



## RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES - April 10, 2024

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 and confirmed that all 7 RAB members were in attendance: Lauren Watkins, Chair, Brad Long, Vice Chair, Casey Van Rysdam, Bill Bowen, Hal Dockins, Marty McEachean and Marithza Ross.

Also in attendance: Commissioner Christian Whitehurst and David Simpkins, School District Liaison.

Parks and Recreation Staff in attendance: Ryan Kane, Director, Jamie Baccari, Assistant Director, Carrie Miska, Tess Simpson, Teddy Meyer, Bobby McFarland and Diane Gorski.

A motion by Dockins to approve the March 13, 2024 meeting minutes as amended was seconded by McEachean and approved 7/0.

### **Public Comments**

Suzanne Clulow, St. Johns County resident, commended Kane for his Regional Parks presentation during the April 2<sup>nd</sup> BCC meeting and thanked the staff for their hard work, the RAB for their support, and the commissioners for approving the projects. She also expressed support for the Shores Boulevard Property Application (via LAMP board). She shared her appreciation of the new website and mentioned ease of access to the information that is available to the public.

### **Reports**

Commissioner Whitehurst thanked the RAB members for their support at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> BCC meeting. He also commented on the importance of public input and stated that he was pleased that so many people were present to show their support. He shared that public support was the main reason the Regional Parks projects were approved. Whitehurst explained that the location for the Florida Museum of Black History was being vetted by a state appointed task force and staff. He mentioned that there has been heavy presence by the BCC and other community leaders in Tallahassee hoping to encourage them to choose St. Augustine. He reminded everyone that St. Augustine played a major role in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. The Florida Department of State Division of Historical Resources is meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9 am – 1 pm in Tallahassee to Vote on the Top Three Museum Locations and discuss next steps. He said that St. Johns County is hopeful that it will be named one of the top three.

David Simpkins, St. Johns County School District Liaison announced the David Mathis Student-Athlete Pursuing Victory with Honor Award – 2024 winners. He also recognized the Girl's 2023/2024 Winter State Athletic Champions:

- Bartram Trail High School
  - Large Varsity Competitive Cheer Team
  - Girl's Wrestling – Individual State Champion Katherine Stewart
- Creekside High School Girls' Soccer
- Ponte Vedra High School Girls' Soccer

Dockins asked for an update on public access to the High School running tracks and Simpkins said that this would be discussed at the next School Board meeting and he will provide an update at the May meeting.

Simpkins announced that the Spring Sports Playoffs will be at the end of April for Baseball, Beach Volleyball, Flag Football, Lacrosse, Softball, tennis, Track & Field, Boys Volleyball and Boys weightlifting.

Watkins congratulated staff on the success of the Regional Parks presentation and thanked the BCC and RAB for their participation and continued support of the Parks and Recreation Department.

Kane introduced staff members Brian James, Community Programming Supervisor, Stephen Lightfoot, Community Programming Supervisor and Lauren Trice, Administrative Assistant who provided an overview of their responsibilities and highlights of their work for the department.

### **Sports Event Funding Cat III Recreation & Leisure Sport Marketing Grant Application Revisions**

Meyer reviewed the new TDT portal process for the CAT III Grants. He explained that the RAB needed to finalize the questions today in order to meet the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. He referenced the inclusion of the solutions provided to each RAB members concerns via email on Tuesday April 2<sup>nd</sup>. He then asked McFarland to present the changes to Questions 6 & 7 as requested by the RAB at last month's meeting. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the weight of the Community Impact Question 6. The question was clarified that it was meant for impact outside of the actual event. There was a consensus of the RAB to combine Time/Talent and assign it 5 points for each and 10 points if completing both and to change Treasure to 5 points. If there is no contribution of time, talent or money given to the community outside of the event no points will be awarded. McFarland explained that the online portal questions will be reviewed annually and questions as well as the points assigned can be changed if necessary. There was a consensus of the RAB to approve Questions 6 & 7 as presented. McFarland will make the necessary edits and enter the final version into the online portal. He stated that the review panel will include, Meyer, McFarland, VCB employee and a RAB member assigned by the Chair no later than the June 12<sup>th</sup>. The RAB panel member will change after Phase 1 and Phase 2 grant application cycles have been completed. He explained that the RAB members will have viewing capabilities once the grant applications have been submitted and the submittal window is closed. He said that the RAB will receive a spreadsheet with the scores and qualified grant amount. He reviewed the Consent Agenda option that was included in the Agenda Packet giving clarification that questions can be asked and that there is some flexibility with the grant allocation process. Upon completion of this process the grant awards will be recommended by the RAB and sent to the TDC for finalization. McFarland noted that the Grantee request cannot exceed the cost of site fees, direct event marketing materials, and 10% of admin cost or \$30,000. There was a consensus of the RAB to approve the Consent Agenda option. Bobby announced that the TDT CAT III Grants Committee will meet on August 6, 2024 from 1-4 pm and everyone will be notified once the location is confirmed.

### **Staff Reports**

**Director Kane** provided updates on the following items. There was a brief discussion following each item.

- The Board of County Commissioners unanimously voted authorize the County Administrator to move forward with an estimated \$123 million plan to construct five regional parks and community centers that include library space.
- The TDT Category III & 5 Annual Budget
- Player fees collected in FY23
- The Parks and Recreation section of the Comprehensive Plan
- The Disc Golf Course designer has been tasked to provide a design that does not exceed \$700,000.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Update for Capital Improvement Projects
- He explained that Administrator confirms that facility rentals are first come, first served.
- The grand opening for the MLK/Canright House relocation is tentatively scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup>.

Kane thanked the RAB members for their continued support. He stated that the FY25 Budget/CIP requests would be presented at the May meeting.

**Assistant Director Baccari** provided updates on the following items:

- Enjoy, Don't Destroy Anti-Vandalism Campaign
- Numbers for the Summer Camp Lottery with clarification that Solomon Calhoun, Flagler Estates and WE Harris Community Centers are not included in the lottery as they cater to the community directly.
- Easter Egg Hunt wrap up
- Success of the "Trolls" Movie in the Park at Treaty Park

**RAB Member Reports**

Long shared that the Park Foundation has added two new members and is looking for a new Director. He said that the new Board spent 2-1/2 hours discussing ways to advance the Parks Foundation and that they are working on revising their Strategic Plan.

Bowen congratulated staff on obtaining approval from the BCC for the Regional Parks. He shared that his appreciation of fellow RAB members who showed up to support the Parks and Recreation Department at the April 2<sup>nd</sup> BCC meeting.

With no further business to discuss, Watkins called for a motion to adjourn. Bowen made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by McEachan and approved 7/0.