



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

JUNE 20, 2019

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
Bert Watson
Jillian McNiff Villemaire
Deb Chapin
Commissioner Paul Waldron
Joy Andrews, Assistant County Administrator
Doug Bataille, Director of Parks and Recreation
Billy Zeits, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Teddy Meyer, Facilities Manager, Diane Gorski, Parks and Recreation Supervisor, Sydney Lindblad, Beaches Supervisor, David Cañon, Park Maintenance Supervisor, Mr. Chuck Labanowski, Asst. Secretary at MuraBella, Dan Floryan, St. Augustine Race Week, Dave Driggers, FL BASS Nation and Jay Brown, President of Creeks Baseball Club.

Meeting is called to order at 3:00 pm with a quorum. Minutes reflect that Mr. Teddy Meyer was not present at May's RAB meeting. Motion to approve May's Minutes by Mr. Watson with a second by Mr. Van Rysdam. Motion passes unanimously.

Public Comment: Mr. Chuck Labanowski presents to the Board to request a status of the 19 acre sports park to be located out at the World Golf Village area. Mr. Zeits provides the progress to Mr. Labanowski with Mr. Bataille offering additional further detail. There is brief discussion.

Ms. Andrews discusses the Budget Workshop that had been held and states that the BCC will come back with more information on that at the July 16th meeting. It will be an overall Countywide discussion at that time. Both Chair and Mr. Van Rysdam remark favorably on the revised format of the workshop which was organized and well presented.

Mr. Bataille informs that both he and Vice Chair are still in discussions over establishing a Park Foundation. Mr. Bataille also updates the Board members on the recent restructuring within the Park Maintenance Department. Mr. Bataille also gave an update on the 5 year plan and informs that a draft has been created (in light of the Master Plan) for Administration to view and ultimately to go before the BCC. Also discussed were the priorities that came out of the Master Plan which had included a good scientific survey for community input showing a broad perspective from the public. Lastly, the County Fees structure was discussed. All of the fees were looked at and small increases were made across the board so that the increases will not impact any one group but could also meet budget goals. There is an upcoming meeting next Tuesday to meet with all of the Park Organizations. Mr. Bataille distributes a handout on the current and proposed fees to the Board and explains the increases. There is further discussion among Board members with Mr. Zeits reminding that this process has been part of the required Cost Recovery Program. This issue should be going before the BCC sometime in August.

Chair briefly discusses particular issues that had been assigned to various RAB members at May's meeting to develop in the coming months with one of them being the possible establishment of a Park Foundation. Vice Chair had tentatively agreed to work with Mr. Bataille on this issue. Brief discussion follows.

Commissioner Waldron discusses the ongoing budget process briefly. Also discussed was the Beach and Boat Ramp Parking fees that will be implemented in the future. There is further discussion.

David Cañon, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, presents to discuss the Turf Management Program and the positive changes (current and future) that the Parks Department has been making in regards to the maintenance division. Mr. Cañon explains these changes and also discusses the restructuring within the division as well as budgeting issues. There is further discussion and Mr. Zeits answers the questions from the Board members.

TDC Applications: The ANNIKA TDC Funding Grant Application is being removed from this month's Agenda and placed on July's Agenda. The St. Augustine Half Marathon TDC Funding Grand Application will also likely be on July's Agenda as well.

St. Augustine Race Week 2020

Saturday, March 14 – Saturday, March 21, 2020

REQUESTING: \$15,000.00

Received \$7,500.00 in 2019

This event will be coming out of the next year's budget for '20. This is the fifth annual event for this organization. Mr. Dan Floryan, co-chair for this event presents to the Board to discuss his event and take questions from Board members. Profits from this event benefit scholarships for sailing camps. Chair states that this is a good activity and would like to continue supporting. Mr. Floryan discusses all of the different types of publications that he uses to publicize his events. Chair suggests that if the Board so decides to make a modest increase in a recommendation for the funding request, he would like in return to see an increase in publicity for the event. Mr. Floryan is amenable to the suggestion.

Mr. Watson motions to recommend \$10,000.00 for a funding grant request. Ms. Chapin seconds the motion. There is discussion. Mr. Van Rysdam would like to make this recommendation request contingent upon Mr. Floryan working with the TDC to expand the impactfulness of the increase in funding recommendation. There is no further discussion. All are in favor and the motion passes unanimously.

