beginning of COVID-19. He mentioned closing beaches and facilities, creating multiple reopening plans, creating COVID-19 policies and procedures, staff telecommuting, monitoring boat ramps and golf courses, delivering meals provided by the school board to the grant funded camp participants, assisting the Council on Aging with meal distribution, and provided countless customer service interactions to keep the public informed. Tad Sacheck of Martin County North Little League initiated discussion regarding the safety plans required by Youth Sports Providers to combat COVID-19. He mentioned that the requirements are cumbersome and seem to shift responsibility from parents to the leagues. Mark Lynch explained there have been many policies and procedures and opening plans created to help protect the public at County parks. He noted that one of those plans was for Youth Athletics. He explained what some of the requirements are, why they are necessary, and how they are patterned after CDC guidelines for Youth Sports. Discussion.

F. Child Care Updates

Katya Lysak informed the PRAB members that the recreation staff that would normally have worked at County child care programs continued to provide virtual online programming. The staff also delivered activity bags to those participants homes so they could do the activities with the supplies provided. She reiterated that those same participants were provided meals by staff. She also noted that staff is providing child care for the children of County employees. She also informed that on June 2nd the Board of County Commissioners voted to discontinue the P.L.A.C.E. Program in Indiantown. The former participants will be welcomed at the Boys and Girls Club of Indiantown in the fall. She finished by mentioning that in order to abide by CDC guidelines of social distancing, etc. the County added an additional temporary summer camp location at Hobe Sound Civic Center. Discussion.

G. Events and Activities

None.

H. Phipps Park, Sailfish Splash Waterpark, Sand Dune Café, and Martin County Golf Course Updates

Mark Lynch mentioned that prior to COVID-19 Phipps park was at 100% occupancy and was on track for a record number of bookings but then had to close for the entire month of April. Full electric sites were reopened in May, adventure tents were reopened in June, and additional cleaning and sanitization of facilities there are ongoing. He next informed that Sailfish Splash Waterpark was closed for the entire Spring from the middle of March until June 5th, Lap swimming opened up May 4th with restrictions, and youth sports teams returned on May 26th. He noted that on June 2nd the Board of County Commissioners adopted the reopening plan for the entire park which has now occurred. He mentioned that Sand Dune Café was closed when the beaches were closed but is now reopened. He informed that the golf course holes have been grassed and the next step will be grassing the driving range area. He finished by noting there is drainage work and erosion repair currently occurring.

7. NEW BUSINESS

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sales Tax Project List

None.

B. Discuss YSP Presentations

None.

9. COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

A. Date of Next Meeting

Mark Lynch informed the members of the difficulty of preparing a hybrid meeting and suggested the July meeting be skipped.

* **Tom Campenni motioned the next meeting be on August 20th, 2020.**

** **Mike Bocchino seconded and the motion carried 7-0.**

The location of the next meeting will be at The Blake Library, 2351 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996.

B. Public Discussion

None.

C. Members

None.

D. Staff

None.

10. ADJOURN

* **Thomas Campenni motioned that the meeting be adjourned.**

** **Jack Mathison seconded and the motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Patrick Lepak, Chair

Date

Mark Lynch, Deputy Director

Date

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