

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation held on Thursday, January 12, 2023 in the Brevard Room located at the Brevard County Government Complex-North, 400 South Street, Titusville, Florida 32780.

Members Present

Arnold Benson, Chair
Randy Rodriguez, Vice Chair
Bianca Alaimo
Koren Odermann
Andrew Connors
William Klein
Jane Cline
Amelia Robinson

City of Titusville Elected Officials

No one present

Brevard County Parks & Recreation

Jeff Davis, Jr., North Area Manager
Clifford Lett, Recreation Superintendent
Melissa Renninger, Administrative Secretary

Members Absent

Willie Taylor

Brevard County District 1 Commission Office

No one present

I. Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance:

Mr. Benson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Mr. Davis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call:

Motion requested by Mr. Benson to excuse the absences. Motion by Koren Odermann, seconded by Bill Klein to excuse the members absent.

AYE: 7

NAY: Connors

Motion carried 7-1

II. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Randy Rodriguez, seconded by Bill Klein accepted and moved by all.

AYE: All

NAY: None

Carried 8-0

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III. Reports

A. Miscellaneous Reports & Updates

Mr. Davis reported that on November 15, 2022 Commissioner Pritchett re-appointed Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Benson to serve on the North Brevard Commission on Parks and Recreation (NBCPR). Their terms expire December 31, 2024.

The Election of Officers for the NBCPR was held:

Motion by Jane Cline, seconded by Randy Rodriguez to elect Arnold Benson as the Chair to the NBCPR. The motion was accepted and moved by all.

AYE: All

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

Motion by Jane Cline, seconded by Amelia Robinson, to elect Randy Rodriguez as the Vice Chair to the NBCPR. The motion was accepted and moved by all.

AYE: All

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

Mr. Davis announced regular meetings with Commissioner Pritchett in advance of the NBCPR's quarterly meetings will begin again. The meetings will take place on the Monday preceding the regularly scheduled NBCPR meeting and will be held at the Commission Office.

B. Chairman's Report on Meetings

No report.

C. Advisory Board Members

Benson: All Parks in assigned area look good. There was a lot of dead/fallen tree debris after the freeze which was cleaned up right away. Little League was down for the Holiday Season but Football was quite active.

There are new regulations regarding insurance requirements coming out of the County's Risk Management Office. It is recommended to start the permitting process for events extra early in order to learn the new requirements and to comply with the guidelines. In addition, Recreation Partners, should be notified of the new requirements.

Alaimo: There was some debris after the freeze but everything looks beautiful now.

Cline: No update on assigned Parks. The monthly maintenance reports very detailed and much appreciated.

Connors: There was a great Christmas Parade held in downtown Titusville and the attendance was amazing. Parks in assigned area look great with a lot of people enjoying them. It's time to get excited about upcoming summer camps. With approximately one hundred fifty youth benefitting from swim lessons through the partnership with the YMCA; he is looking to secure additional funding this year in hopes to double that number.

Klein: Has not seen any problems in assigned Parks due to the freeze. The ponds at the Chain of Lakes are getting full of plants and would like to explore removing them mechanically rather than using herbicides. Wuesthoff Park looks quite good and is a nice place to walk in the woods. There is a problem at Parrish Park-Titusville with people camping. Unsure of Park boundaries. Police presence may be needed. Jeff Davis advised a meeting was held with the City of Titusville and the Titusville Police Department (TPD). There is an issue of enforcing trespass in that area due to the lack of an appeal process. Anticipating an update on the appeal process by April 2023.

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Robinson: Parks in assigned area look great. The Gibson cafeteria and kitchen area smell like gas. Jeff Davis advised that Park Maintenance is aware of the pilot light going out and they are working to resolve the issue. The Gibson gym exterior sign is all faded and requests a new sign. The Gibson library and cafeteria bathrooms still do not have doors on the handicap stalls. Jeff Davis advised that one of the tenants, Jaqueline Reason, is applying for grants to help with some upgrades which would include the restrooms. Parks would need to approve any improvements. The Cuyler gym air conditioning may not be working. Jeff Davis advised that sometimes it is turned off manually and others may not be aware.

Odermann: Concerned with the homeless population at Space View. Concerns over derelict vessels along the shore at Sandpoint Park were expressed. Staff advised there is a contract in place to assist with the removal. Concerns of homeless population camping under bridge were noted. Jeff Davis stated that the County is aware and is working on the process to eliminate the problem.

D. City of Titusville: absent, no report.

E. North Area Parks Operations Staff

Clifford Lett, Recreation Superintendent reported:

Port St. John Community Center started Dancing Little Stars program for three to six-year-olds with ten to fifteen members. There is also a hands-on kitchen program to teach youth about nutrition with ten youth registered.

