



# St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners

Parks & Recreation Department

## Recreation Advisory Board Minutes March 12, 2020

### Present:

**Board Members:** Chair Casey Van Rysdam, Vice Chair Jillian McNiff-Villemaire, Al Guido, Bert Watson, Brad Long, Deb Chapin,

**County Staff:** Commissioner Paul Waldron, Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator, Doug Bataille, Director of Parks and Recreation, Emily Howington, Recording Secretary, Diane Gorski, Recreation Supervisor, Sydney Lindblad, Beach Services Manager, Rebecca Lavie, County Attorneys, Paul Abbatinozzi, SJC School District

**Others Attendees:** Kim Kendall, Marty McEachean, members of the public.

**Absent:** Bo Browne

Chair Van Rysdam called meeting to order at 3:01pm.

First order was to approve February minutes, some typing errors were altered. Board motioned to approve Feb minutes with consensus. Bo Browne was absent. Deb Chapin arrived at 3:10pm. Jillian McNiff Villemaire arrived at 3:13pm.

Mr. Van Rysdam asked for public comments for non-agenda items. There were none so the board moved to Sports Marketing. Mr. Van Rysdam stated the order of the agenda was changed so that the Sports Marketing speakers would be heard earlier in the meetings.

Donna Frantz spoke for Ancient City Gamefish Challenge's longstanding role in the community spanning over 25 yrs. and requested a funding increase from \$13k to \$15k. Mr. Long asked if there was concern about the current novel coronavirus COVID-19. Joy Andrews then briefly addressed the issue of COVID-19 that the County was monitoring the situation and would be sure to do everything they can to protect SJC residents.

Ms. Frantz then reiterated that the Gamefish Challenge would not be until July.

Mr. Watson motioned to grant the \$15k, Mr. Guido seconded, and Mr. Van Rysdam asked for a vote, the vote was unanimous.

The second TDC Sports Marketing item was the Kingfish tournament. The representatives were unable to be present so Ms. Lindblad provided the information. The request was for \$12,742.15, Mr. Van Rysdam inquired about the economic impact of the event. Discussion ensued. A motion was made by Mr. Guido to grant \$7k, Mr. Long seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Van Rysdam began the Chair reports with updating the roster regarding the districts and at large allocations. Van Rysdam stated that according to the RAB bylaws the board is required to provide the BOCC with an annual report by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

He stated that he thought it would be more realistic to develop something for May/June and then the board can catch up to be ready for April next year. He asked Commissioner Waldron if this would be acceptable. Waldron agreed.



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Mr. Van Rysdam requested that the RAB start by reviewing the mission statement and that he, Director Bataille and Emily Howington would be working on a calendar of upcoming Recreation events for board members to attend.

Commissioner Waldron then gave his report stating he would be leaving the meeting after his report. Waldron stated that while the City of St. Augustine and the TPC have cancelled large population events due to the concern over COVID-19, St. Johns County is on standby as of the moment had not made cancellations. He advised that residents take safety precautions but to be aware that there is a lot of false information being spread and not to panic.

Mr. Van Rysdam asked about drive-thru testing facilities. Waldron state that any testing facilities would be set up by the state. Joy Andrews informed that the State Health Department would set up a testing facility but that the testing would only be available to those who are asymptomatic, as in not showing any symptoms of the virus. Persons who are displaying any symptoms must go to a doctor's office of health clinic to be tested.

Ms. Andrews and Director Bataille stated the county wanted to have a unified approach between the departments regarding closures of county offices and locations.

Commissioner Waldron exited at 3:30pm. Ms. Andrews provided an update on the Village Park/Libraries project, there are two locations considered including a 19 acre property by the strip mall near Murabella that would have a shared entry with the park and library properties.

Paul Abbatinozzi from the SJC School Board spoke and gave a report of the gross student registrations over the past 5 years showing a more than 11k increase in student population.

The next item on the agenda was the presentation regarding the name of Field of Dreams with Kim Kendall proposing to rename the facility Keith Martin Field of Dreams. A lengthy discussion ensued with response against from Marty McEachean (Creekside Athletic Association). Present during the meeting was Rebecca Lavie from the County Attorney's office.

After much discussion the Recreation Advisory board made two motions and with help from Ms. Lavie. The RAB drafted the following motions to be presented and recommended to the BOCC on March 17<sup>th</sup>. The motion was as follows:

Unanimous RAB Motion (Field of Dreams) 3/12/2020

1. RAB expresses its support of honoring Keith Martin in some way connected with the Field of Dreams.
2. A decision on the nature of that honor be deferred pending discussion between the community parties involved.



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Ms. Lindblad then spoke on Beach Project updates including the Toll Booths which began charging entry fees March 1<sup>st</sup>. The Porpoise Point ramp is closed due to flooding and the Fort Matanzas ramp is temporarily closed with construction already started and is scheduled to be done in May. Lindblad stated the Pier Project was going well and ahead of schedule, and that the site's bathrooms along with the Crescent Beach bathrooms were redone and completed.

Ms. Lindblad gave updates on the TDC Sports Marketing Criteria as discussed in the previous RAB meeting. The application for sports events would be updated next fiscal year to include more specialized marketing criteria. Director Bataille stated that the video advertisement for the county would need to be reshot and improved. Lindblad then said that the new application would provide more information on how future organizations would show proof of their marketing to highlight St. Johns County on their social media.

Director Bataille address the Surplus Maintenance Fund. A table was provided to the board with the progression of usage of the Surplus Maintenance fund facilitated by deferred maintenance. Bataille continued to describe the plans to address other projects with a strategy to provide future funding. Also addressed were the undeveloped properties belonging to Parks and Recreation, which are so due to the cost of impact fees. The RAB then discussed a possible public private partnership or future stipulation when land is donated to Parks and Recreation that funds for impact fees to develop the land be included.

The board then discussed terms of board members and at large discrepancies.

For the final point of business, Chair Van Rysdam presented Al Guido with an award honoring his years of service to the Recreation Advisory Board as both member and Chair.

Mr. Watson made a motion to adjourn, the vote was unanimous. Board was adjourned at 4:55pm