



RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 PM and roll call was taken by the Chair.

Present: Lauren Watkins, Chair, Brad Long, Vice Chair, Bill Bowen, Harold Dockins, Marty McEachern

Also present: Commissioner Christian Whitehurst, Assistant County Administrator Sarah Taylor, Director Ryan Kane, Teddy Meyer, Recreation Facilities Manager, Carrie Miska, Business Manager, Bobby McFarland, Sports Tourism Coordinator, Diane Gorski, Project Specialist.

Approval of the September minutes was moved to the November meeting.

Chair opened the floor for Public Comments and there were none.

Lauren Watkins, Chair said that she would be on vacation in November and unable to attend the meeting. She reminded everyone that the January meeting would be held in the Auditorium for the purpose of reviewing the TDC CAT III Grant Application requests and that a quorum is required. Watkins mentioned that the post-event TDC economic impact would have to be gathered by recreation staff. Kane replied that Bobby McFarland was gathering data from other municipalities to see how they track after event impacts. McFarland said that he would be providing information and options for grant funding at either the November or December meeting for consideration by the RAB. The goal is to have a policy in place for next year that will allow the RAB to make grant funding awards based on real impacts.

Carrie Miska, Business Manager reviewed the year end data included in the FY23 Strategic Dashboard. She provided a summary that complimented the data provided. There was a lengthy discussion relating to how data is collected, what metrics are used and what modifications should be made.

Watkins mentioned the vacant RAB seat. Kane explained that the position expired in February so the person chosen would only be seated until February. He said that finding someone to serve for such a short time would be a challenge, but that the BCC could waive the term requirement to allow for the chosen applicant to serve out the end of the current term in addition to the upcoming 4-year term. Commissioner Whitehurst said that he would make a motion to waive the requirement and allow the chosen applicant to serve out the rest of the open term and the new 4-year term. Taylor concurred that this has happened in the past. Kane reviewed the timeline for filling the open district seat.

Kane introduced the new Beach Operations Manager. Perez shared her experience working as volunteer and lifeguard on St. Augustine Beach since she was 15 years old and provided her education and background. She reviewed the beach toll statistics for September and FY23. She clarified that the revenues were down due to weather events and beach renourishment closures. Kane said that he beach team is responsible for maintaining 42 miles of beach. He explained that the Beaches Division was working to do away with cash collections at the beach toll booths and accept credit cards. He said that it will probably take 2 more seasons to get it into place.

Kane shared that School District Liaison David Simpkins met with the Athletic Directors and they are open to changing the summer open play time to 4-6 p.m. Kane stated the BCC voted to stop development of the Tortuga Beach walkover but to keep the property. He reminded everyone that the annual Park Foundation funding request was on

the October 17 consent agenda. He mentioned that the Foundation was working on acquiring some properties. Long shared the upcoming Park Foundation meet and greet dates.

Bowen asked for a disc golf course update. Kane said he would be able to provide an update next meeting.

Kane reviewed the Impact Fees collected throughout the County for Parks and Recreation and the effect the bonding of four regional parks will have on the availability of dollars since fund collected they will be used to make the bond payments.

Providing an affordable rental space for the Foundation and fee waivers for parks and recreation facilities was further discussed at Long's request. Watkins asked for a Foundation presentation in December to provide current projects and goals and to demonstrate the need for affordable space and fee waivers.

Motion to adjourn by Bowen, seconded by Long. Motion passed 5/0.

Parks & Recreation

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