



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

July 19, 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
Bo Browne
Dr. Jillian McNiff Villemaire
Bert Watson
Wil Smith
Billy Zeits
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Jamie Baccari, Diane Gorski, Jann Feger, Parks and Recreation Intern, Vivian Browning, President of Vilano Beach Main Street and Sallie O'Hara, Executive Director of Vilano Beach Main Street.

Meeting is called to order at 3:00 pm with a quorum. Motion to approve June's Minutes by Mr. Van Rysdam and is seconded. Minutes are unanimously approved.

Mr. Zeits begins informs that on August 7th, the BOCC will be hearing the Phase III portion of the Golf Course presentation. There is brief discussion.

Mr. Van Rysdam requests and is given an update on the Fort Matanzas Ramp.

Commissioner Waldron reports that there was a very good report on the Fort Matanzas ramp. In addition, there will be partial funding for Vilano and some renourishment up to South Ponte Vedra. BOCC has directed staff to start working on boat ramp locations and funding possibilities for new boat ramps. Commissioner also informs that \$1.7million was voted to be used toward a parking lot in the North Beach area as part of the Beach Renourishment and may not be finalized as yet. Brief discussion follows.

Mr. Smith discusses the recent Master Plan Workshop Meetings held over the last couple of days and states that they went very well. The next phase would be for the Funding Gap Analysis. Mr. Zeits stated that they're finalizing the needs assessment (the needs assessment has a timeframe which is approximately 3 – 5 years) so that the information that was captured can be put into a long range vision and plan. There is lengthy discussion.

Mr. Smith also informs that there are several projects being worked on such as Mussallem Beachfront Park and expansion at North Beach Park and discusses the at capacity parking lots. Mr. Zeits explains how this Department measures beach capacity and informs that toll revenue is up.

Public Comments from Ms. Vivian Browning, Vilano Beach Main Street President, discusses the closed Vilano Beach ramp which has a locked swinging gate at its entrance and the image that projects to the public. Ms. Browning would like to suggest another way to barricade the entrance such as cylindrical bollards. Mr. Zeits states that it is challenging but possible to revise the type of barricade but stated that the gate is the most successful deterrent to keep people from driving onto the beach in that area. Mr. Zeits also mentioned that there was a sign installed demonstrating that the area is an opened public beach access in an effort to alleviate that perception from the Community that the area was closed. Brief discussion follows.

Public comments from Ms. Sallie O'Hara, Executive Director of Vilano Beach Main Street, informs that the Rotary Club of Coastal St. Johns would like to offer to make some improvements to Ron Parker Park and have committed some resources to that project. Ms. O'Hara informs that they would like to work with Parks and Recreation. Mr. VanRysdam asks for an update on the status of the Citizens for Ron Parker Park project that had been brought before the RAB last year. Mr. Zeits states that the County attorneys and the CRPP attorneys are in the process of working together on

specifics. Mr. Zeits suggests that Ms. O'Hara's group work with Mr. Teddy Meyer, Facilities and Fields Manager for Parks and Recreation, in regards to this project. Brief discussion follows. Ms. O'Hara is thanked for the generous offer.

Vilano Beach Fishing Pier / Water Taxi Service. Mr. Smith advises that the City of St. Augustine is looking for ways to help transport people throughout St. Augustine. Would need to work with the City of St. Augustine to obtain a Commercial Submerged Land Lease. This is information to the RAB. Mr. Smith will keep the RAB updated on this issue as to when it will become an Agenda item to the BOCC. Mr. Smith informs there are 2 written RFP's at this time. Mr. Van Rysdam requests that Mr. Smith share this information with the RAB when ready. Lengthy discussion follows.

Mr. Smith updates on the current grants and directs members to the written display on the white board. There are 2 FRDAP Grants (Railroad Park Phase II and Hastings Park Phase I, coming from the dissolution of the Town of Hastings) that require no funding from the County. These will go before the BOCC on October 6th. The last project is an FCT Grant (Cora C. Harrison Preserve), which is a 16.3 acre parcel on the Putnam County/St. Johns County line. The difference between this project and the other two projects is that this project will obligate the County for future CIP and will place a burden on the County at some point- estimated at \$200K - \$300K capital improvements. The importance of this project is that it provides direct connectivity to the St. Johns River to Sea loop in Hastings. Mr. Smith states that no direction is necessary from the RAB at this time but at some point, this will need to go before the BOCC.

Mr. Zeits discusses the 2 Hastings CBDG Grants and informs they were ranked in the top 3 that could be eligible for funding. The process is currently in the vetting stage of the action plan.

Mr. Smith discusses the issue of presenting to the TDC with funding recommendations quarterly rather than monthly as is the case now. The TDC is looking for guidance from the RAB and would like RAB to draft a policy and set a funding threshold in regards to this issue. Brief discussion follows. Mr. Van Rysdam makes a motion that this Board approve moving to a quarterly reporting on the Consent Agenda for the TDC with the exception of those Grants that are \$20,000.00 or more. Mr. Watson seconds the motion. All are in favor. Motion passes unanimously. Mr. Smith states that he and the Chair will draft a policy and will forward to Ms. Meeks. Mr. Smith will then report back after the next TDC meeting.