GRANTED: \$10,000.00

FL BASS Nation Jr/High School Regional Qualifier

September 7 – September 8, 2019 at Trout Creek Fish Camp

REQUESTING: \$5,000.00

First Time Requestor

Mr. David Driggers presents to discuss his event and to take questions from the Board. Mr. Driggers explains his group's 501(c)(7) status to the Board members. Mr. Driggers explains the way this event is structured for this Juniors through High School event and averages approximately 100 boats/teams. Ms. Chapin remarks that this is a great event that will bring in a good amount of spectators. Chair remarks that this is the type of activity that the Board would like to help grow in the County.

Ms. Chapin motions to recommend \$3,000.00 for a funding grant request. Mr. Van Rysdam seconds the motion. There is discussion. Mr. Van Rysdam further adds to the motion that he would like to request a specific post event follow-up i.e. number of participants as well as qualifying the hotel nights so as to get a sense for the record. There is no further discussion. All are in favor and the motion passes unanimously.

GRANTED: \$3,000.00

Ms. Lindblad updates the Board members on the options for the TDC Grant reporting and informs recently the TDC has had discussions in regards to revamping the process as well as the application. Ms. Tera Meeks and Ms. Dena Masters are all on board as well. It is also noted that Dr. McNiff-Villemaire will also be working with her along with the TDC on this project. Commissioner Waldron, on a side note, also mentions that it is going to become necessary to start tracking Air B&B's as well. There is increased discussion among the Board members.

Mr. Van Rysdam requests that Mr. Zeits obtain a report on what the exact number of TDC's 2020 Budget will be AND the policy of what the dollars are for the Carry Forwards. As it is "not clear" to him "that the money carried forward is going to go specifically back into Sports Marketing or just be split up in different ways."

Dr. McNiff-Villemaire requests the history of why the RAB makes recommendations to the TDC on Funding Grant Requests. Mr. Zeits explains in detail. Chair further reminds that this Board recommends to the TDC but that it is the TDC that makes the final determination.

Mr. Zeits discusses the FIND/WAMP (Florida Inland Navigational District/Waterway Access Management Program) Grant presentation that had been recently made by himself, Mr. Meyer and Ms. Lindblad in Cocoa Beach for \$300,000.00+ for four different projects – one reimbursement project, two planning projects and one structural improvement and renovation project. It is not known if the grants had been awarded as yet but their Board had been very complimentary towards the County's efforts. Recently, Ms. Lindblad, Mr. Meyer and Mr. Bataille had presented to the Beach Port and Waterway District and were awarded funding up to \$75,000.00 of improvements to the Doug Crane Boat Ramp (launching and landing facility). There is brief discussion. Mr. Zeits discusses the MOA/FWC. Ms. Gorski and Mr. Meyer have been working with FWC and there is a maintenance and service agreement with FWC that had not been updated in some time. Staff has updated the list of Boat Ramps for maintenance. Mr. Zeits explains that the FWC will come out to provide maintenance to these existing public boat ramps. This will be an additional level of maintenance that we are not currently receiving and will come at no cost to the County. Mr. Zeits gives the Board an update on the Playgrounds – there are two new playgrounds installed and two more are planned and part of deferred maintenance.

Chair once again discusses the various tasks requested for the Board Members to manage. There is brief discussion between the members regarding establishing a Park Foundation, the TDC and how to improve on the current relationship and the possibility of restructuring the bed tax funds as well as possibly meeting with TDC Board in the coming months.

Ms. Chapin discusses a chamber study from last year possibly from the University of Florida, where their study showed that St. Johns County was missing diversification as well as how to push tourism to areas other than just the beaches which are already at capacity. Ms. Chapin would like everyone to have a copy of that. Mr. Van Rysdam concurs and requests that Mr. Zeits locate and distribute to the Board members this particular study. Ms. Chapin states that she has a copy of this report and can send to Mr. Zeits. There's brief discussion.

Chairs suggests that as a task for Ms. Chapin, he'd like her to share the undertaking of establishing a relationship (exploring a liaison) with some of the sports associations that are in our community. Mr. Watson will be working with Creeks/Villages. Ms. Chapin will work on the PVAA.

Public Comment: Mr. Jay Brown, president of Creeks Baseball Club, presents to discuss the current relationship with his group and the County/TDC. Mr. Brown discusses the per player fee and looks forward to the coming meeting with BCC. Mr. Brown is also in accord with a liaison to be established as earlier discussed. There is brief dialogue between the Board members and Mr. Brown.

Meeting adjourns at 4:53 p.m.