

Brevard County Parks and Recreation South Area Advisory Board

POW/MIA Community Center
5995 North US Highway 1
Melbourne, Florida 32940

Monday, April 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM

A regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South Area Advisory Board (SAAB), was conducted on Monday, April 18, 2022, at 6:00 PM in accordance with safety precautions and social distancing guidelines due to the corona virus epidemic.

Members Present

Mary Goelz, Chairperson
Roger Hardin, Vice Chairperson
Theresa Barger
Kimberly Scalise
Marcia Booth

Members Absent

Nick Galluzzi

Staff Present

Richard Tucci South Area Operations Manager
Jerry Gust, Maintenance Superintendent
Marsha Blizzard, Administrative Secretary

Public

None Present

Meeting Call to Order

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited then the meeting was called to order by Mary Goelz at 6:00 p.m. Five (5) members were present and one was absent. It was noted that the board did have a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Mary Goelz inquired if SAAB members had the opportunity to look over the minutes for the regular meeting on December 13. Motion was made by Mary Goelz to accept the minutes as submitted; Roger Hardin seconded and the motion unanimously passed.

Public Input

There were no comments from the Public.

Staff Reports

Recreation - Staff report was summarized by Richard Tucci, South Area Operations Manager.

- South Beach Community Center is hosting Florida's East Coast Sea Glass Club with guest speaker on Wednesday, April 20 and First Friday Food Truck with "Perfect Tuesday" Band, Friday, May 6
- South Mainland Community Center holding Pet Adoption Event April 30
- Rodes Park Community Center hosting recreation and league volleyball
- Viera Regional Community Center adult men's basketball league plays six teams each on Monday and Wednesday nights.
- Erna Nixon Park held Moonlight Stroll event on Saturday, February 12.
- Persons with Disabilities will host a Lunch Brunch at Rodes Park Community Center on April 21
- Long Point Campground has 147 out of 177 sites booked and an Egg Hunt scheduled this weekend on Scout Island
- Wickham Park Campground has 132 out of 133 sites booked April 16
- Sarno has bookings at all their sites for the Easter Holiday
- Focused on Summer Camp starting in June for Teen, Disability and Erna Nixon Park Nature Camps and the four Community Centers

Struggling to get staff hired. About 90 vacancies throughout the county with 25 in South Area. Considering lowering the hiring age to 16 and cap attendance to sixty at Viera and Rodes Park Community Centers.

Marcia Booth inquired about the staff schedule for camp and Mary Goelz mentioned advertising with Brevard County schools, but stated it's up to the Principals to post the openings.

Richard explained the process of sending out internal applications, doing interviews and sending the potential staff to AUE for processing.

Maintenance – Jerry Gust, Maintenance Superintendent

- Completed Projects
 - New materials storage bins built at Flutie
 - Additional speed bumps installed at Rodes Park
 - Large invasive plant removal project at Erna Nixon Park
 - Demolished old caretaker house at Lake Washington and built a small enclosure to house video surveillance equipment

- Constructed, painted and installed six (6) new pavilion signs for Suntree Rotary Park pavilions
- Completed six (6) crossovers. Three each at North and South Beaches; rebuilds, repairs and handrails
- On-going Projects
 - Installing Musco athletic field lights on multi-purpose fields 1, 2, and 5 at Viera Regional Park - Completion May, 2022
 - Long Point Ranger Station and enclosed maintenance building at permitting and engineering stage
 - Received City of Melbourne approval. Working with other agencies on the Wickham Park Disabilities building
 - Permitting and engineering for Wickham Park Campground restrooms
 - Roof being completed on Billie's at Spessard Holland North
 - Canova Dog Park restroom and sidewalk
 - Hoover soccer field renovations
 - South Beach pickleball courts
 - Lake Washington seawall in permitting
 - Rodes Park futsal field in user groups hands to comply with A and E and permitting
 - Six (6) more crossovers identified for rebuilds or repairs and handrails to begin October 1, 2022. Three (3) in each area
 - New playground for South Beach Community Center installation this summer
 - New playground and shade structure for Suntree Rotary playground summer installation

June 1 is the start of hurricane season. Having big issues with supply chains and filling vacancies. We've been understaffed for two and half years, which is a loss of 600 to 700 hundred work hours per week due to shortages. This doesn't include Recreation, Long Point or Wickham Park campgrounds. This has increased staff injuries and burnout. We have increased our marketing by posting 4' by 8' banners in the parks for jobs available.

Charles Hardin inquired on how the budget is being affected by higher costs and materials.

Jerry Gust, "We are seeing 20 to 40 percent increase. Having issues with finance. Bids go out and before we get approval, they expire and the costs go up in the interim then finance refuses the new rate."

Charles Hardin, "Are taxes affected by the rising costs?"

Richard Tucci, "No, short term increase would most likely not lead to tax changes."

Jerry Gust, "We've had to adapt by prioritizing projects and move the budget to address current work."

Richard Tucci, "Long Point worked with Road and Bridge, Sherriff's work crew and Natural Resources to complete cutting back three feet of mangroves on both sides of the park entrance. Probably become an annual project. Dave Moore is working to become an arborist."

Marcia Booth, "What are you doing about invasive species?"

Jerry Gust, "Contracting out in bad locations."

Marcia Booth, "What about using volunteers?"

Jerry Gust, "The issue with volunteers is we're using backhoes, chain saws, etc. Would have to check about using volunteers in certain areas to help, but the Director has denied previous help due to liability."

Old Business

Mary Goelz wanted to know the status of the following:

Pump Track at South Beach. Theresa Barger, "Getting another survey."

Space Coast United Soccer Club Futsal Field at Viera Regional Park. Richard Tucci, "Not given us any more information. Probably a summer thing due to Spring season. Tabled for another three or four weeks."

Space Coast Elite Lacrosse Throwing wall at Viera Regional Park. Richard Tucci, "They haven't followed up."

New Business

Richard Tucci assumed leadership over meeting to hold annual member elections. Opened elections for Chairperson.

Charles Harden, "Mary does a good job. I'd like to nominate Mary Goelz."

Theresa Barger, "Second the motion."

Mary accepted the nomination.

Richard Tucci, "All in favor." None opposed. Mary Goelz nominated as Chairperson of South Area Advisory Board.

Mary Goelz first nominated Charles Roger Harden for South Area Advisory Board Vice Chairperson.

Roger offered to turn over title to someone else. Theresa Barger said she'd like it to stay as is. Marcia Booth seconded the nomination of Charles Hardin to remain Vice Chairperson. Richard Tucci, "All in favor?" Motion passed unanimously.

Other

Richard Tucci opened a discussion regarding future South Area Advisory Board meetings. At the last Commissioners' meeting, Tobias proposed the dissolution of the South and Central Advisory Boards and leave North area as is. The current proposal would be a single Board made up of District 4, Cocoa West and the nine South Area advisory Board members, meeting four times a year and during work hours. There was discussion on how the Boards would be represented; would all Members be present to vote or would there a representative? Richard would let the members know if there was a decision made by the Commissioners or put back on the agenda for future votes.

Adjournment

With no new business, a motion was made by Mary Goelz to adjourn the meeting and Marcia Booth seconded the motion. All in favor, motion passed.

Next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 20, 2022

Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 PM