

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2015**

Present: Andrew Gerberich, Chair; Joan Morgan, Vice-Chair; Michael Greenan; Stanley Kvitek; Andrew Sias; Helen Marchese, Alternate I; Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner; Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller, Parks & Recreation Manager; and Recording Secretary Strong.

Absent: Daniel McGraw; Heath Woodcock, Alternate II; and Sarasota County Parks Advisory & Recreation Council (PARC) Liaison Bill Gibson.

Guests: Mayor DiFranco; Commissioner Cook; and City Attorney Moriarty.

The Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Committee/Training Room 244 by Chair Andrew Gerberich.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board followed by roll call.

Subsequent to Chair Gerberich welcoming new member Helen Marchese, Ms. Marchese provided brief background information.

I. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Joan Morgan moved to elect Andrew Gerberich as Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board; seconded by Michael Greenan. The motion carried unanimously.

Michael Greenan moved to elect Joan Morgan as Vice-Chair of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board; seconded by Stanley Kvitek. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES: OCTOBER 16, 2014 AND NOVEMBER 20, 2014 MEETING MINUTES

Joan Morgan moved to approve the October 16, 2014 and November 20, 2014 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Michael Greenan. The motion carried unanimously.

III. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrew Sias arrived at 6:40 p.m.

a. Board Member Attendance

Discussion ensued regarding; 1) Daniel McGraw; Heath Woodcock; and Michael Greenan attendance issues; 2) review of the 2014 Attendance Record; and 3) clarification on "excused" absences.

Subsequent to City Attorney Moriarty clarifying Ordinance 2014-07 attendance requirements and Board discretion on "excused absences" discussion continued regarding excused and unexcused attendance issues.

Andrew Sias moved to retain Michael Greenan as a member of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board; seconded by Joan Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

Joan Morgan moved to remove Daniel McGraw from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board membership roster due to attendance issues; seconded by Andrew Sias. The motion carried unanimously.

Joan Morgan moved to remove Heath Woodcock from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board membership roster due to attendance issues; seconded by Stanley Kvitek. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. CITY AND COUNTY UPDATES

a. Sarasota County – Ed Exner & Bill Gibson

Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner provided the following updates: 1) the quarterly “North Port parks walk through” was conducted on January 9, 2015 with City and County staff; 2) Atwater Community Park: a) completed painting on the dugout underside of roof; b) backstop maintenance is scheduled; c) the pitcher’s mound on the large field has been rebuilt; d) pressure washing is scheduled for next week for bleachers, sidewalks, etc.; and e) erosion control was performed on fields 1 and 2; 3) George Mullen Activity Center: a) goal posts will be repainted; and b) major clean-up is complete; 4) Dallas White Park: a) repairs on the dugouts and fencing are being addressed; 5) Butler Park; a) fencing issues are being addressed with possible fence removal; b) portable mounds have been purchased to utilize at the Little League Fields to afford the capability of removing the mounds for soccer play; c) sod replacement is scheduled for the soccer field; and 6) Narramore Sports Complex: a) the “sod farm” has been installed; b) minor fence repairs are complete; c) field #1 scoreboard has been repaired; d) field #2 scoreboard is in the process of being repaired; and e) infield laser grading is scheduled.

b. City Update-Sandy Pfundheller

Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller, Parks & Recreation Manager provided the following updates: 1) at the January 8, 2015 Commission Special Meeting, community volunteer efforts for the 2014 Poinsettia events were acknowledged; 2) the “Community Yard Sale” was held January 10, 2015; 3) new archery classes began January 10, 2015; 4) “TRX” exercise equipment is being installed at the Morgan Family Community Center; 5) ADA automatic doors will be installed at the George Mullen Activity Center and Morgan Family Community Center; 6) playground equipment for Hope and LaBrea Parks is being reviewed and quotes are being solicited; 7) summer camp counselor recruitment has begun; 8) a bike competition is scheduled for January 17, 2015 at the North Port Skate Park; 9) Eco Fest will be held on February 7, 2015 at the City Hall Complex starting at 8:00 a.m.; 10) “Arts on the Green” event will be held at City Hall on March 21, 2015; and 11) the Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 28, 2015.

V. TRIBUTE PROGRAM – RECOMMENDATION TO COMMISSION

Ms. Pfundheller reported that staff met with the Beautification and Tree/Scenic Highway Committee (BTSHC) to discuss the Tribute Program and brochure. The BTSHC approved moving forward with the program with a change in the guidelines. The change would enable the original donor to renew at the original cost for the first renewal. Subsequent to reporting that Parks & Recreation staff will include this change in the brochure, Ms. Pfundheller requested the Board make a decision on if they would recommend their approval for this program to the City Commission.

Joan Morgan moved to approve a recommendation to the City Commission to move forward with the Tribute Program with the stipulation that first time donors would be able to renew their donated feature at the original cost for first renewal; seconded by Andrew Sias. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. DRAFT LETTER OF SUPPORT – LAND ACQUISITION NOMINATION #2009-119

Public Comment was provided from 7:16 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.

