



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

September 20, 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  
Bo Browne  
Casey Van Rysdam  
Vijay Panneerselvam  
Dr. Jillian McNiff Villemaire  
Bert Watson  
Deb Chapin  
Commissioner Paul Waldron  
Joy Andrews  
Billy Zeits  
Paul Abbatinozzi  
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Jamie Baccari, Community Programs Manager, Sydney Lindblad, Beaches Supervisor and Diane Gorski, Recreation Supervisor

Meeting is called to order at 3:01 pm with a quorum. Motion to approve August's Minutes by Mr. Van Rysdam and is seconded by Mr. Watson. Minutes are unanimously approved.

Mr. Zeits briefly discusses the Pier's Famers' Market in terms of the new vendor that has been chosen through recent bidding.

Ms. Andrews introduces Mr. Zeits as Park and Recreation's Interim Director and briefly discusses this transition for the Department.

Ms. Andrews also reminds that the final adoption of the Budget will be held tonight in the County Administration's Auditorium at 5:01 pm.

Mr. Abbatinozzi reports that the school year has begun and has experienced over 4% student growth equaling just over 40,800 students. Mr. Abbatinozzi also reports on the Senate Bill 1726 (Safety Bill) which deals with initiatives with mental health, facilities, etc. There has not been an effect on the district with this and previous bills as there is not available capacity. The summer program is briefly discussed and reports that it appears that Wednesday evenings are better than what had been done in the past. Brief discussion follows.

Commissioner Waldron also reminds of the Final Budget Hearing to be held later this afternoon in the County Administration Auditorium and invites the Board Members to attend if possible.

Chair comments on the newly designed Agenda packets that Mr. Zeits and his team had created along with input from Mr. Van Rysdam and have been distributed to the members for this meeting and states that it is a great concept. Board Members agree.

1. Public Boat Ramp Workshop

Mr. Zeits discusses the upcoming workshop meeting and explains the information within the packet including the graph and remarks that staff is currently identifying ways for funding. Brief discussion follows. At this time, there is no action needed from this Board.

2. Parks and Recreation Fees

Ms. Baccari discusses the general fees that had been submitted this year for the budget. There were several proposed fees added and they are reviewed in detail by Ms. Baccari and Mr. Zeits.

The proposed revenues to the Pier is discussed briefly. Mr. Van Rysdam suggested to take those areas where there are fees changing and do a baseline of 2018 and then at a future date, do a comparative. Mr. Zeits states that can possibly be done seasonally. There is continued discussion.

3. Fairgrounds Recreational Facility

Mr. Zeits explains the remediation to some of the soils on this site in order to be able to utilize 40 additional acres of space which are currently restricting partial use of the field. This will be looked into after the first of the year. There are several options. After the remediation, site design will be needed. Further discussion follows. Chair expresses that there is a general support for this issue at this time. There is no action needed at this time from this Board.

4. Pier Revenue and Expenses, Pier Proposed Fees and Beach Proposed Fees

Ms. Lindblad describes the proposed increases on some of the fees to the Board and states its purpose is to get fees in line with a fair market value. Ms. Lindblad informs that there was research done on what other area Piers charge for their facilities. Lengthy discussion follows. Discussion turns towards the Pier's Gift Shop and the increasing income that it is generating especially with the addition of food and beverage items available. Mr. Zeits remarks that they've just started carrying a fund balance recently where as in years prior, funds were needed to be borrowed to run the operation. This year there is a Capital Improvement Plan to expand the Gift Shop to allow for more significant revenue by adding square footage to the site. There aren't yet any plans for the use of the increase in revenue but will be discussed as it gets closer to being realized. Mr. Van Rysdam requests to see operational expenditures separated into operating expenses and costs of goods from the standpoint of understanding what sale of goods is and what the ratio of the cost of what you're selling is (percentage of markup/margin making up off of product). There is further discussion.

Chair, along with the Board members highly commend Mr. Zeits and his team for the packet they'd produced for the RAB meeting and would like to see this process continue.

Mr. Zeits informs that at this time all TDC Funding Grant requests will be routed through Ms. Lindblad.

Mr. Zeits explains the 3 different options to the Board members in regards to recommending/reviewing a funding grant request: #1 The Board can recommend modifications be made to the application and give those recommendations to Ms. Lindblad and have her connect and discuss with the applicant having the applicant modify the grant. #2 The RAB may recommend or deny funding and inform Ms. Lindblad, the TDC liaison, who will let the applicant know that they have or have not been recommended for funding. #3 The RAB may request that the applicant will need to re-read the directions and look at our previous history and submit another application if they choose to be eligible.

### USSSA Florida Fall National TDC Grant Funding Application

November 10-11, 2018

**Requesting: \$6,400.00**  
**Initial application for funding grant**

Chair is dissatisfied with the application that has been presented for this funding grant request. There are several comments and questions in regards to entries within the application. Mr. Watson speaks on the USSSA and informs that it is the elite tournament for travel baseball in the southeast. Ms. Gorski discusses the history of this large tournament and feels it is a good opportunity to bring this tournament to SJC. It is helpful that it is out of season as well. In addition it will also save our baseball kids the travel time and expense of going out of county for this tournament. This application has been resubmitted several times to Ms. Gorski and states that their goal is that they would like to bring this tournament here every November. Chair would like to recommend funding to get them started for this year.

Mr. Van Rysdam motions to support and recommend \$3,200.00 for 50% of the field value cost. Ms. Chapin seconds the motion. There is discussion of the motion in that Chair has one caveat – he would like the applicants to re-do their application and Mr. Watson agrees. Discussion completed. All are in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

**GRANTED: \$3,200.00**

Mr. Zeits updates the Board on the status of the Golf Course and informs that Legal is in final review of the RFP to make sure that they have protected the County's interest before the RFP put out. Mr. Zeits is hopeful that he will have more definitive information at the next RAB meeting in October.

Mr. Zeits updates the Board on the status of the Citizens for Ron Parker and informs that they have resurfaced with their paperwork to become a 501c3. Mr. Zeits informs that at an earlier meeting with this group today, a request was made to go through the process of becoming a formal "Friends Group" i.e. Friends of the Library, Friends of the Amphitheatre, etc. Mr. Zeits also informs that their goal is to do the fundraising for all of improvements that they want to make at the park. They also ask to be placed onto the October RAB Agenda so that they may come and formalize their presentation that they'd made at their last RAB visit. They'd like to demonstrate that they've made their "Friends" requirements and get the RAB's support going forward. Chair remarks that Mr. Zeits may extend an invitation on the Board's behalf for the Citizens of Ron Parker Park to attend the next RAB meeting in October. Further discussion follows.

Commissioner informs that there will be a TDC discussion on October 18<sup>th</sup> to discuss the Fifth Cent and invites interested RAB Members to attend.

Mr. Watson makes a motion to adjourn at 3:59 pm.