



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

OCTOBER 17, 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:

Bo Browne
Casey Van Rysdam
Jillian McNiff-Villemaire
Vijay Panneerselvam
Deb Chapin
Doug Bataille, Director of Parks and Recreation
Billy Zeits, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation
Commissioner Waldron, BOCC Liaison
Paul Abbatinuzzi, School Board Representative
Joanne Machula, Recording Secretary

Also present were: Jamie Baccari, Parks and Recreation Community Programs Manager, Teddy Meyer, Parks and Recreation Facilities Manager, David Canon, Maintenance Superintendent and Diane Gorski, Recreation Supervisor.

Meeting is called to order at 3:03 pm with a quorum by Vice Chair who will be presiding this month's meeting in Chair's absence. August's Minutes were approved unanimously. (September's meeting had been canceled).

There is no public comment.

Commissioner Waldron briefly discusses the Ron Parker Courts Resurfacing project currently in progress. Commissioner also informs the Board members that on 11/5 at approximately 1 pm during the BCC meeting, there will be a discussion on the \$15M surplus funds. Brief discussion follows.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jade Brown, President of the Creeks Baseball Club (CBC) presents to discuss proposing the renaming of Rivertown's Field #1 to Jessie Melcolm Field. Mr. Bataille discusses the County Policy and process and also reminds that this Board may only recommend and it is the BCC that would approve. Mr. Brown details a brief background of Jessie and her family's ties to the community as well as the CBC program itself. Mr. Brown makes the request to possibly have this recommendation placed on the BCC's Agenda in November 2019. There is lengthy discussion. The RAB members would like to recommend that this issue move forward to the BCC but does remind that it is up to the BCC for the final decision on whether or not to approve this field naming request. Mr. Van Rysdam brings two motions to the table: 1) - for staff to revisit naming policy County wide to include future sponsorship potential and 2) – This Board recommends the renaming of Rivertown Field #1 to Jessie Melcolm Field and will recommend this renaming to the BCC. Mr. Panneerselvam seconds the motion. Motion passes. Commissioner Waldron will work towards getting this on the Consent Agenda so that the sign may be placed by November 14th. 4 Yes votes. 1 No vote. Motion passes with the majority.

Mr. Zeits discusses and distributes copies of the Proposed Draft List of Priorities and reiterates that this listing is a Draft document at this time that lists proposed items and could be modified in the near future. The list is detailed and explained by Mr. Zeits. Mr. Bataille further states that the common denominator with several of the proposed projects on this listing is that they're all in some phase of design which makes them closer to "shovel ready" than other ideas. In addition, there's already

been money spent in designing them which makes them a higher priority. There are different price points with different projects as well. Also mentioned is the possibility of joint projects with the Library. Lengthy discussion follows. An upcoming meeting is mentioned with the Office of Management and Business with regards to this subject. Mr. Zeits questions whether that after this Friday meeting, if there is a list or presentation that will be going to the BCC when it's finalized, would it be possible to be sent to the RAB members for review. Commissioner Waldron replies that this is acceptable but keep in mind that any comments by the RAB members must be sent to Mr. Zeits on a one on one basis and not a "reply to all". Commissioner Waldron requests and encourages the attendance of the RAB members to be present at the November 5th meeting.

Project Updates

Mr. Meyer discusses the recent 3 FIND (Waterway Access) Grants awarded St. Johns County for FY20. There is brief discussion.

Mr. Meyer also discusses the FY20 SJC Parks and Recreation Construction Project Updates which includes Ron Parker court resurfacing, Plantation sports lighting and Gamble Rogers sports lighting. There is also brief discussion on the Citizens for Ron Parker Group and its progress.

Ms. Baccari discusses Alpine Groves Farm House and informs that we are currently in construction phase with this project. Jamie details the project which has been funded through a Grant and through the County CIP Program. There is brief discussion and Jamie takes questions from the Board members. Mr. Van Rysdam remarks that he would like to see increased community awareness on this great jewel of a park through all of St. Johns County.

Ms. Baccari discusses the Beluthahatchee Park Pole Barn renovations, addition of handicapped parking and educational signage installation. This is the final project on this property which had been the residence of Stetson Kennedy. Ms. Baccari also informs that the Stetson Kennedy Foundation was worked with on this project as well. Brief discussion follows.

Staff Reports

Mr. Bataille introduces Parks and Recreation's new Maintenance Superintendent, Mr. David Cañon, to the RAB. Mr. Cañon discusses upcoming plans and reorganization within the Department. There's brief discussion and Mr. Cañon takes some questions from Board Members.

Mr. Bataille discusses his work on the Parks Foundation and advises that he will be sending out, via email, a schedule of the upcoming Park Foundations workshops to be held. The current dates would be Wednesday, December 11th and Thursday, December 12th.

Commissioner is asked about Beach Parking and where it stands. Commissioner states that although Beach Parking has been approved, it has not yet been implemented.

Mr. Van Rysdam questions on progress of the Golf Course. Mr. Bataille informs that as of now, we are working through the legal end in terms of the contract. The Developer and the County Attorney's office are working together and hopefully will be going to the Board soon for approval.

Mr. Abbatinuzzi discusses the school district and remarks that they're through the first quarter already. All fall sports are moving along. At this time, there is a 4.9% growth with no signs of slowing down. Brief discussion follows.

Board Member Reports

Mr. Van Rysdam reports that he, Sydney Lindblad and Mr. Zeits will be meeting with the TDC next week in regards to the partnership between the TDC and the Recreation Advisory Board and recreation activity. Mr. Van Rysdam reports on what will be discussed at this coming meeting and advises that he will report back to this Board.

Vice Chair talks about the Old Fire Station across from Alpine Groves Park and its current status and questions who is responsible for this building. Ms. Baccari briefly details this Fire House's history and background for the members and informs that Real Estate manages this property and that there is currently a Real Estate contract to sign the property over to William Bartram Scenic Highway who would like to fundraise and get the property back in shape. There is lengthy discussion.

Vice Chair talks to the issue of the structure of next month's meeting in which the 9 RAB applicants will be presenting before this Board vying for the 2 positions that will be left open in November. Vice Chair reminds Board members to review all of the applications prior to the November's meeting. There is brief discussion. It's unanimously decided that the applicants will be emailed several questions for them to reflect upon in preparation for answering at November's meeting. Secretary will provide the draft of these questions to Chair/Vice Chair and upon final approval, those questions will be emailed to the applicants. It's suggested that Ms. Lundquist be conferred with to discuss the appropriate handling of a current Board member who wishes to request to remain in their position on the Board. Secretary will contact Ms. Lundquist for this information and will provide an update. Vice Chair suggests requesting Ms. Lundquist to step into the meeting briefly to update the members on this process.

Ms. Chapin presents a video on the recent Mickler's Wharf project and invites members to view. Commissioner Waldron requests Ms. Chapin to send that video to him and Ms. Chapin confirms that she will forward the video. Ms. Chapin briefly explains different portions of the video being shown. Ms. Chapin states that this project is very close to being done and the purpose of this video is to show the progress being made. Ms. Chapin states that everybody in the community is excited about it. Ms. Chapin states that this area is a right of way and she is of the opinion, after Mr. Bataille visited the site and after speaking with the County, that this right of way is going to be turned over to Parks and Recreation and that this will become a Parks and Rec access at zero cost to the County. Ms. Chapin details the challenging issues she had faced with this project.

Ms. Chapin also suggests that in the near future, as an RAB meeting, to tour some of the County's Parks around the County to go from Park to Park to view the things that are being improved and also the things that we are in need of, as a group via a minivan or bus.

Meeting adjourned at 5 pm.