

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**  
**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MINUTES**  
**5:00PM – GROWTH MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**MARTIN COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**  
**2401 SE MONTEREY RD STUART, FL 34996**

**PRESENT**

District 2, Vice Chair..... Thomas Campenni  
District 4..... Patrick William Lepak  
District 5.....Joseph Connelly  
At-Large, Chair.....Jennifer Ahern  
At-Large.....Michael Bocchino

**ABSENT**

District 3.....Rob Kloska  
At-Large..... John Sedwitz  
At-Large..... Jack Mathison  
District 1..... *Vacant*

**STAFF PRESENT**

Deputy Director..... Mark Lynch  
Recreation Administrator..... Katya Lysak  
Recreation and Event Specialist..... Savannah Richmond  
Parks Safety and Operations Administrator.....James Lopilato  
Special Facilities Administrator.....Todd Foust (*Arrived 5:03pm*)

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Sheriff's Department.....Deputy Joe Angelico  
Sheriff's Department.....Deputy Andrea Olson

**\* Indicates a motion**

**\*\* Indicates a vote**

**\*\*\* For the record comment**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:53pm.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Approval of Minutes: August 19, 2021**

**\* Thomas Campenni motioned to approve August 19, 2021 Minutes.**

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

**3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**4. PRESENTATIONS**

**A. Sheriff's Department Update**

Deputy Angelico introduced Andrea Olson. Andrea works for the Sherriff's Office in Hobe Sound and may be attending meetings in the future. Deputy Angelico said this past Labor Day the Sherriff's office had units patrolling Martin County parks and beaches. He said there was a low criminal report over the holiday weekend. He believes having increased Sherriff's Office presence kept disturbances low.

**5. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RELATED ITEMS TO BOARD OF COUNTY**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**1. September 28, FY 2021/2022 Budget 2nd Public Hearing**

Mark discussed items that would go in front of the Board at this meeting. One item would be for the Board to accept an adjustment to the budget. This adjustment will include the revenue that was collected beyond the projected revenues from Sailfish Splash Waterpark, the total being \$555,000. The Board will also be asked to accept a bid for the contract to do renovations at Phipps Parks. Discussion.

**2. October 5 and October 19 Regular BOCC Meetings**

**3. October 14 Joint Meeting; Martin County, City of Stuart, Martin County School Board**

Katya mentioned that the CSC contract for the new year, October 1-September 30, would be going in front of the Board during one of the October meetings.

Todd Foust arrived 5:03pm.

Jennifer Ahern asked about BOCC Meeting and the Budget 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing meeting from 9/14/21. Mark discussed the reductions in PRD budget during the meeting from 9/14/21. Discussion. Projects that were postponed included Charlie Leighton Park renovations, some exotics removal at the golf course, and master planning for Langford Park and Justin Wilson Park. Discussion. Mark thanked PRAB for supporting PRD Staff in the pursuit of grant funding, including a grant for boat ramps from the Florida Boater Improvement Program through the state of Florida for design, engineering and permitting at the Jensen Beach Causeway, Charlie Leighton, and J&S out in West County. Mark said staff has received word that PRD has been approved for the grant for those boat ramps.

Jennifer asked if the CSC Contract that would be going in front of the Board was the Children's Services Council agreeing to the terms and moving forward. Katya said yes. Discussion.

**6. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Thomas Campenni stated there was a meeting this week. He mentioned there was not much discussed regarding greenways and parks.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

Jennifer mentioned PRAB attendance and where members were standing with attendance counts. Mark discussed PRAB attendance and showed the PRAB members present the attendance report. He reminded members that PRAB members must attend at least 50% of the total meeting and cannot miss more than 3 consecutive meetings. Discussion.

**A. Board members: What you want from the PRAB and why you joined the PRAB**

Jennifer read some of the resolution that discusses the powers and duties of PRAB from the Martin County website. She asked PRAB members to share why they joined the Board and what they would like to provide as the PRAB.

Thomas Campenni discussed his role on the advisory board and how he believed PRAB would vet things and send them up the line with recommendations. Discussion.

Michael Bocchino discussed first joining the Board and giving suggestions regarding projects. He would like to see the PRAB be able to use Capital Improvement money for ideas PRAB votes on. Discussion.

Michael would like to be updated on the current Interlocal Agreement with the School Board and to know whether a staff member is working on the agreement. Mark said no staff member is specifically working on the agreement. There is a draft that has been received and is being worked on within the department. Discussion. Michael would like PRAB to be apart of this process if possible. Discussion.

