



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
ST. JOHNS COUNTY, FLORIDA
MINUTES OF MEETING

June 21, 2018

Proceedings of the regular monthly meeting of the St. Johns County Recreation Advisory Board held in the San Sebastian Room at the Administrative Offices, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine, Florida.

Present were: Al Guido, Chairman
Casey Van Rysdam
Vijay Panneerselvam
Deb Chapin
Jillian McNiff Villemaire
Bert Watson
Wil Smith
Billy Zeits
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Jamie Baccari, Sydney Lindblad, and Ms. Sacha Martin, Editor of the North Shores News and member of the North Coastal Corridor Design Review Board.

Meeting is called to order at 3:00 pm with a quorum. Motion to clarify May's Minutes by Deb Chapin and is seconded. May's Minutes are to reflect clarification of Ms. Chapin's comments: "the budget analysis did not factor in the benefits to quality of life, mental and physical health benefits and the potential savings for St. Johns County on other services. Mr. Guido agreed and mentioned the concern with lack of connection due to technology." All are in favor and May's Minute's revision is approved unanimously.

CVR requests the TDC Sports Marketing spreadsheet from Mr. Smith who states this spreadsheet has been updated, completed and he will make available in the near future. Mr. Smith distributes several TDC Grant Applications to the Board Members in preparation for review and discussion at July's RAB meeting. Mr. Smith states that they are in the process of moving towards a Quarterly presentation for funding recommendations rather than monthly with the TDC. Mr. Smith further states that it is the TDC's position that the RAB recommendations do carry a lot of weight and that this Board has done a very good job of allocating funding to specific events. Mr. Smith does agree with this quarterly presentation. Chair remarks that he feels the appropriate way to handle this would be to see this on a Consent Agenda basis. Mr. Van Rysdam agrees with the Chair. Mr. Smith also informs that the TDC is envisioning a funding threshold and to allow this Board to come up with that threshold. There is continued discussion. Chair would like Mr. Smith to meet with Ms. Meeks to discuss the many concerns that this Board has in regards to the suggested Quarterly TDC Funding Requests issue. Chair states that unless a Board member would like to be present at that meeting, he feels that it is satisfactory for Mr. Smith to report back to this Board after meeting with Ms. Meeks on this issue.

Chair state for the record that he was highly disappointed with the method of the recent Budget presentation process and feels it was a disservice to the public. Chair stated although he and several other RAB members had arrived early, Park and Recreation's portion of the Budget

presentation had already been presented. This made it impossible to have had any opportunity to question either the Administration or the Park's staff on certain aspects and make views known. Mr. VanRysdam states that it's an issue of allocation of dollars and the public has a right to know where the dollars are going as well as this Board. There is lengthy discussion.

Mr. Smith distributes a handout of the information that had been presented at the recent Budget Hearings and informs anyone with questions to please contact him via email or schedule a meeting in the office.

Mr. Smith reports on a few upcoming projects. One of which is the Mussallem Beachfront Park. Smith notes that this is an FCT (Florida Communities Trust) park and informs that the County had received funding for this project back in 2007. Mr. Smith discusses the other FCT parks that the County has acquired and explains that the FCT parks are passive recreation parks that have provided boat ramp space, public access to the beach, public access to the Intracoastal Waterway and public access to the St. Johns River. Mr. Smith states that the County had turned \$6 million dollars of local money into \$60 million land acquisition dollars. Mr. Smith states that there was a grant program for developing the sites as well called the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP).

Mr. Smith states that two of the projects that will be going before the BCC in July will be the acceptance of 2 FRDAP Grants for the recently acquired Town of Hastings (\$50K each). Mr. Smith distributes handouts on these projects to the Board members and informs what this grant money will do. Mr. VanRysdam remarks that he attended these meetings in regards to the Hastings projects and he feels the Hastings community is very appreciative of these projects and feels they will be very supportive to Parks and Recreation. Lengthy discussion follows on these projects and what opportunities they will bring to St. Johns County. Mr. VanRysdam requests of Mr. Smith that in the future when information such as this is distributed to the Board members, to provide a summary of these projects along with the handout. Mr. Smith states that he could make the Agenda item available to the Board members via email and if there are any questions beyond that, he could answer them as needed.

