

**OCTOBER 14, 2021
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

**4:30PM – 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
At-Large..... John Sedwitz
At-Large..... Jack Mathison
At-Large, Chair..... Jennifer Ahern
At-Large..... Michael Bocchino

ABSENT

District 1..... Vacant
District 3..... Rob Kloska
District 5..... Joseph Connelly

STAFF PRESENT

Parks & Recreation Director..... Kevin Abbate
Assistant County Administrator..... George Stokus
Recreation Administrator..... Katya Lysak
Recreation and Event Specialist..... Savannah Richmond
Parks Safety and Operations Administrator..... James Lopilato

OTHERS PRESENT

Sheriff's Department..... Deputy Andrea Olson
Sheriff's Department..... Deputy Joe Angelico
Sheriff's Department..... Sergeant George Yacobellis

*** Indicates a motion**

**** Indicates a vote**

***** For the record comment**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35pm.

2. MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS

NONE

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of Minutes: SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

*** Thomas Campenni motioned to approve minutes from September 16, 2021.**

**** Michael Bocchino seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

Jennifer Ahern asked if anyone would like to move the presentation by the Sheriff's Department to earlier in the agenda.

*** Thomas Campenni motioned to move the presentation by the Sheriff's Department earlier in the agenda.**

**** Jack Mathison seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

5. PRESENTATIONS

1. Sheriff's Department Update

Deputy Joe Angelico spoke about recent graffiti activity at Sailfish Sands Golf Course. He also spoke about picking up some criminal activity on the cameras at the causeways. He said specifically there have been some car clubs doing burnouts and loitering. He believes with police presence at the causeways and seeing the police lights that future activity will be diminished. Discussion.

4:38pm George Stokus arrived.

Deputy Angelico spoke about the vandalism at the Golf Course. Discussion. Sergeant George Yacobellis discussed the diversion program with the Sheriff's Department. Discussion.

4:41pm Sherriff's Department representatives left the meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

1. PRAB Future Direction - Kevin Abbate and George Stokus

Jennifer mentioned that the state statute for PRAB was to advise the County Commissioners. Discussion. Tom asked for a formal procedure on how to advise the Parks and Recreation Department and BOCC. Tom mentioned wanting to get budget items in front of the PRAB in advance of them going in front of the BOCC. George spoke about the timing of the budgets. Discussion. Kevin discussed that both the CIP & Operating budgets were presented during previous PRAB meetings. Both budgets were reviewed and approved by PRAB during the March 18, 2021 meeting. The budget was tentatively approved by the BOCC on April 13, 2021. The Operating budget documents were sent to PRAB on July 9, 2021. He mentioned the July 15th meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The budget workshop was presented on July 19, 2021. Discussion. On August 19, 2021 the BOCC made the final budget approval. Discussion. George believes the CIP was provided at the right time but that perhaps the Operating budget could be provided sooner in the future. Discussion. George discussed the potential of there being multiple directions PRAB could take depending on what they wanted to do. Firstly, PRD staff could write a memo on behalf of the PRAB and send it to the BOCC with the PRAB votes and ideas for certain projects. Secondly, assigned members of PRAB could reach out to County Commissioners and attend BOCC meetings and make it known that there is PRAB support behind specific projects and ideas. Discussion. Kevin discussed how the Operating and CIP budgets are created and worked on and the timeline involved. Discussion. Tom expressed wanting set procedures and wanted to know how to inform the BOCC of their views. George and Kevin discussed PRAB supporting budget items during BOCC meetings, budget hearings and workshops. Discussion. George suggested PRAB could give presentations to BOCC for projects that PRAB would like to see accomplished. George mentioned PRAB as an advisory board could have 15 minutes of public comments. Discussion. Kevin read a line from the minutes from PRAB March 2021 meeting regarding the budget schedule. Discussion was had regarding PRAB supporting the budget. Discussion. Jennifer likes the idea of the memo. She stated she looks for the staff to bring the issues to the board to be vetted and to make recommendations. George asked what issues the PRAB feel isn't being brought to their attention. There was not a specific issue anyone had in mind. Discussion.

Mike mentioned the last big decisions that were made was on the golf course. Mike thinks it is projects like the golf course or a major park alteration that PRAB should be involved in. He discussed if there is a major project or a major change in the parks system PRAB should be involved in the decision-making process. Kevin discussed the golf course meetings and the vetting process involving PRAB and the public. Discussion.

George asked the PRAB to look at the direction they wanted to go. He mentioned formulating two to three yearly goals that the PRAB would like to achieve so that PRD staff has a direction to guide them and what to bring to the PRAB's attention. Discussion. Kevin recommended in January to have a half day workshop and have a visioning session where the PRD Master Plan, goals and objectives could be reviewed, and PRAB could create their own goals. Discussion. George discussed advisory boards that are successful don't get into the weeds with operations, one reason being it creates HR issues. Discussion. Current PRAB goals for FY 21 were reviewed and discussed. Most goals have been achieved. Discussion. Kevin discussed before setting the budget next year, the PRAB will have input. Discussion. Tom discussed having Kevin attend PRAB meetings more frequently to assist PRAB understanding of budget and project plans. Discussion. George discussed that a formal procedure would be to appoint a PRAB member to go to BOCC meetings and advocate for PRD. Discussion.

Patrick mentioned wanting to know the process involved with Phipps Park and the adventure tents. Kevin discussed the vision sessions and outlining the planning process 8 years ago. Discussion.

