

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES

Minutes of the regular meeting held on Thursday, October 12, 2023 in the Brevard Room located at the 518 South Palm Street, Titusville, Florida 32780.

Members Present

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

City of Titusville Elected Officials

Dan Diesel, Mayor

Brevard County Parks & Recreation

Jeff Davis, Jr., North Area Manager
Melissa Renninger, Administrative Secretary

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. Quorum was noted. Invocation given by Mr. Benson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. Approval of Minutes: Motion by Randy Rodriguez, seconded by Amelia Robinson; accepted and moved by all.

II. Reports

A. Miscellaneous Reports & Updates

Mr. Davis reported that Jane Cline's position has not been filled since her retirement from the School Board. Willie Taylor has been removed from this advisory board per the guidelines of Ordinance 2022-13. Mr. Benson reminded members present that any appointee who is absent half of the scheduled meetings in a calendar year shall be dismissed from their appointment.

B. Chairman's Report on Meetings

There was not a briefing with the Commissioner prior to this meeting.

C. Advisory Board Members:

Andrew Connors: Mr. Connors reported that his assigned parks look great. He has frequented the soccer fields at Chain of Lakes and they look amazing even with all of the rain. The Beer Fest held at Sand Point was a great success through multiple community partnerships. Mr. Connors has been working with the Chamber to create a nonprofit round table to address homelessness and anticipates the first meeting to be held in January.

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES

Amelia Robinson: Ms. Robinson visited her assigned parks (Gibson, Cuyler, Blanton, Campbell). She has created a list of concerns regarding Gibson and Cuyler. Blanton needs a little work. The citizens that utilize Campbell are requesting the pavilion and restrooms be updated. Jeff reported the skylights in gazebo were leaking and funds have been allocated. The City of Titusville has hired a grant person who will provide information helpful to the seniors applying for a grant.

Randy Rodriguez: Mr. Rodriguez reported the parks in Port St. John were looking real good and appreciated staff for keeping up with maintenance with the volume of the rain we have had. The road connecting the fields at Space Coast Communities Sports Complex is looking nice and happy to see the septic has been fixed.

Bill Klein: Mr. Klein reported that Manatee Hammock looks good and shows new growth coming in. Mr. Klein enjoyed visiting the new exercise equipment at Wuesthoff Park and the trail has been cleaned out looking really good. He did note that the restrooms were closed. Mr. Davis will notify Parks Maintenance. Chain of Lakes is doing good. Mr. Klein noted the County has been working on cleaning up lake but have run into equipment issues. Over one ton of water hyacinths have been removed and it is anticipated at least that much more will be removed. Mr. Klein noted the Parrish Park – Titusville parking area is fenced and now patrons are parking on south side where the land has washed out.

Koren Odermann: Ms. Odermann reported her assigned parks look well. She frequents the dog park at Marina often. She has enjoyed hiking at Fox Lake – even with some flooding from the rain, patrons are still hiking. Ms. Odermann noted a decrease of people in transition in the parks in the downtown parks and the parks along the river.

Arnold Benson: Mr. Benson visited Hatbill, Six Mile Creek, Scottsmoor Landing and Mims Boat Launch and noted some fisherman enjoying the parks. Mr. Benson expressed his appreciation to our maintenance staff for their upkeep of our parks.

D. City of Titusville: Mayor Diesel reported there is a great gathering of community at the Gibson Complex and Fields between the recreation partner's use (youth sports usage) and Titusville High hosting home games there. National Night Out at Titus Landing was a fun community event enjoyed by many residents. The Mayor stated he was pleased to see the Live Local Act (in response to the housing crisis) has come down from the State. Each municipality is enacting their initiative in different ways but basically the State is providing financial incentives for Developers. Inclusion Area Housing is also a new concept where Developers can be mandated to include a portion of the development as affordable housing based on the total number of units.

E. North Area Parks Operations Staff

Mr. Davis announced David Celli has been promoted from Parks Supervisor II to Parks Supervisor III. David will be responsible for Manatee Hammock Campground (operations and staff) amongst other responsibilities.

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES

Our office is moving from Williams Avenue to a suite in the Senior Center. Our deadline to vacate Williams Avenue is October 30th.

III. Presentations and/or Recreation Partner Reports: LaWanda, the Assistant Director at Shining Stars (lessee @ Gibson) spoke for Melissa Anderson the owner of Shining Stars. They are a learning center and childcare center for children anywhere from 6 weeks old to 12 years old. Currently there are 130 children and 15 staff. Shining Stars has partnered with Brevard County for approximately 10 years.

Patricia Hickman Barber, Principal for the Life Center Academy (lessee @ Gibson) spoke next. They manage the community hours of the gym (after school and on weekends). They have 85 students currently enrolled; a music teacher, a physical education teacher, 9 academic teachers for classes that have 9 or 10 students in each class. Ms. Barber shared their community involvement with events such as trunk or treat, back to school, thanksgiving dinner for people in transition, summer camp in partnership with a tutoring company, partner with UCF to help youth move ahead or catch up FLBS courses, and they offer several basketball programs. The Life Center has leased property at Gibson for 12 years. Ms. Barber shared that their students have maintained and made gains compared to prior to covid. They provide small classes and structure. The Life Center has an Apple lab that they obtained through a grant. They serve K4-8th grade and have five 9th graders. Ms. Barber summarized by offering they help get these youth ready for the public school system.

Patricia Skanes is requesting to play pickleball at an indoor facility at the Gibson gymnasium and feels she has been led through several hoops and is under the impression Ms. Barber does not want pickleball at the gym. Ms. Skanes is concerned that with the Life Center as a lease holder why are they approving a request from a citizen for use of a county facility. Ms. Robinson asked for copies of the leases to get a better understanding of who manages what. Mr. Rodriguez helped explain the nuance and legalities of a lease to help everyone understand that the lease holders had management authority and responsibilities. All parties were able to come to an amicable agreement after discussion

IV. OLD business: Mr. Davis reviewed previous maintenance issues at Gibson, Nicol, and the PSJ Boat Ramp and confirmed they have all been addressed. Mr. Davis informed the advisory board that the Derelict Vessel program for any boats at parks is managed through Natural Resources and they do have funding available at this time.

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES

V. New Business: Mr. Davis reported the Homer Powell Building at Wuesthoff Park is being torn down and replaced with a new pavilion in early spring.

A. Maintenance responsibilities for the BMX Track at Marina Park was discussed. After review of the contract, it was confirmed maintenance responsibilities fall under the City of Titusville.

B. The parking plan at Blanton will include a designated area for law enforcement but the project is still in the planning phase.

VI. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Arnold Benson, Chair