

April 18, 2007

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Naples, Florida, April 18, 2007

LET IT BE REMEMBERED, that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, in and for the County of Collier, having conducted business herein, met on this date at 2:00 P.M., at the North Collier Regional Park in the Administration Building in Naples, Florida, with the following members present:

CHAIRMAN: John P. Ribes
Vice Chairman: Edward "Ski" Olesky
Beth Barth (Absent)
Frank Donohue
Timothy Toole
Kerry Geroy

ALSO PRESENT: Barry Williams - Director, Parks & Recreation
Tony Ruberto, Sr. Project Manager
Tona Nelson - Sr. Administrative Assistant
Susana Capasso, Operations Coordinator

- A) **The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Ribes at 2:00 P.M. A quorum was established.**
- B) **The Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was given by Chairman John Ribes.**
- C) **Approval of Agenda**
Under "New Business," include request from Dr. Mayland as Item 8.

Mr. Olesky moved to approve the Agenda as amended. Seconded by Mr. Donohue. Carried unanimously 4-0.

D) **Approval of March 21, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Olesky moved to approve the March 21, 2007 meeting minutes. Seconded by Mr. Donohue. Carried unanimously 4-0.

Approval of March 21, 2007 Joint Meeting Minutes

Mr. Olesky moved to approve the March 21, 2007 Joint Meeting minutes. Seconded by Ms. Geroy. Carried unanimously 4-0.

(Mr. Toole joined the meeting at 2:10 PM.)

E) **New Business**

1. Director's Highlights

Mr. Williams stated as follows:

- Lower property taxes may reduce the ability of Collier County to provide services
- User fees could keep level of service the same
- Keewaydin Island shuttle project was denied by the Collier County Board of County Commissioners
- Cocohatchee River Marina operations will be resumed and run by Parks and Recreation
- Collier County is trying to acquire parcels for parking at Bayview Park. It will be a place for people to launch their boats

2. Employee Recognition - Barry Williams and John Ribes

Mr. Williams recognized Commissioner Fiala's attendance at the meeting. Mr. Williams introduced Denise Lee and congratulated her for using CPR to revive a patron who had a heart attack. The gentleman was actually brought back to life through their efforts. Ms. Lee was presented with a plaque commending her work. Edna Snyder participated in the rescue. (See below)

3. John MacDougall Resignation/Advertised Vacancy - Barry Williams

- There are three applications and they will be addressed at next month's meeting

4. Correspondence from Board Member - Beth Barth

Item will be tabled until Ms. Barth is present.

5. Bayshore Gateway CRA Request for Neighborhood Park - Amanda Townsend

Item will be tabled temporarily.

6. Volunteer Coordinator Position - Barry Williams

Mr. Williams introduced Meryl Rorer as the new Volunteer Coordinator.

7. County Picnic - Kerry Runyon

Ms. Runyon, Regional Manager, North Collier Regional Park, spoke regarding the County picnic:

- Collier County employees are invited to a picnic April 28, 2007 5:15 to 7:30 PM at Sun-Fun Lagoon

8. Request by Dr. David Maylen

Dr. Mayland expressed desire to do a fund-raiser for the benefit of St. Matthew's House.

- Suggested a baseball competition
- North Collier Regional Park would be an ideal location
- Would like to do before school is out
- Concerns are: the short time to organize, plan needs more definition, may not be able to accomplish by May. February or March might be a better time.

F. Old Business

Manatee Park - George Fogg

George Fogg, Landscape Architect, gave a slide presentation regarding development of Manatee Park as follows:

- Surveys have been taken of local groups to determine what types of activities they would like to have in this area
- Master Plan was done and primarily focused on organized sports, competitive ball fields
- A great deal of concern was expressed by residents as to whether Manatee Park consisting of 60 acres of land should be used for organized sports or whether there might be some other type of park that might be more appropriate given the interests of the people around the park
- Commissioner Fiala had a survey done of the people in the general area which indicated the residents did not want organized sports or model airplane flying

- Features included in the proposed plan included a dog park, butterfly park, fishing, walking trails, bike trails, boardwalk, maintenance area and administrative area
- Park was designed to fit the needs of the people who live in the area

Commissioner Fiala stated the park was unique, for the over 55 crowd and grandchildren, being a nice passive park.