Commissioner Cook informed the Board that the City Commission and City Manager received an email from Sarasota County Parks Advisory & Recreation Council (PARC) Liaison Bill Gibson stating that in 2009 North Port City Commission approved the purchase of property to develop a regional park. In researching the minutes from the 2009 North Port City Commission Meetings, no direction for the purchase of property to develop a regional park was found. Commissioner Cook felt that Mr. Gibson was referring to the Sarasota County Commission. Commissioner Cook reminded the Board that if Sarasota County would purchase the Yorkshire property in question, the property would then be removed from the

North Port tax records; and that the property is located in close proximity to hotels and motels in Charlotte County. Commissioner Cook further stated that she would not support removing property from the North Port tax record to develop a regional park which would support businesses in Charlotte County.

Subsequent to Commission Cook referring to Agenda item VI and reminding the Board that they could not take it upon themselves to direct staff to write a letter to Sarasota County in support of land acquisition without the review and approval of the North Port City Commission and City Manager, City Attorney Moriarty reviewed the City Charter; Florida Sunshine Law and Ordinances governing the roles; powers; duties; and responsibilities of the Board. All requests for staff direction from the Board must be presented to the City Manager. The methodology for making recommendations was discussed and includes the Board making a motion to suggest a recommendation; discussing the recommendation; and voting to approve the recommendation. The Staff Liaison would then present the recommendation to the City Manager for approval to present to the City Commission.

Subsequent to Chair Gerberich providing brief background information regarding the North Port recommended park land sites for the Sarasota County Parkland Acquisition Fund, Mayor DiFranco reminded the Board that any recommendations they approve should be presented to the City Commission following City Manager review, not the Sarasota County Commission.

Following a request, Recording Secretary Strong agreed to send new members Helen Marchese and Andrew Sias a copy of the Ordinance governing the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Advisory Boards/Committees in general.

Joan Morgan moved to include the development of a Regional Park on the next Parks & Recreation Advisory Board scheduled meeting agenda to enable Board members to follow the required regulations governing recommendations to the City Commission; seconded by Michael Greenan. The motion carried unanimously.

Michael Greenan moved for Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller to provide to the Board North Port tax records; street maps; (associated with the Yorkshire Property) vacant North Port properties and available access to those properties; seconded by Joan Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) areas for a Regional Park; 2) number of members supporting the development of a Regional Park; 3) powers and duties of the Board; 4) researching funding for the purchase of vacant property for the development of a Regional Park; and 5) available Sarasota County Parkland Acquisition Fund.

Joan Morgan moved to follow procedures to present a recommendation to the City Commission to explore the Sarasota County Parkland Acquisition Fund for the purchase of park land in North Port; seconded by Stanley Kvitik. The motion carried unanimously.

Joan Morgan moved to approve a draft letter be presented to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board at the next scheduled meeting for approval to forward to the City Commission in support of the development of a Regional Park in North Port; seconded by Andrew Sias. The motion carried on a 3 – 2 (three to two) vote with Andrew Gerberich and Michael Greenan dissenting for reasons stated.

VII. FRISBEE GOLF COURSE

This item was tabled until funding for the development of a Frisbee Golf Course is pursued.

VIII. AQUATIC FACILITY

Subsequent to noting that the development of an Aquatic Facility is on the North Port website, this item was tabled until the next scheduled meeting.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Subsequent to providing brief background information regarding the sculpture at Marius Park, Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller agreed to check with staff to ensure that maintenance issues have been addressed. She also reminded the Board that the County Wide Parks & Recreation Master Plan will address and evaluate park and facility needs, including a Regional Park.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Discussion ensued regarding suggested park activities including the development of a running, biking and rowing triathlon.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment.

XII. AROUND THE PRAB TABLE.

Andrew Sias suggested having Public Comment following Chair Announcements at the beginning of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting Agenda, enabling the public to offer comments before the end of the meeting.

It was the consensus of the Board to include "Public Comment" at the beginning of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting Agendas following "Chair Announcements and at the end of the Agenda prior to "Around the PRAB Table."

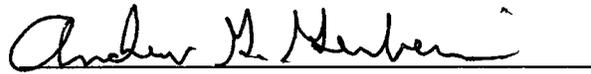
XIII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Agenda items for next meeting include: 1) draft letter of support for a Regional Park in North Port (Joan Morgan); 2) update on Marius Park (Sandy Pfundheller); and 3) Tribute Program recommendation update (Sandy Pfundheller).

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Greenan moved to adjourn the January 15, 2015 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting; seconded by Andrew Sias. The motion carried unanimously.

The January 15, 2015 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.


ANDREW GERBERICH
CHAIR

Minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this 19 day of Feb., 2015.