



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CENTRAL AREA PARKS OPERATIONS  
District 2 Merritt Island/Beaches Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
May 18, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

**Members Present**

Cathy Jarrell  
Jack Masson  
Mary Jane Nail, Chair  
Janice Scott, Vice-Chair  
Ralph Williams, III

**Members Not Present**

Phil Barnes  
Debby Gauntlett

**Staff Present**

Terry Lane, Central Area Parks Operations Manager  
Fred Ameigh, Central Area Maintenance Superintendent  
Courtney Kellem, Central Area Recreation Superintendent  
Denise Hayes, Central Area Parks Operations Administrative Secretary

**Others Present**

Christopher LaBonte, Special Olympics Coordinator for Brevard County  
Nancy Watkins, Central Area Parks Operation Persons with Disabilities Program Coordinator

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Nail called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**II. Approval of February 16, 2022 Minutes**

**Ms. Scott made a motion to approve the February 16, 2022 minutes. Mr. Masson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

**III. Old Business**

**Financial Report - Terry Lane, Area Parks Operations Manager**

Mr. Lane stated that 50% of Fund 1020 had been expended. He noted that Salaries and Benefits is a labor distribution and done at the end of the fiscal year with money transferred with the General Fund.

Mr. Lane stated Recreation had to establish lower anticipated numbers for summer camp participants because there is a staffing shortage. He further stated that there has to be 1 staff to every 15 camp participants, and without enough staff a cap had to be placed on the

number of participants allowed to register until Recreation is able to find more summer camp staff to hire.

Mr. Lane stated that the pay rate for summer camp staff had been increased to encourage applicants to apply.

Mr. Masson stated that the lower pay rate hinders County hiring permanent staff because other municipalities and companies are offering higher pay rates.

Mr. Lane informed the Board that the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on May 3<sup>rd</sup> voted to increase County staff's salaries by 5.3% or \$1.00 whichever is greater for the next fiscal year.

**Attendance and Programs Report – Courtney Kellem, Recreation Superintendent**

Ms. Kellem stated that summer camp registration began May 2<sup>nd</sup>. She further stated that participant caps were being placed at Woody Simpson Park and Kiwanis Island Park camps until County staff can get more summer staff hired.

Ms. Kellem stated that summer camp would run for 11 weeks from May 27<sup>th</sup> through August 9<sup>th</sup> at a cost of \$91.10 per week or \$30.37 a day, and that discounts were available to those who live in the neighborhood strategy area, and those that receive free or reduced lunches at school.

Ms. Kellem stated that Nature Camp would be held at the Rotary Park Nature Center will be offered June 6<sup>th</sup> through June 10<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup> through July 15<sup>th</sup> for children who have completed grades 3 through 5; June 20<sup>th</sup> through June 24<sup>th</sup> for children who have completed grades 6 through 8; and July 25<sup>th</sup> through July 29<sup>th</sup> for children who have completed kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. She further stated that a teen service camp would be available from July 5<sup>th</sup> through July 8<sup>th</sup> for teens to earn volunteer hours at a cost of \$45.55 for the week.

Ms. Kellem stated that the Food Truck Festival and Movies in the Park was held at Mitchell Ellington Park on May 6<sup>th</sup>, and that the next event would be at Kiwanis Island Park on Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ms. Kellem noted that Woody Simpson Park Community Center was offering late night basketball for teens beginning May 21<sup>st</sup> and running throughout the summer on Saturdays from 7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., and late night pickleball throughout the summer beginning May 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Ms. Scott asked about senior programs at any of the community centers.

Ms. Kellem stated that Woody Simpson Park Community Center had a senior program through Aging Matters, and if Ms. Scott was interested she could provide the attendance to her at the next meeting.

Mr. Masson asked how is staff determining who gets to register for summer camp if there is only a limited number of spots available.

Ms. Kellem stated it would be first come first serve unless the participants are in the neighborhood strategy areas, and they go on a list or are invited to attend a camp that may not be full.

**Parks Maintenance Report - Fred Ameigh - Parks Maintenance Superintendent**

Mr. Ameigh stated that all the new composite signs for Mitchell Ellington, Osteen, Rotary, and Robert Murkshe Parks have been installed, and the signs for Kelly Parks East and West are being installed within the next few weeks.