Mr. Smith discusses the FCT site, The Mussallem Beachfront Park, in the Vilano North Beach area. This Phase I is going to get SJC off beach parking, a crosswalk to get out to the Beach and a restroom. Mr. Smith reminds that after the two back to back Hurricanes, SJC lost a great deal of drivable beach in Vilano – the main driving portion - although Porpoise Point is somewhat open. Phase I has been funded. Chair confirms that this project information is for "information only" and at this time, is not requiring any action from the RAB. There is a discussion about the Mussallem Beachfront Park project and Ms. Sacha Martin, member of the North Coastal Corridor Design Review Board presents to the Board and expresses her concerns in her public comment over the conceptual design. Mr. Smith gives Ms. Martin the process to follow to express those concerns to the people who can make changes. Mr. Van Rysdam adds that he appreciates Ms. Martin coming to the RAB today and expressing her passionate concern over Mussallem Beachfront Park. That sentiment is echoed among other Board members. Chair also states that he will expect to be updated by Parks and Recreation's Director on this project in the coming months. Mr. Smith states that he will continue to work with Ms. Martin, Ms. Browning and Ms. O'Hara and then will come back to this Board when there is a final design based on public comment, with a conceptual plan for this Board's review and approval based on the community's input. Mr. Smith will be scheduling

a meeting when all involved are available. Chair thanks Ms. Martin on behalf of the Board for attending.

Chair asks Mr. Smith when the Golf Course project will be going to the BOCC. Mr. Smith states that Mr. Zeits is actually in a meeting at this moment on the Golf Course and that a report will be made at next month's RAB meeting. Mr. Smith further states that the approval for the Phase III (Implementation) should be coming up very soon. Mr. Van Rysdam asks for a timeline now in light of the changes and what is the County's position on farming out the land and partnering with the Developer. Mr. Smith states that that's still a decision that will be made by the BOCC and will likely come up as an Agenda item. In regards to the timeline, Mr. Smith states that there is no timeline set but feels this information will come out at the Agenda item, which is actively being worked on at this point. Further discussion continues.

TDC GRANT

The American Junior (a WJGS Event)

December 27 – 30, 2018

Requesting: \$20,000.00
Last Year's Grant: \$5,000.00

Mr. Smith states that this is an international field of players and although they usually request \$20K, they never receive more than \$5K. Mr. Smith further states that there are approximately 80 players and 200 spectators. 80 players is what this event can accommodate. Mr. Van Rysdam questions some of the figures. Mr. Smith responds and explains the figures to satisfaction. In the past there has been a 1:118 ROI. Mr. Smith states this event is a staple for the World Golf Village and they return each year. There are many sponsorship opportunities to come out of this event. There is also some great golf from young kids that hail from all around the world as well. Brief discussion follows.

Mr. Van Rysdam motions to recommend funding in the amount of \$5,000. Mr. Watson seconds the motion. There is no discussion, all are in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Granted: \$5,000.00

Mr. Smith announces that the Park and Recreation Master Plan Community Workshops are set for July 17th and 18th. The July 17th Workshop is going to be held at Players Community Senior Center in Ponte Vedra. The July 18th Workshop is going to be held at the St. Augustine Beach City Hall. Participation from this Board is requested if members are able to attend. Ms. Lindblad details what will be presented at these workshops and answers questions from the Board and states these Workshops will be similar to past Workshops. These Workshops will be more focused on the Beach and Boat Ramps.

A brief update on the newly added Cricket Field to St. Johns County is discussed by Mr. Smith and Mr. Panneerselvam. Mr. Van Rysdam suggests several recommendations for getting community awareness/involvement for the coming cricket season in the form of an All Star Cricket team vs. a "celebrity" cricket team including Commissioners, Parks and Rec Staff, etc. and include media.