Sandsprit Park boat ramps were brought up, but the discussion was tabled until the full presentation that was listed as an agenda item for later in the meeting would come up. Discussion. George discussed the County asset study, and how funding for projects is determined. George discussed the state of various projects in parks and PRD meeting the expectations of level of service in Martin County while staying within the available budget. Discussion. Kevin discussed past plans for boat ramps and state funding via grants. Kevin discussed boat ramp projects and CIP projects throughout the county. Discussion. George discussed past PRAB initiatives and current events like the pandemic that have affected outdoor space planning and funding. George also discussed advocacy and attending BOCC meetings. Discussion.

*****George went on record that Kevin would need to evaluate and discuss with Administration that an increase to FARB and staffing would be necessary if the PRAB would like an increase in the Level of Service (LOS). George also mentioned that an increase in staffing and LOS may be necessary due to the increase in parks and park like settings in CRAs**

Kevin discussed the National Recreation and Park Association performance report for Martin County Parks and Recreation system. He discussed that MCPRD was within the 50th percentile of all like parks under 500 square miles. Kevin discussed with the capital budget we are at the 100th percentile, but with staffing, cost per acre, etc. we are at the 50th percentile. Discussion. Tom said in order for PRAB to set goals for where they wanted to be with the level of service, he would need a presentation from PRD staff for what it would take to get to that next level, does PRD staff think we should go to the next percentile, what the MC parks system would gain from the growth, and what it would cost long term. Discussion.

George mentioned metrics related to the Treasure Coast Sports Commission and economic impact. Discussion. Kevin mentioned economic impact from Babe Ruth World Series and other state championships and tournaments. Discussion. George discussed the PRAB setting a goal of what PRD's economic impact was for Martin County. George discussed the Treasure Coast Sports Commission giving a presentation on their future goals in the parks system, giving Wi-Fi in the park for tournaments as an example. Discussion.

George mentioned there are American Rescue Plan Dollars available. He said look at the parks that the TC Sports Commission and the community think could use improvements and lay out a plan to look at the level of service for those communities. George discussed PRD staff could put together a list to utilize American Rescue Dollars funding based on TC Sports Commission presentations and PRAB recommendations. Discussion.

*****George went on the record to let the PRAB know that Parks were eligible for ARPA and recommended that they produce a prioritized list of eligible projects that ARPA could possibly fund. George also suggested that they support their recommended projects and discuss the options with their commissioners.**

Kevin discussed reaching out to the Office of Tourism to have them do a presentation on the economic impact of sports tourism on Martin County over the last 10 years and what they anticipate in the future. Discussion. Potential of extending a meeting invite at some point to the BDB was discussed. Discussion. George discussed an issue happening in many departments, that being the level of expectation being high and the budget being low.

George discussed that staff fills the gap with grants, innovative techniques, etc., however the gap is getting larger. Discussion. George would like to be included on PRAB emails and would also like to be provided the PRAB meeting dates, as he would like to attend some future meetings. George supports Kevin attending PRAB meetings more frequently. Discussion. George suggested PRAB members go with their commissioners to more neglected parks or parks in need to see what those needs are and how ARPA funding can be used. George suggested PRD staff could also meet with admin staff overseeing ARPA to create a list of where money could be used. Discussion. Jennifer would like PRD staff to put together a list of recommendations for improvements to parks using ARPA funding. Discussion.

*** Thomas Campenni motioned to have a Treasure Coast Sports Commission presentation on economic impact & a Vision Session.**

**** John Sedwitz seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

*** Jack Mathison motioned to have PRD staff put together a recommendation list of parks that are eligible for ARPA funding and make recommendations for sustainable capital improvements to those list items.**

**** Michael Bocchino seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

George Stokus left meeting at 5:55pm.

2. Financial Reports, past three years (as requested)

Thomas Campenni said this should be deferred to the November meeting when Joe Connelly could attend and receive the reports as requested. Discussion.

7. NEW BUSINESS

1. Parks Fixed Asset Replacement Budget (FARB) FY22 priorities

Kevin Abbate presented the FARB priorities and discussed the priority legend. Discussion. Jim highlighted and discussed FARB items. Discussion.

*** Thomas Campenni motioned to approve the projects on the FARB FY 22 list with the understanding that PRD staff would have the flexibility to adjust priorities as needed as emergencies arise.**

**** Jack Mathison seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

Kevin left meeting at 6:15pm.

2. Sandsprit Park boat ramp renovation 60% plans feedback

Jim presented the Sandsprit renovation plans. He mentioned the project would go out to bid in November/December and should begin construction in February 2022. Discussion. He opened the floor for questions. There were none.

8. PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RELATED ITEMS TO BOARD OF COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS**1. October 19, November 2 and 16 Regular BOCC Meetings**

Katya discussed the CSC grant would be going to the BOCC at the October 19th meeting for approval. Discussion. She also stated the appointment for the vacant PRAB seat for District 1 would be going in front of the BOCC at the November 2nd meeting.

Jim stated there was a new janitorial contract that went out to bid and would be potentially going in front of the BOCC at one of these meeting dates.

9. BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

None. There has not been a BPAC meeting since the September PRAB meeting.

10. COMMENTS/DISCUSSION**A. Date of Next Meeting**

Jennifer Ahern informed the members that the next meeting will take place on November 18, 2021 at 5:00PM. 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

Tom stated that he did not think anyone would be around for the December meeting.

*** Thomas Campenni motioned to eliminate the December 2021 meeting.**

**** Michael Bocchino seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

C. Staff

None.

10. ADJOURN

*** Thomas Campenni motioned to adjourn.**

**** Michael Bocchino seconded, and the motion carried 6-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm.



Jennifer Ahern, Chair,
JOE CAMPENNI

2-17-22
Date



Mark Lynch, Deputy Director

2/17/22
Date

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