Mr. Ameigh stated he was waiting on start dates for the playground company for the installation of the new playgrounds at Rotary Park and Veteran's Memorial Park.

Mr. Ameigh stated that Robert Murkshe and Cherie Down Parks were getting new shower towers.

Ms. Scott asked why maintenance wasn't changing out the pads for the shower towers so they would drain better.

Mr. Ameigh stated that staff was only replacing the shower towers.

Ms. Scott asked what the status of construction was at Lori Wilson Park.

Mr. Ameigh stated that all of the boardwalks were completed, as well as the pavilions along the boardwalk, the benches had not yet been installed, but that he expected them to be installed soon. He further stated that the installation of the new restroom building on the south side of the Park would be in the next phase of construction.

Mr. Masson asked why the new signs in the Mansfield Maritime Hammock hadn't been installed yet, being that this Board approved the naming over a year ago.

Ms. Scott stated that she had a discussion with Mary Ellen Donner, Director of Parks and Recreation regarding what the signs should look like and what they would be made of.

Mrs. Nail stated that she felt all the questions regarding the status of the construction progress at Lori Wilson Park should be directed to the director of Tourism Development Office (TDO), not to Parks staff, as staff is following the direction of TDO.

**Mr. Masson made a motion for staff to ask the District 2 Commission Office requesting the status on the signage and installation, and completion of the interior boardwalk at the Mansfield Maritime Hammock in Lori Wilson Park. Ms. Scott seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Lane explained he would send the Board's motion to Mary Ellen Donner, Parks and Recreation Director, Fritz VanVolkenburgh, Chief of Staff for County Commission District 2, and Peter Cranis, Tourism Department Office Director for their action.

**IV. New Business**

Mr. Lane introduced Mr. Chris LaBonte, Sports Director/Coordinator for Brevard County Special Olympics.

Mr. LaBonte stated Special Olympics was entering into a Recreation Partner Agreement to give the 700 to 780 athletes registered in Brevard County a place to practice, and hold competitions for a variety of sports at multiple sports complexes located in Brevard County parks.

Mr. Lane stated that they would be entering into a Recreation Partner Agreements with all three Brevard County Park areas: Central, North, and South.

### **Budget Update FY 22/23 /Projects Update**

Mr. Lane distributed a list of the Capital Improvement Projects for the fiscal budget year 22/23.

Mr. Lane stated that included on the list were the following:

- Playground equipment replacement for Veteran’s Memorial Park.
- Kelly Park East new restroom building built next to the boat ramps with monies from the Brevard Boaters Improvements Program (BBIP); converting the current restroom building from septic to sewer, and building a new pavilion with Beach and Riverfront Funding.
- Manatee Cove and Rotary Park septic to sewer connections are in the design phase.
- MILA Lassie Little League dugout renovations.
- Kiwanis Island Park restroom renovations next to the tennis courts.
- Rotary Park playground replacement.
- Woody Simpson Voice Activated Fire Alarm System is scheduled for next fiscal year.
- Outdoor exercise equipment at Veteran’s Memorial Park is being budgeted for next fiscal year.
- Playground shade structures for Kelly East & West.
- Playground shade structures at Mitchell Ellington Park.
- Audubon, and Tropical Elementary School sport complexes, and Kiwanis Island Park softball fields is to receive new field fencing in the next fiscal year.
- MILA baseball field #2 is to receive new fencing in the next fiscal year.

Mr. Lane distributed an example of potential ADA life trail for people who are more limited in their physical abilities, and typical exercise equipment for the Board to look at that could be installed at Veteran’s Memorial Park. Mr. Lane stated that it might be possible to make an area multi-functional for ADA use and typical use with a shade structure over the entire area.

Mr. Lane explained that the Brevard County Board of County Commissioner voted yesterday, May 17, 2022 to consolidate the Cocoa West Recreation Complex Advisory Committee, the District 2 Merritt Island/Beaches Recreation Advisory Board, and the South Area Advisory Boards into a newly created South/Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He further stated that there would be 18 members including the 7 members of this Board, the 5 members of the Cocoa West Advisory Committee, and the 6 members of the South Area Advisory Board. He further explained that all the meetings would be held at the Viera Government Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mr. Lane provided the Board the draft Resolution for their reference.

**V. Public Input**

There was no public present.

**VI. Adjournment**

**Ms. Scott made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Masson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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Signature line for Chair Mary Jane Nail