

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

May 4, 2022

Board Attendance Record

William Dryburgh 7/8
Maria Greenberg 7/8
Don McCormick 6/8
Kay Tvaroch 8/8
Debra Anlauf 8/8
Erick Toth 8/8
Vacant – District 1

Present

William Dryburgh
Maria Greenberg
Don McCormick
Kay Tvaroch
Debra Anlauf
Erick Toth

Absent

County Representatives

Ken Doherty, Commission Liaison
Tommy Scott, Director of Community Services
Maureen Broderick, Recreation Manager
Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manger
Mike Koenig, Resource Manager
Erin Murphy, Recreation Superintendent
Leah Williams, Community Services Coordinator
Kathy Koroschetz, Administrative Assistant

Guests

Residents – Rotonda West
and Englewood

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

- Roll Call
- Minutes
Motion to approve the 2022 March Minutes made by Don McCormick and Maria Greenberg 2nd and was unanimously approved.

- Division Reports – March 2022

- Tommy Scott, Director Community Services pointed out that Parks & Natural Resources has added their report to the Division Reports section going forward so everyone can see what is going on with Tina Powell's team.

- Old Business

- Vacancies – Tommy Scott gave an update on vacancies stating overall there are 109 vacancies within Community Services with Recreation at 72 and 47 of those being Lifeguards and remainder are recreation specialist and maintenance. Parks and Natural Resources are at 18.

We have put forth a recommendation to administration to make some additional modifications to our pool operations due to this crisis mode we are in with lifeguard staffing at pools. We have closed facilities and reduced hours as well as modifying some programs being offered to limit staff needed.

Recently we reduced our capacity for camp by 50% with the concern we would not have enough staffing, so people were put on a wait list. A hiring event was held 2 weeks ago and we made 12 offers for camp staff positions.

We will be sending a narrative report through administration and bringing it to the BCC (Board of County Commissioners) this summer requesting to condense, combine and convert seasonal and part-time positions into full-time positions. Mr. Scott said his goal is to bring this report to the next PRAB meeting to review.

- Maria Greenberg asked where are most of the applicants are hearing of the openings? Mr. Scott replied most are seeing openings on our website, social media, and marketing.

- New Business

- I. The PCB shoreline presentation by CEC – Tommy Scott introduced Michael Poff, President of the Coastal Engineering Consultants Inc to give a presentation on the Port Charlotte Beach shoreline. Mr. Poff explained a study was done 13 years ago for Charlotte County on the dredging and filling of the channel for navigation issues, not so much on the shoreline because it was stable, so that conclusion was the county was doing the least cost alternative by doing small maintenance projects and it was recommended the sand be moved to the east side of the pier as far from the channel as possible.

Fast forward to today and a significant portion of the beach that has been lost over the past 12 years. There is an extensive Seagrass bed on the near shore which precludes us from filling, adding sand and reclaiming that land without potentially impacting the seagrass beds.

Mr. Poff went through the dredging history, changes going on to the shoreline and the channel and offered alternatives for consideration to the board to discuss.

- II. **Summer Camp Update** – Erin Murphy, Recreation Superintendent and Leah Williams, Community Services Coordinator updated the Board on Summer Camp, stating camp will run for 10 weeks from May 31st to August 9th, it is offered to children ages 4-13 at the Ann & Chuck Dever Regional Park (ACDRP), Centennial Park (CP), Port Charlotte Beach Park (PCB) and South County Regional Park (SCRCP). Total number of registered participants for all locations for 2022 is currently 2,039 in 2021 total registered was 2,262.

In 2022 we were able to offer scholarships to 7 families for 14 different children for a total of \$5,355.00.

Ms. Murphy agreed with the earlier discussion that staffing is an ongoing issue and stated there are reduced capacities at our locations due to the challenges, but we are continuing to hire and hoping to expand the capacities at most locations soon.

Field trips will be offered again this year along with special programs and guest speakers. These include Stealth Mobile Laser Tag, Hammer and Stain, Bricks for Kidz, Do The Happy Bounce, and Bisque It Studios. The guest speakers will include Charlotte County Libraries, Charlotte County Historical Division, Drug Free Charlotte County, Drug Free Punta Gorda, Florida Department of Health, UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program, Charlotte County 4H, Charlotte County Fire/EMS, and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

Registration began on March 21st and was available until each session was filled. We are currently filled with a wait list at each location.

- Sports Council Update – Erick Toth
 - Went over field fatigue and welcomed recent rain with some of the fields being dry.
 - Went over maintenance and projects on several fields so during play we rotate the teams and difference clubs around staying out of the way of maintenance projects.
 - Went over youth activities coming up including tournaments and events such has the popular Easter Egg Hunt.
 - Went through field requests and addressed filling the county employee positions.

- Member Issues
 - William Dryburgh suggested moving the parking garage at the Event Center back to a Tier 2 project due to the Care Ball had 671 people show up and the parking situation was a disaster.

 - Tommy Scott replied the county is reviewing a parking garage as part of its 20-year Capitol Needs Assessment.

- Directors Report
 - Tommy Scott thanked everyone that came to the kickoff for CAPRA. Tommy also asked everyone to stop on their way out to pick up a long sleeve T-shirt that says "Save The Road to Phoenix" which is where the national CAPRA conference will be held this year.

Mr. Scott gave an update on the Silver Sneakers inquiry several months back stating the Silver Sneakers Agency has gotten back to us and informed us it only allows so many locations in a geographical area and Charlotte County is in excess of what they are supposed to have, but the agency now has us in their radar and will consider us as a potential location if a vacancy becomes available.

- Citizens Input

Scott Pochowski, Resident of Rotonda West spoke on behalf of the residents' concerns of Pickleball issues brought up at the February PRAB (Parks and Recreation Advisory Board) meeting. Mr. Pochowski voiced concerns of the pickleball lines on the court being faint and extremely hard to see and that there isn't enough contrast between the line color and the court color. Mr. Pochowski said that the residents would ultimately like to see more courts installed in Rotonda, and if built next to the current tennis courts there would be no need for another cage for the nets which would cut down on replacing nets.

Tina Powell, Parks & Natural Resources Manger replied to the concerns by stating we currently have a PO issued to have all pickleball court lines repainted to light blue and Rotonda is our first priority. We are working on it and trying to get an update for the schedule date.

- Announcement
None
- Adjourned at 2:10 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