CIP's for 2019

Ms. Baccari distributes a map of CIPs by impact fee zone and explains the map and its contents to the Board members. Mr. Smith clarifies that the St. Augustine Amphitheatre doesn't fall under the CIP's and their project funding isn't coming out of any of our impact fee zones or any funds that has to do with Recreation. There is discussion on several of the projects. Ms. Baccari states that they are in the process now of putting together a list of priorities and further explains this process to the Board. It is also clarified that impact fees must remain in their particular district. Alternate sources of funding may be obtained i.e. grant funding and used in addition to the impact fees. Further, you cannot use impact fees to repair but you may use to expand usage existing projects or to create new projects. There is lengthy discussion on the projects and the funding in each of the impact fee zones.

Chair states that this Board has an obligation to be involved in project funding in the future for the purpose of recommending to the County Commission and would like to see this Board have the opportunity to do so. Ms. Baccari states that once there is a prioritized list completed, she will bring that information before this Board for their review and recommendation.

Mr. Zeits enters the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Mr. Van Rysdam remarks that he would like to see the RAB have the opportunity to participate in the process in the future as the biggest obstacle in this current process is the timeline and would like to see Administration made aware that the RAB is demanding to be a part of the process earlier. There is lengthy discussion. Mr. Zeits suggests that an RAB Annual Calendar prepared in the beginning of the year would help alleviate these issues. Brief discussion follows on this issue.

Ms. Chapin discusses the state Palm Valley Wharf project in detail as well as her displeasure with the amount of impact fee funding left in CIP District 2 (B). Ms. Chapin requests a recommendation letter from this Board in support of the Wharf project. Lengthy discussion follows. Mr. Smith states that a letter from the RAB to the Administration in support of the Palm Valley Wharf project would be beneficial. Chair suggests a letter of support and recommendation for this project to move forward should be drafted and sent to Administration. Mr. Van Rysdam is in agreement. Mr. Zeits suggests the aforementioned letter be crafted and then reviewed by Ms. Chapin, signed by Chair and given to Engineering and Public Works (because it is a public right of way) at the strong support of the RAB to drive this project.

Mr. Smith talks about setting up a CIP workshop in the future and there is agreement among several Board members. Chair agrees.

Chair moves the RAB By Laws item on this month's Agenda to next month's meeting. All in favor.

Mr. Watson asks for clarification from Mr. Smith on the County's dog leash laws on the Beach and mentions the recently revised leash laws that Duval County enforces. Mr. Zeits responds with SJC Leash law for the Beach. If you are found with your dog off a leash at any time, you are at risk of being written a citation.

Mr. Smith informs that he's met with the Field of Dreams Committee and states that they are looking forward to getting to Phase II of the project. Mr. Smith briefly describes Field of Dreams to

the Board for the benefit of the new Board members. The plan is for the Committee to come to the RAB with a conceptual plan. Mr. Smith will have the Secretary forward this plan to the Board members when it is available. The Committee is paying 100% of construction costs and maintenance. The timeline for this is approximately a few months out at this time.

Mr. Van Rysdam ask for a status on the Private/Public Partnership Ron Parker Park project. Mr. Zeits responds that the group is still working through legal details, etc. Brief discussion follows on this issue.

Mr. Smith distributes several TDC Grants for funding to the Board members to be reviewed and recommended upon at next month's meeting. Mr. Smith will be going back to the applicants for a poorly executed application.

Mr. Zeits informs that August 7th is the forecasted date for the Golf Course Phase III Presentation. Mr. Zeits states that before the July RAB meeting, he will have the full bound book that will be available for review. The full presentation most likely will not be complete, but the draft will be available. Mr. Van Rysdam requests for he and the Board to be notified of this meeting in advance.

Meeting is adjourned at 4:55 pm.