Discussion ensued as follows:

- Future changes in the composition of the area had been taken into consideration in designing the park
- More ball fields could be put in near schools,
- Joint use of school fields could be considered in order to increase number of ball fields
- Opposition was strong to organized sports and ball fields

Commissioner Fiala stated East Naples Community Park area residents have been begging for soccer fields, soccer field has been built and more are needed. There are five Little League fields already in the vicinity of Manatee Park and there are three other parks in the area with organized ball fields. Little League fields need to be more equally distributed. Commissioner Fiala stated the aviation club might be able to use 20 acres of land right off of US 41 East beyond 951; there is a developer behind Falling Waters and Verona Walk with 20 acres he cannot use and the land could be donated to Collier County. Manatee Park area residents want sidewalks and streetlights put in.

Public Comments:

Joe Bowen, Quail Roost, stated he likes the park design and is concerned about traffic and safety.

Joanne Bowen, Quail Roost, stated concerns about lighting and traffic.
Pat Connor requested a fitness center.

Elizabeth Pozenski, Quail Roost, stated traffic from Roost Road would have a big impact on Quail Roost residents.

Committee Discussion

Mr. Donohue stated the plan is commendable, supports the needs of the local community, but the access problem must be solved before he will support the plan.

Mr. Olesky stated Collier County needs a park but believes the park should have baseball fields.

Mr. Toole stated overriding needs of entire County need to be satisfied, not just those of local residents near the park; he would like to see some baseball fields and some open space. Access road is not Collier County's issue but should be addressed by the appropriate entities during the permitting process, especially as it relates to emergency services.

Ms. Geroy stated she likes park's concept, but believes demographics are changing in Collier County. Access is not a Parks and Recreation issue but needs to be addressed by appropriate entity. Needs of the entire County should be considered as demographics change.

Mr. Ribes stated it is important to be responsive to the people in the area. Mr. Ribes favors more baseball fields, possibly in other areas. The Roadway is Parks and Recreation's issue, Parks and Recreation needs to know that there is safe accessibility by vehicle to the park.

Mr. Ribes moved to approve the plan conceptually with the qualifications that along the process we are assured of two things, that active ball fields are being addressed in locations other than Manatee Park and that the access road to Manatee Park is going to be adequate and approved by the Collier County Department of Transportation, and we accommodate the aviation model plane flying. Seconded by Ms. Geroy. Carried 4-1 with Mr. Olesky opposed.

Break - 4:00 PM

Reconvened - 4:15 PM)

Edna Snyder was presented with a plaque commending her efforts in reviving a patron who had a heart attack.

G. Recreation Highlight

Country Jam - Annie Alvarez and Christina Apkarian

Ms. Alvarez and Ms. Apkarian gave a slide presentation showing the highlights of Country Jam.

- Country Jam was a great success
- A new venue is needed for next year
- Country Jam was held on March 9-10, 2007 at Vineyards Community Park
- Some activities at Country Jam included music, petting zoo, pony rides, games, carnival rides, food and crafts
- Performers included Katrina Elam, Joe Nichols, John Anderson, and Josh Turner
- There were 10,000 people in attendance
- Little Miss Country Jam contest for participants five to ten years of age had 28 participants with 2,500 people present

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- Chili cook-off included 20 teams, qualified for world championship with local and outside participants
- Challenge is to find site with adequate parking, fair grounds are being considered

H. Capital Project Highlight - Tony Ruberto
Presentation on North Collier Regional Park Fourth Slide/Fifth Slide
Mr. Ruberto gave a slide presentation regarding North Collier Regional Park Fourth Slide/Fifth Slide.

- End of the fourth slide is being completed by contractor
- Fourth slide required modification to the supports
- Fifth slide is set to be build in 2008 and 2009

I. Information Items

- BCC Recaps (See attached)
- Attendance Report (See attached)
- Adopt-A-Park Assignments (See attached)
- Recreation Activities (See attached)

Meeting Schedule - The next meeting will be held on May 16, 2007

J. Adopt-A-Park (none available for April)

K. Public Comments

None

There being no further business for the good of the County, the meeting was adjourned by order of the Chair at 4:30 PM.

COLLIER COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD



Chairman John P. Ribes

These Minutes approved by the Board/Committee on 5.16.07, as presented X or as amended _____.