

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015**

Present: Andrew Gerberich, Chair; Joan Morgan, Vice-Chair; Helen Marchese; Stanley Kvittek; Ethan Schmucker, Youth Member; Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller, Parks & Recreation Manager; Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner; and Recording Secretary Goodman.

Absent: James Dixon, Sarasota County Parks Advisory & Recreation Council (PARC) Liaison; Andrew Sias; and Victor Boyd.

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**I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL**

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

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

**II. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Gerberich acknowledged the efforts of staff and volunteers for the December 4, 2015 Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival and the December 12, 2015 Poinsettia Parade.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no Public Comment.

**IV. APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2015**

*Joan Morgan moved to approve the November 19, 2015 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Helen Marchese. The motion carried unanimously.*

**V. CITY AND COUNTY UPDATES**

**a. Sarasota County – Ed Exner**

Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner provided the following County updates including: 1) the fields at Atwater Community Park; Butler Park and Narramore Sports Complex received over seeding; 2) sod work will begin at the Narramore Sports Complex soccer fields on December 18, 2015; 3) sod work at Atwater Community Park baseball fields is complete; and 4) a quarterly athletics meeting was held on December 10, 2015 with 40 attendees including North Port Parks and Recreation Manager, Sandy Pfundheller and City of Venice Director of Public Works John Veneziano. Discussion was held regarding upcoming projects, tournament procedures, reservation procedures and prioritizing field use.

**b. Sarasota County Parks Advisory & Recreation Council – Bart Dixon**

Due to the absence of James Dixon, Sarasota County Parks Advisory & Recreation Council (PARC) Liaison, there was no PARC update.

**c. City Update – Sandy Pfundheller**

Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller, Parks & Recreation Manager provided the following City event updates including: 1) the Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival was held December 4, 2015 with approximately 4,500 attendees; 2) the Poinsettia Parade was held December 12, 2015 with approximately 6,000 attendees; 3) an “after events” meeting was held following the Tree Lighting/Poinsettia Festival and Poinsettia Parade to discuss what changes could be made to continually improve the events. The suggested changes will be brought to the Board for discussion; 4) the “Rec On Wheels” was held at

McKibben Park on December 11, 2015 with approximately 12 attendees; 5) free admission to the Morgan Family Community Center and the Mullen Activity Center fitness centers with be held December 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to promote new memberships; 6) A Bike competition will be held January 23, 2016 at the North Port Skate Park; and 7) the time for the “Arts on the Green” event scheduled for March, 2016 has been changed to 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Project updates included: 1) an increase of contingency to the “Atwater Park Phase III Project” was approved by the Commission on December 14, 2015 for additional backstop netting; 2) lot owners are being contacted for the Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Land Acquisition; 3) funding for the “Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Trail Project” is being researched to determine if there is currently enough capital to complete the trail; 4) the “Blueways Project” should be complete in January, 2016 with a proposed February 27, 2016 celebration/opening; 4) the demolition of the concession stand at Butler Park is complete; 5) the trophy case has been installed at the Morgan Family Community Center; 6) the Oaks Park project is complete; 7) installation of the basketball hoop adjusters at the Morgan Family Community Center and Mullen Activity Center are projected for completion by December 31, 2015; 8) land clearing at the Canine Club is being researched; and 9) the Neighborhood Survey for the Highland Ridge Park area for desired park amenities is complete and a meeting will be held with a playground representative on December 21, 2015.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) the upcoming Easter Egg Hunt event including a nighttime flashlight egg hunt for older children; 2) boundaries of the Canine Park and maintenance issues; 3) increased use of the Pickle Ball courts at Highland Ridge Park; and 4) fencing and netting issues at the Highland Ridge Park Pickle Ball courts.

## **VI. ADOPT A PARK AGREEMENT - REVISIONS**

Ms. Pfundheller noted that currently there are 7 North Port Parks adopted through the Adopt-A-Park Program and distributed a revised Adopt-A-Park Agreement for review. Subsequent to Ms. Pfundheller reviewing the changes to the Agreement, it was requested that if members were in agreement with the changes, a motion to support the revised Agreement be made and voted upon.

*Joan Morgan moved for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to support the Parks & Recreation Division revised Adopt-A-Park Agreement for Commission approval; seconded by Helen Marchese. The motion carried unanimously.*

## **VII. ANNUAL REPORT TO COMMISSION**

Ms. Pfundheller reminded the Board that the Annual Report to Commission is required, by Ordinance, to be presented to the City Commission the first quarter of each year. A copy of the 2014 Annual Report was distributed and members were encouraged to provide suggestion and ideas at the next scheduled meeting for the 2015 Annual Report.