Patrick William Lepak joined PRAB to give back to the community. Patrick mentioned the board is a requirement by the state. He is active in the community and brings citizen comments to the PRAB. Discussion. Moving forward he would like to provide support for projects. Specifically, the Phipps Park project. He has experience in this field and would like to assist in the future if possible. Discussion.

Joseph Connelly mentioned PRAB is a required board that full fills the state statute. He would like to see measurables to figure out cost per acre. Discussion. Joseph is still trying to see how he adds value. He mentioned bringing in commissioners to PRAB meetings to help keep communication open. Discussion. Mark said the PRAB goals helped staff and could help the Board understand the direction PRAB was headed and what resources were needed to get there.

Jennifer Ahern discussed how she joined PRAB and how she saw the role of PRAB as the place for things to be vetted and recommendations supplied. Discussion. PRAB members discussed budget and the upcoming year. Discussion. Thomas stated before inviting Commissioners to PRAB meetings maybe George and Kevin could attend meetings. Discussion.

Mark and Jim discussed how cost per acre is established. Discussion. Thomas mentioned providing numbers and ranking the possibilities with measurable goals; as in what type of park system was being worked towards; an "A" System, "B" System, etc. Discussion. Joseph asked if there were goals for PRAB and PRD and if they were measurable. Jim and Mark said there were goals in the PRD budget and PRAB has set goals. Discussion. Thomas said by creating this measurable system PRAB would understand what was required to achieve the level of service that staff and PRAB wanted to achieve. Jennifer also mentioned this would assist PRAB members in being advocates in the community for Parks and Recreation needs and projects. Discussion. Mark mentioned there are many intangibles as well in the system like recreation programing. Discussion.

Thomas mentioned he wouldn't be at the next October meeting, and asked if George and Kevin could come to the November meeting. Mark reminded PRAB the holidays were coming up and sometimes that affected the November and December meetings. Jennifer mentioned she may not be at the October meeting either and asked if potentially the October meeting could be shifted. Patrick said he wouldn't be at November's meeting. Discussion. Alternative dates were discussed. PRAB would like George and Kevin to attend the October meeting. Discussion.

**\* Thomas Campenni motioned to move the next PRAB meeting to October 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm.**

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

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. PRAB Goals update**

Mark presented the PRAB Goals and discussed most goals had been accomplished. The remaining goal that hasn't been accomplished would be to research and present grants and other funding options. Mark reminded the Board that the December meeting may or may not be cancelled and that a new Chair and Vice Chair would be appointed in February.

### **2. Volunteer process update**

Katya discussed staff was still working with Human Resources. Jennifer mentioned that CivicRec has a volunteer module, and perhaps it could be used to assist. Discussion.

### 3. Halpatiokee Trail update

Mark spoke with John Maehl from Ecosystem Restoration and Management. Mark said most of the trails are now open. There is a new waiver for participants under 18, that is filled out via scanning a QR code at trail entrances. Mark said they have closed the river loop and hills portion of the trails and some bike features have been removed. Mark stated consultants are coming in October or November to look at trails and highlight some amenities that have been closed or removed and give their recommendations. Discussion.

## 9. COMMENTS/DISCUSSION

### A. Date of Next Meeting

Jennifer reminded members that the next meeting may take place on October 14, 2021 at 4:30PM. Confirmation of this change will be sent out to PRAB members and the community once the change is confirmed by Mark. The location of the next meeting will be at Growth Management Conference Room, Martin County Administrative Center, 2401 SE Monterey Road, Stuart, FL 34996.

### B. Members

None.

### C. Staff

Katya mentioned upcoming PRD events including Fall Fest on October 9<sup>th</sup>, Senior Games Oct 23rd-31st and a community movie night on October 29<sup>th</sup> at Timer Powers Park.

Mark thanked the Board for supporting staff pursuing the grant for the boat ramps and told PRAB that FSPA was coming up on 9/24-9/25.

Todd said the Florida Swimming Pool Association hosts the largest High School invitation swim meet in the South Eastern US. The Sports Commission values it at quarter million-dollar direct economic impact with about a half million-dollar economic output. There are typically 1200-2000 competitors from all over the state. Todd mentioned the meet this year is smaller probably due to COVID; and that the event lasts two days, Friday and Saturday. Discussion. Volunteers are needed for the event if PRAB members are interested or know of anyone who would like to volunteer. Todd mentioned Mark may be able to send the volunteer sign up link to anyone who was interested.

## 10. ADJOURN

\* Thomas Campenni motioned to adjourn the meeting.

\*\* Joseph Connelly seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

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Jennifer Ahern, Chair

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Date

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Mark Lynch, Deputy Director

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Date