Port St. John's football program is doing great. There were two Superbowl Champions and the Titusville Terriers had a National Champion. There are quite a few youth participating in these programs.

Walter Butler Community Center (WBCC) and Cuyler have active basketball leagues. WBCC has one hundred twenty-five youth registered and Cuyler has one hundred fifteen youth registered.

There is also Pickleball at both WBCC and Cuyler being utilized almost daily.

The Persons with Disabilities Program (PWD) did not have a homesite in the past but staff is looking into using one of the buildings at Cuyler. The program is doing really well with a lot of participants coming from the Central Area to utilize this program.

Harry T. Moore & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Complex continues to provide tours and approximately one hundred and twenty-five were in attendance for the Memorial Service.

Isaac Campbell has a ballroom dancing group of approximately ten to fifteen participants meeting on the weekends.

Manatee Hammock Campground is always full including tent sites with a continuous revenue stream.

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Jeff Davis reported:

The yearly Recreation Partner meeting will be scheduled for early spring. We will review rules and concerns with background screening but we also use this opportunity to thank them for providing a service that our Department could not do without them. North Area has a phenomenal volunteer base and team of staff to make these programs and services a success.

The fees at Manatee Hammock Campground are going up. There were about fifty to seventy people that showed up at the Board of County Commissioners meeting to express their concern. Fees at this location have not been increased since the early 2000s and are now at a more competitive rate. Mr. Klein has noticed National Park fees have increased as well.

IV. Presentations and/or Recreation Partner Reports:

Fred Howell representing Starlings Youth Volleyball provided information supporting his application to become a Recreation Partner utilizing WBCC. His program of mostly females has been providing this opportunity for approximately twenty-five years. This program provides an environment for young females who may not otherwise have the opportunity to train at a competitive level. Fees are established at rate to ensure they can play and there are currently approximately thirty-five participants.

Motion by Koren Odermann, seconded by Andrew Connors, to approve a Recreation Partner with Starlings. The motion was accepted and moved by all.

AYE: All

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

VI. Old Business:

The meeting time has been established by the new ordinance. If the agenda looks to be lengthy we have the discretion to start the meeting earlier but it must conclude by 5:00 p.m. The consensus of the NBCPR Board was to keep the standard meeting start time as 4:00 p.m. and adjust as needed.

VII. New Business: No new business.

VIII. Public Comment:

Mark Webber requests a dog park be added to Stuart Park. The dog park at Marina Park is crowded with the influx of new residents. Stuart Park has a couple athletic sites (baseball and basketball) that he feels are underutilized. He feels there is plenty of space at this location to add a dog park that could serve patrons from Mims to Port St. John. Jeff Davis stated this a great idea, much needed and has been requested by others. There is a lot of vandalism in the Park and more people in park could help alleviate that. This is a City owned Park and will need to be reviewed by them.

Kevin Rosa expressed his concerns about campers at Parrish Park – Titusville. Over the Christmas weekend he witnessed about fifteen vehicles making a circle (like a wagon circle) and were telling park patrons they couldn't walk through their campsite. He doesn't see the problem going away. New signage is not helping. Mr. Rosa pondered the amount of money that would go back into the community if they were paying for legitimate camping sites. Mr. Rosa asked about the launch rule? –

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is overnight camping allowed for launches. Mr. Rosa also asked about overnight fishing – if you sit in a chair with a fishing rod are you fishing or camping? He sees the same issues at Kennedy Point Park and Marina Park. He suggested just keeping boat ramps open and closing the rest of the parks off at night. He also stated revenue is being lost if fishing licenses are not acquired. Jeff Davis reiterated that he had met with the City of Titusville and TPD who will develop an appeal process in order to enforce trespassing. Mr. Davis advised Mr. Rosa to call TPD for any law violations witnessed.

Mr. Rosa asked what happens after dark? He noted racing and explicit activities going on.

He also stated that the shade structures at Marina Park look beautiful but there are a gaggle of junk chairs in the way of dogs playing fetch. Mr. Davis offered to speak with Mr. Rosa directly about his concerns.

Mark Bailey is new to the community and is a windsurfer. People are not just camping but they are living at Parrish Park-Titusville. He has witnessed destruction of shoreline vegetation from patrons backing trailers right up to the shore adding to erosion. Mr. Bailey ended by thanking staff for all of the work we do.

Motion requested by Mr. Benson to adjourn. Motion made by William Klein, seconded by Jane Cline, The motion was accepted and moved by all.

AYE: All

NAY: None Carried 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm

Public present: 3

Public comment cards: 3

Members present 8

Staff present: 3

City staff: 0 Total: 17

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Arnold Benson, Chair