

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation held on Thursday, April 13, 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
Koren Odermann
Andrew Connors
William Klein
Jane Cline
Amelia Robinson

City of Titusville Elected Officials

Joe Robinson, Vice Mayor

Brevard County Parks & Recreation

Jeff Davis, Jr., North Area Manager
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. Robinson, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call:

Motion by Koren Odermann, second by Randy Rodriguez to excuse the members absent.

AYE: 8

NAY: 0

Motion carried 8-1

II. Approval of Minutes:

Motion by William Kline to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2023 meeting, second by Randy Rodriguez.

AYE: 8

NAY: 0

Motion Carried 8-0

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III. Reports

A. Miscellaneous Reports & Updates

No reports.

B. Chairman's Report on Meetings

Mr. Benson was pleased to report that regular briefings with Commissioner Pritchett have begun again. The Commissioner supports the mission of this Advisory Board.

C. Advisory Board Members

Amelia Robinson: Intermittent issues with the air conditioning at Cuyler Park were noted. Mr. Davis acknowledged the system is old and does work but is not efficient.

Ms. Robinson inquired to the status of the Gibson Gymnasium sign. Mr. Davis advised it is scheduled to be painted and that he would obtain a status from the maintenance team. Ms. Robinson inquired to the status of the doors to the restrooms in the cafeteria and library area. Mr. Davis shared that the Progressive Action Society is researching grants and has contacted the North Brevard Economic Development Zone. This grant could help with funding for items such as the doors. Ms. Robinson stated that oversight of the grant would be required to ensure accountability of the funds.

Bianca Alaimo: Ms. Alaimo stated that Manzo Park looks great. Everything is clean and up to date. She also stated that the Sandfit Community Center awning looks great and provides much needed shade. She noted that park patrons are enjoying the pool tables and that the after-school program is going well.

Ms. Alaimo noted that Rotary Park has a lot of trash and grocery carts and is looking unkempt.

Ms. Alaimo did not see any egregious graffiti at Stuart Park but that the basketball netting needs updated. She also noticed the port-a-let is very dirty.

Andrew Connors: Mr. Connors noted that all of his assigned parks look great. The only recommendation would be to oil the swing sets. Mr. Davis will notify our certified playground inspectors.

Randy Rodriguez: Mr. Rodriguez stated the parks in Port St. John look great. He loves the new paint at Nicol Park. Mr. Rodriguez noted how busy Nicol Park and the Port St. John Boat Ramp are for launches and recommended having a port-a-let on site at these times.

Mr. Rodriguez recommends lighting be added along the road being constructed from the soccer complex to the baseball complex at Space Coast Communities Sports Complex (SCCSC). Mr. Davis advised there is funding in next year's budget for lighting and to upgrade the fields to meet regulation standards.

Arnold Benson: Mr. Benson was able to visit Holder Park and it is in very good shape.

William Klein: Mr. Klein noted that his assigned parks and fields are in good shape. Mr. Kelin is concerned about the water hyacinth at Chain of Lakes. He contacted Raleigh Berry with the Office

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of Natural Resources and was informed that mechanical removal of the hyacinth is scheduled for June.

Mr. Klein is very concerned with the continued erosion at Parrish Park – Titusville as there is nothing in place to protect the shoreline. He spoke with many patrons distressed that they won't be able to use the park this summer. He has personally tested the water quality near Parrish Park and Sandpoint and has not seen any improvement for years. Mr. Klein is concerned for the safety of park patrons that use these parks for water activities. He also noted that the erosion and increased fees for Playalinda Beach has increased the use of our Parks.

Koren Odermann: Ms. Odermann also stated concerns over access to Parrish Park – Titusville for pedestrians. She observed jet skis using vegetated areas to launch since access to the shoreline is not available.

Ms. Odermann noted several boats abandoned along banks of Marina and Sandpoint Parks and one at end of the bridge. Mr. Davis advised that he will direct staff to coordinate with the Derelict Vessel program.

Ms. Odermann is also concerned about the continual homeless population at Space View and Veterans Memorial Parks.

Jane Cline: No report.

D. City of Titusville: Vice Mayor Robinson attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Diesel. Mr. Robinson shared data from a report prepared by Brevard County on projects completed to enhance the quality of the Indian River Lagoon. The report sited the City of Titusville took the lead with eleven projects completed. The Brevard Zoo was second in completing the most projects. Mr. Robinson noted that the City, City Hall and the community are putting forth a lot of effort to improve the health of the lagoon. He also noted there have been several new businesses coming to the City of Titusville. He offered thanks to this Board and the County for providing a place for citizens to go for enjoyment.

E. North Area Parks Operations Staff

Mr. Davis reviewed the monthly maintenance report and the recreation activity report with the Board.

IV. Presentations and/or Recreation Partner Reports:

No presentation.

VI. Old Business:

- A. Trespass and Appeal Process: Mr. Davis advised that the City of Titusville has approved the trespass process. Mr. Davis is hopeful the new process will help to eradicate undesirable activities in our parks.
- B. Stuart Park Dog Park - Mr. Davis advised that funding has been budgeted for a dog park area to be added to Stuart Park. The enhanced area will attract more patrons to the park and help reduce negative activity that has taken place in the past

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VII. New Business: Andrew Connors discussed youth partaking in activities at park facilities and what happens when behavioral issues arise. Discussion ensued on the importance of providing training and resources to staff; finding social service programs to partner with; the importance of finding the root cause (hunger, homeless) and to have a parent/guardian connection; and of utmost importance is supporting both youth and their family through mentorship in order to guide them for future success.

Randy Rodriguez requested the Parks and Recreation Department help with trash cans, mowing and ant killer for the Thunder Over the Indian River event to be held on July 1st.

Motion by Randy Rodriguez to obtain support from Parks and Recreation for the Thunder Over the Indian River event on July 1st, second by Andrew Connors.

AYE: 8

NAY: 0

Motion Carried 8-0

VIII. Public Comment:

Stan Johnson discussed sewage spills in the City of Titusville.

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: 8

NAY: 0

Motion Carried 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Public present: 2

Public comment cards: 2

Members present 9

Staff present: 2

City staff: 0 Total: 15

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Arnold Benson, Chair