### **a. FY 2015 Activities**

FY 2015 Activities would include October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.

### **b. Goals for FY 2016**

## **VIII. PLAYFUL CITY**

Ms. Pfundheller noted that the Playful City movement is focusing on Playability, making play more accessible and providing opportunities for play in areas other than park facilities such as bus stops, street corners, and sidewalks. Examples include artwork at bus stops and within sidewalks. Members were encouraged to provide suggestions and ideas at the next meeting.

## **IX. OLD BUSINESS**

Ms. Pfundheller noted that the 14 potential parkland sites nominated by North Port for the Sarasota County Neighborhood Parkland Acquisition Fund were placed on hold subsequent to the Sarasota County and North Port purchase of Warm Mineral Springs. As part of the Strategic Plan for the City of North Port, the North Port Commission listed the completion of the Myakkahatchee Creek Greenway Project (Greenway Project) as a goal. As a result, the County was contacted to determine interest in replacing the 14 sites with properties from the Greenway Project. The County was agreeable to this proposal. The City will continue to pursue voluntary purchases of the remaining properties along the Greenway before nominating the properties to Sarasota County for the Neighborhood Parkland/Environmentally Sensitive Lands Acquisition Program

**X. NEW BUSINESS**

Subsequent to Chair Gerberich noting the attendance issues with member James Dixon, Recording Secretary Goodman read Ordinance 2014-07 regarding attendance of Board Members. City Clerk Raimbeau will be contacted to clarify the attendance requirements and take action accordingly.

Ms. Pfundheller reported that she was contacted by Business Advocate Ruth Buchanan, Staff Liaison for the Community Economic Development Advisory Board, who noted that the Community Economic Development Advisory Board held a discussion regarding promoting the parks and activities of North Port Parks & Recreation. The Board had suggested researching funding for a mass mailing of the seasonal Activity Guide or newspaper inserts to inform the community of the North Port Parks and special events. It was also suggested to research a trolley service that would include stops at local businesses and North Port parks or schedule an evening under the stars event that included music and food. The interest in North Port Parks and Recreation was discussed as an economic development recruitment tool for new and expanding businesses and the development of new residences.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) projected costs for a mass mailing or newspaper insert; 2) trolley services in surrounding communities; and 3) methodology for citizens to possibility register to receive, via email, the Parks & Recreation Activity Guide.

Vice-Chair Morgan noted that the North Port City Commission did not list a new water facility as one of the top priorities in the City of North Port Strategic Plan. The YMCA pool is in need of major repair and a new water facility is needed for North Port. Ms. Morgan encouraged members to contact the Commission to promote the development of an aquatic facility in North Port as it was identified as a top priority need in the Community Needs Assessment Survey.

Ms. Pfundheller reminded the Board that the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Vision and proposed funding sources will be presented to City Commissioners in February, 2016. Discussion ensued that if a pool is considered a priority by residents, an option might be to pursue a referendum for the construction and operation of the pool. It was noted by Board members that in other municipalities, an aquatic facility is an economic development incentive for new businesses and residences. If the Board is in agreement that support for the construction of an aquatic facility is a top recreational priority, this could be addressed in the Advisory Board goals for 2016.

**XI. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**XII. AROUND THE PRAB TABLE**

Helen Marchese acknowledged Board members who assisted in decorating her car, participating in the Poinsettia Parade and representing the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.

Staff Liaison Pfundheller acknowledged Joan Morgan for organizing volunteers to assist with the Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival, and the Poinsettia Parade.

Vice-Chair Morgan acknowledged staff and volunteers for their efforts for the Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival and the Poinsettia Parade; and reported that Sarasota has scheduled an "Pineapple Drop" at midnight on New Year's Eve on Main Street.

Ed Exner reported that the Sarasota County Parks & Recreation Department will be holding their Christmas Party on December 18, 2015 in lieu of their scheduled quarterly meeting.

Chair Gerberich thanked Ms. Pfundheller for supplying the promotional candy canes, reindeer antlers and the banner which included the name of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for participation in the Poinsettia Parade.

**XIII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: JANUARY 21, 2016 @6:30 p.m.**

Agenda items for the next meeting include the Annual Report and Goals.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

*Joan Morgan moved to adjourn the December 17, 2015 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting; seconded by Ethan Schmucker. The motion carried unanimously.*

The December 17, 2015 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

*V. Boyd*

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VICTOR BOYD  
CHAIR

Minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting  
of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this  
21<sup>st</sup> day of Jan., 2016.