



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

JULY 18, 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
Bo Browne, Vice Chairman
Casey Van Rysdam
Bert Watson
Vijay Panneerselvam
Deb Chapin
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, Casey Ceman, Annika Foundation, Mr. Anthony Cutright, FL GA Pickleball Tournament representative.

Meeting is called to order at 3:05 pm with a quorum. Motion to approve June's Minutes by Mr. Watson with a second by Mr. Panneerselvam. Motion passes unanimously.

There is no public comment.

Chair briefly explains the new format of the Agenda. Chair informs that Commissioner Waldron and Ms. Andrews will be unable to attend today's meeting but would like it noted that this is the first meeting that our Commissioner has not attended since being appointed as the liaison to the RAB.

TDC Applications - Ms. Lindblad informs that both of these TDC Applications will be in the next fiscal year.

ANNIKA Invitational USA presented by Rolex
Jan. 16 – 20, 2020 / World Golf Village

Requesting: \$15,000.00
Received Last Year: \$8,000.00

Mr. Casey Cemen, Global Golf Director with the Annika Foundation, presents to the Board to discuss this application for funding recommendation as well as take questions from the Board members. Chair would like it noted that this event has fairly limited participation but feels that this is a good activity to support. Chair also states that their final reporting from last year's event was extensive adding that they followed up with what they had said they would accomplish. Mr. Van Rysdam remarks that this is a high profile event, appears to be both active and proactive on getting the word out, and is impressed with the marketing for this event. Vice Chair questions Mr. Cemen in regards to the marketing budget. Mr. Cemen explains in detail. There is brief discussion. Vice Chair motions to recommend \$10,000.00 for this event. Mr. Panneerselvam seconds the motion. There is no discussion and the motion passes unanimously.

Granted: \$10,000.00

The Florida Georgia Pickleball Classic

Oct. 29 – Nov. 3, 2019 / Treaty Park

Requesting: \$10,200.00
First Request

Ms. Lindblad briefly discusses the history of this group and this upcoming Tournament and states that the goal for this event is to grow the sport of Pickleball which will bring tourism to this County as shown by the success of Pickleball in other Counties. Mr. Anthony Cutright, Chairman of this group, is introduced. Mr. Cutright briefly discusses Pickleball and its effect on communities and remarks that it's been described as the "fastest growing sport". Mr. Cutright takes questions from Board members including, budgeting, sponsors and numbers from the application itself. Several items have been discussed in particular. There currently are 205 registered participants with 125 of them being local. Mr. Cutright informs that there will be no site fee for this event as had been mentioned in the narrative of his application. There is lengthy discussion including impact on park facilities and discussion on logistics. Mr. Van Rysdam would like to request a "post mortem" review in regards to how this event has impacted the facility. Chair agrees with this legitimate suggestion and further, would like to see this group explore the possibility in the future of possibly hosting this event at several different sites moving around the County. Chair feels this would be one way of expanding this tournament in the future. Mr. Zeits informs that there will be Parks Staff present at this coming event. Ms. Chapin feels that this event could have a huge economic impact to the County and agrees that in the future, this event could be held at several different sites throughout the County. In regards to the site fee – Mr. Zeits reiterates that those fees were not waived and rather, for first time large events, Parks prefers to host these events for the purpose of getting a feel for the impact of the event. There is further discussion including a logo/slogan discussion down the road. Vice Chair motions to recommend for funding, the amount of \$6,000.00. Mr. Watson seconds the motion. There is no discussion. All are in favor and the motion passes unanimously.

Granted: \$6,000.00

Ms. Lindblad informs that the St. Augustine Half Marathon TDC Application is on schedule to be presented at August's RAB meeting and the revised Application will be forwarded the Board members once received. The current application that had already been distributed to the members, should be discarded.

Mr. Bataille discusses several issues including the Budget Surplus discussion and the 5 Year plan presentation (set to be presented on August 6th tentatively) that is currently being worked on with staff. There are currently no estimates on any funding that could be coming to Parks and Recreation from the reported surplus. Furthermore, there likely will not be anything happening in terms of funding until after Hurricane Season. Ms. Chapin suggests to be more forward thinking such as bringing in ice sports to this County rather than being short sighted focusing on soccer and lacrosse, for example. There is lengthy discussion.

Mr. Van Rysdam discusses the Golf Course renovation project and timing of those renovations. Mr. Zeits discusses the scheduling of the timing of renovations to the Golf Course. There is brief discussion.

Mr. Bataille continues his report and updates the Board members on the Park Foundation project. There's brief discussion. Mr. Bataille also informs he's had the opportunity to meet and have conversations with some Park Organizations that have the potential of doing some major fundraising. Mr. Bataille reports that he's met with Mr. Sid Ansbacher, a local attorney, who has done a great deal of pro bono work of this type and he has offered his assistance if it's needed. There's brief discussion.

Mr. Zeits discusses Parks' new Field/Facility reservation software system and reports that approximately 75% of the Software system is working. A discussion begins on whether it will be possible to designate particular fields to be available only for open play for the public. It's stated it's possible but poses a challenge. Mr. Bataille feels this is a good idea and will look at this on the scheduling side. There is further discussion on this issue.

Mr. Zeits informs the Board that there's been a job opening posted internally with the County for Maintenance Superintendent. Mr. Van Rysdam discusses the TDC Sports Marketing budget that had been shared to the Members several weeks ago. Mr. Zeits and Ms. Lindblad discuss and explain the Carry Forward policy.

Ms. Chapin updates the Board members on the Mickler's Wharf Project which is a fishing wharf at the end of Canal Boulevard at Palm Valley landing which she informs is an historic site. There is a funding grant for this project with an expiration of August 1, 2019. Ms. Chapin states a recommendation letter to the BCC from this Board has not yet been sent to the BCC. Ms. Chapin discusses the project, the process and the issues with the ROW agreement (and ROW license that appears to be holding this project up) that she and her group are having with getting this project started. Several Board members offer suggestions on how to proceed after lengthy discussion. Mr. Bataille states that he will follow up on a previous email on this issue. Mr. Van Rysdam suggests to go to a BCC meeting and speak to this issue at that public meeting setting and feels that the RAB is the wrong audience. Chairman agrees and makes the final suggestion Ms. Chapin present this issue to the next BCC meeting while the County Administrator, the Commissioners and the County Attorney are present.

Meeting adjourns at 4.44 pm.