There is a discussion on several documents for RAB's review. Mr. VanRysdam discusses proposing an RAB Annual Calendar to keep the RAB updated and advised about various items that would be coming up throughout the year to give members time to review and advice appropriately. Brief discussion follows.

Mr. Van Rysdam then discusses another form, the Project Summary form and states this this form would be populated by Rec staff and communicated simply when various projects are presented to the RAB. This form would be sent to the members for review prior to the meetings where these issues will be discussed and is merely a template to help organize.

Mr. Van Rysdam discusses the last document, a revised Agenda to the RAB meeting itself and discusses the Agenda order itself. It's being proposed that Public Comment be moved to the beginning of the Agenda after the approval of the Minutes and before the Reports. There is discussion pros and cons among the members. The Board unanimously decides to revise the current Agenda as follows: 1. Add "public comments" immediately following the Approval of Minutes from previous meeting with the understanding that any items on that meeting's Agenda may not be discussed. 2. Add a second "public comment" immediately following the "unfinished business" item. 3. Remove the current "public comment" which is at item # 4 on the agenda. In regards to the proposed "Project Summary" form, the RAB directs that if there is a project to be discussed at the current RAB meeting and is on the Agenda, this form will be sent out along with the Agenda.

St. Augustine Race Week 2019
3/27 – 3/31/19

Requesting: \$15,000.00
Granted last year: \$5,000.00

Chair remarks that there is phenomenal impact to the County with this event. Mr. Smith states that this event in terms of publicity is enormous and that they do follow through and continue to grow this extremely popular event. There is increased discussion on this event.

Mr. Van Rysdam makes a motion to recommend \$7,500.00. Vice Chair seconds the motion. There is discussion. Mr. Watson discusses possibly recommending \$10,000.00 for this event. Mr. Smith states that although the event is larger every year, and produces a good economic impact, it is still not producing a large economic impact. There is continued discussion. Mr. Watson agrees with the \$7,500 recommendation but further states that he would like to consider increasing the funding recommendation for next year if this event continues to grow. At the conclusion of discussion on this event, the motion still stands and all members are in favor with the motion passing unanimously.

Granted: \$7,500.00

In addition to discussing this particular event, Board members direct Mr. Zeits and Mr. Smith to be responsible to informing TDC funding Grant Applicants that they are welcome to attend the meeting to present their application if they so choose, but it is not necessary. It is also acceptable for Board members to request needed additional information from an applicant prior to making a recommendation through Parks and Recreation Staff members.

Tour De Forts

April 28, 2019

Requesting: \$5,000.00

Granted Last Year: \$2,000.00

Mr. Smith states that this is the second largest bike club in the state of Florida and it is a very good event with very positive publicity. It is a good idea to continue to recommend these types of events that have little to no impact on Park resources. It is noted that the projected number of spectators had been left blank. But it is pointed out that the particular number of spectators for this particular type of event is not as relevant as the growth of participants from one year to the other. Mr. VanRysdam remarks that return visits due to these type of events is likely. Dr. McNiff Villemaire also remarks about the positive aspects of this application and that the map depicts the large area being used for this event. In addition, this event will be planning to use the newly opening Trailhead, which is important.

Mr. Watson motions to recommend funding in the amount of \$3,000.00. Mr. Van Rysdam seconds the motion with a contingency – that in the package of information that is given to the participants for this event, there is talk of Hastings and the new Trailhead included. There is no discussion. All are in favor and the motion passes unanimously.

Granted: \$3,000.00

Mr. Smith states that there will be a November grand opening of the Hastings Trailhead and it would be a good idea to utilize that as an event and will talk about this with the RAB in the future.

Mr. Smith remarks that he is going to invite in a TDC Representative to a future RAB meeting when a TDC funding recommendation is going to be made so they could experience the process that the RAB has when making a funding recommendation for a TDC Funding Grant request.

Discussion on adding Alternate Members to the RAB. Alternate Member verbiage is reviewed by the Board Members. Discussion follows. Mr. Browne motions to not update the RAB's Article II Membership clause and that there be no addition of Alternate Members to this Board. Mr. VanRysdam seconds the motion. There is increased discussion and a vote is taken.

Yes (no alternates) - 3

No (have alternates) – 2

After a 3 – 2 vote, motion passes and there will be no Alternate Members sought and the verbiage will not be added to the current RAB By-laws.

There is a brief discussion on the five member Northwest Tower Commission. Mr. Browne is the current member of this Commission.

Ms. Browning would like to add a public comment in regards to the RFP for the Vilano Water Taxi and requests support for this project. Mr. Van Rysdam requests that Mr. Smith informs Ms. Browning when this issue presents on the BCC Agenda.

Motion to adjourn at 5:03 p.m.