

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

February 2, 2022

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh 5/5
Maria Greenberg 5/5
Don McCormick 3/5
Kay Tvaroch 5/5
Debra Anlauf 5/5
Erick Toth 5/5
Vacant – District 1

Present

William Dryburgh
Kay Tvaroch
Debra Anlauf
Erick Toth
Maria Greenberg

Absent

Don McCormick

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manger
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Residents of Rotonda West -
voicing concerns on additional
pickleball courts in West County

Chairman William Dryburgh welcomed members, staff, and visitors to the meeting.

- Roll Call
- Minutes
Motion to approve the 2022 January Minutes made by Erick Toth, Debra Anlauf 2nd and was unanimously approved.
- Division Reports – January 2022

- Old Business
 - **Vacancy Update**– Tommy Scott updated on the vacancies in Community Services stating as of Friday, January 28th there were 101 openings, 71 in Recreation and 15 in Parks and Natural Resources and 10 full time positions still remain open.

- New Business

- I. **CAPRA Reaccreditation** – Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager informed the Board that we were recently notified by commission that a virtual accreditation team will be here May 2nd - May 6th, due to the Covid status they will not be coming in person. Our team has worked very hard, more so over the last nine months but we do and continue to live CAPRA every day. Our standards have been finalized and we are ready and excited to submit on February 11th.

Tommy Scott added that the CAPRA is about standards of our businesses and applying them on a daily basis and our team lives it.

- II. **2022 Fee Schedule** – Tommy Scott passed around the Community Services Department Fee Schedule and explained as part of our accreditation, even if there are not any recommendations it is still presented to the Advisory Board and to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for review. If there are no changes or fee adjustments, then it is signed off on.

Commissioner Doherty suggested that on page 11 under Athletic Fields, may be an opportunity to speak with Administration about adding Tennis/Pickleball court.

Motion to change “Outdoor Tennis Court” to “Outdoor Tennis/Pickleball Court” on Page 11 under Rental Type 7: Athletics, and accept the 2022 Fee Schedule as is made by Maria Greenberg, Erick Toth 2nd and was unanimously approved.

- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth
 - Went over the meeting schedule for 2022
 - Went through the concession stand inspections with all the clubs
 - Reviewed the by-law changes and insurance policy updates
 - Did field and facility questions for all clubs
 - Reviewed field reservations for Snowbird Classic with the baseball clubs
 - Spoke to youth clubs of employment opportunities within the county and asked that they cascade that to their membership
- Member Issues
 - Commissioner Doherty announced that Maria Greenberg has filled the At Large member opening, and now looking to fill District 1.
 - William Dryburgh informed the board of an issue that a Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Punta Gorda has brought to the attention of the City of Punta Gorda, stating every time the Charlotte County Event Center has a major event they close off public

access to Harborwalk and people come through their property making a mess of the parking lot. What they would like the city/county to do is build a dedicated sidewalk that people could use to get to Harborwalk.

- William Dryburgh discussed the need for a parking garage at the Event Center. Parking is a premium in the area and more events continue to create challenges. This garage could also serve as a covered walkway into the Event Center. He intends to send a letter to the County Commission to reconsider funding of the parking garage.

Tommy Scott replied he will bring both of Mr. Dryburgh's concerns to the attention of Administration.

- Directors Report

- Tommy Scott announced the Snowbird Classic has 60+ teams signed up this year, so we will have division 1 and 3 teams staying in Charlotte County for 45 days for the event to be held February 18 – March 27.
- Tommy Scott updated the board on Spring Training stating the Major League Baseball owners locked out the players in December. We are in consent communication with the Rays for any updates. No agreement has been reached and the start of Spring Training is in jeopardy, however Community Services is prepared and ready to fill our obligations should we hear an agreement has been reached for a start date.
- Tommy Scott thanked the board for their hard work and support of the community and offered them to pick out a Columbia Jersey on their way out of today's meeting.

- Citizens Input

A group of residents from Rotonda West were present at the meeting to voice their desire for additional Pickleball courts in West County. Todd Williams, Scott Pochowski, Darla Mapes and Melinda Duncan all Rotonda residents were just a few of the residents that spoke at the meeting representing the group. They stated the sport of pickleball is fast growing and not just in Florida, but all over the US and there is high demand for more courts to accommodate the players in Charlotte County, specifically West County.

There is an ongoing issue with there being no dedicated pickleball courts only combined courts with tennis at Rotonda Community Park. Some other concerns voiced were the overlap of striping on the combined courts being confusing to both pickleball and tennis players, the pickleball lines being hard to see because color matching in with the courts, and the sharing of the courts has been both frustrating and a hassle as well due to the volume of people showing up to play. A suggestion was made of designated days or times might solve the issue.

Tommy Scott thanked the group for coming and assured them he understands their concerns. Tommy stated since he started with the County nine years ago, they have gone from 0 to 86 blended pickleball courts. We work with the Board and our standard practice is blended courts which allows us the most use of the limited resources we have, we try to provide as many opportunities to people as possible. We have also lined all our indoor facilities for pickleball providing 18 indoor courts.

We currently have three projects under way for designated pickleball courts which will be 8 at South County Regional Park, 4 standalone pickleball courts at G.C. Herring Park and additional courts at the William R. Gaines Jr. Veteran Memorial Park as well. With these dedicated court additions to our current blended courts, we are making great strides to meet the needs of everyone, we have a plan in place and are working towards it.

William Dryburgh and the board agreed the group's concerns were reasonable, and that Tommy Scott and his staff will look into all concerns and discuss possible solutions.

Commissioner Doherty asked that Tommy get with County Administration to update the Board on pickleball. This would allow them to see the impacts on the Countywide Parks & Recreation Master Plan and the Capital Improvement Plan.

- Announcement
None
- Adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

CC: Commissioner Ken Doherty, District 1
Commissioner Chris Constance, District 2
Commissioner Bill Truex, District 3
Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch, District 4
Commissioner Joe Tiseo, District 5
Hector Flores, County Administrator
Emily Lewis, Deputy County Administrator

