

The South/Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

Viera Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building C. 3rd Floor, Room 313-Florida Room
Viera, FL. 32940

Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

A regular scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department, South / Central Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, was conducted on Tuesday, January 7 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 286.26, F.S., persons needing accommodations or an interpreter for these minutes, should notify Marsha Blizzard, with South Area Parks and Recreation, via email at Marsha.Blizzard@brevardfl.gov.

Members Present

Nick Galluzzi
Betty Wells
Roger Hardin
Mary Jane Nail
Janice Scott

Members Absent

Lertis Brothers
Ralph Williams

Staff Present

Ian Golden, Parks and Recreation Director
Richard Tucci, South Area Operations Manager
Terry Lane, Central Area Operations Manager
Marsha Blizzard, Administrative Secretary

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Roger Hardin at 2:09pm. Five (5) members were present and three (3) were absent. It was noted that the board did have a quorum.

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Roger Hardin, Chair.

Approval of Minutes

Chair, Roger Hardin made a motion to accept minutes as written. Seconded by member Nick Galluzzi. All members accepted motion. Minutes from rescheduled October 15, 2024, meeting were approved, unanimously.

Public Comment

Sharon Mann-Mother of Connor Mann

Connor Mann-Presented proposal for Eagle Scout project at Viera Regional Park to build a 14-foot by 50-foot concrete bounce back wall with a 60-foot by 36-foot fencing around the area. The wall would be open for use by all sports teams and public.

Members appreciated the all-use option and inquired about donations. Project assisted by Space Coast Lacrosse with link for donations at SpaceCoastLacrosse.org.

Mr. Tucci informed Conner of some requirements, including permitting and approval by Brevard County, Saint John's River Management and The Viera Company. Engineer drawings would be a requirement too. The deadline for project was set for October 2025, prior to Connor's 18th birthday. Mr. Tucci provided contact information for Mike Butcher, Construction Manager for a possible alternate project due to timeline.

Board Member Reports

No board member reports

Standing Committee Reports

No Committee reports

Old Business

Member, Mary Jane Nail led additional discussion regarding a person(s) non-requirement to identify themselves or representative during Public Comment. Informed the board she challenged this during the last commissioners meeting and was informed by the county attorney they were not aware of this directive. Mr. Hardin stated the boards bylaws were set by the commissioners and clarified by Assistant County Attorney, Shannon Wilson, when she presented the Sunshine State Law information during an earlier meeting.

Parks Director, Ian Golden clarified for the board that there is a difference between public comment and presentation. There is an expectation for someone to provide background during a presentation. The board cannot ask for a public members information because that is the publics' time to provide input. Content for agenda and time limit is the only informational requirement from the public. Ms. Nail expressed concerns with member safety, Sunshine Laws, and the Freedom Act. Mr. Golden explained Sunshine Laws, and Freedom of Information is for the benefit of the public. It is designed so the government and its employees don't operate in the dark. The public is not subject to the same rules.

With board members concerns, Mr. Golden agreed to get clarification from the county attorney's office regarding identification during Public Comment.

Mr. Hardin provided Director, Golden with the board's bylaws, where under, Article 9-Public Meetings, Section 2-Public Comment, (3), Speakers **may** be required to give their names and address for the record. Mr. Hardin stated he recommended changing the language during the original drafting to state, **shall**, but no action was taken by the commissioners. Mr. Golden

pointed out there have been legal challenges elsewhere that may have influenced direction for Advisory Boards regarding Public Comment.

Member Janice Scott led discussion on possible board approval sending a statement to the commissioners, particularly D2, Commissioner Goodson, in support of amending the Florida State statute legalizing Tourist Development Taxes to pay for beach safety support, including lifeguards, police, fire and rescue services, and equipment. Ms. Scott wanted to see the commissioners take initiative or make a statement of support to the legislative delegation, to get before Congress during the 2025 session. The statute currently allows beach cleanup and everything else except public safety on the beach. Member Scott stated with Tourist Development Taxes, estimated to bring in 27 million in the coming years, an increase of 11.1 million from 2021, and an asking cost, by the county, of 756 thousand, to pay for four lifeguards, this change was important for the county and state. Important for Tourism Development Council to pay for the safety and security of the people it attracts to the county.

Mr. Hardin commented that the board did bring this to the commissioners previously, but the board did not address the recommendation. Ms. Scott noted the legislature, tried to get it passed through in 2021 and was not successful. There is a schedule meeting of the Tourism Commission, January 16, 2025.

Central Area Operations Manager, Terry Lane stated that Lori Wilson Park is under the Office of Tourism Department, not Parks and Recreation Department with an agreement to pay parks and recreation to maintain and operate the park. All discussions regarding the park, Tourist Development Taxes, public safety and lifeguards, should be discussed with the Office of Tourism and brought to the Tourism Development Council.

Director Ian Golden, suggested to the board that unless they have specific language to draft or make request, the bylaws didn't support this action. This board's prevue only applies to county parks and recreation matters.

Ms. Nail stated Lori Wilson wasn't the only park she wanted to know where the advisory boards' jurisdiction ends. Mr. Golden clarified that lifeguards were under a separate budget and Department of Public Safety, not Parks. Ms. Nail requested written clarification regarding public safety in the parks. Per bylaws, Mr. Terry Lane read, "For the purpose of effectively defining the duties and responsibilities of the South-Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and increasing in serving in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Department." Recommendations are forwarded to the parks department or commissioners and some recommendations don't move forward.

Ms. Mary Jane Nail made motion to immediately address beach safety and hazards at lifeguard manned parks. Seconded by Betty Wells.

Further discussion on condition of storage sheds and lifeguard equipment within and securing the stands at Futch Park, and potential damage during storms. Mr. Golden agreed that was within the scope of the advisory board to address. Mr. Lane agreed to meet with the Public

Safety and Tourist Development departments to do safety inspections of the buildings, chairs, and park facilities, including Cherry Down and Lori Wilson parks and report back to the board.

Based on that agreement, Ms. Nail withdrew her motion.

New Business

Mr. Terry Lane opened floor for fiscal 2025 election of a Chair and Vice Chair for the South - Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, noting elections were not done at the special meeting, October 2024.

Ms. Mary Jane Nail made a motion to nominate Mr. Charles “Roger” Hardin to continue being Chair. Seconded by Ms. Betty Wells. Hearing no other nominations, Mr. Charles “Roger” Hardin was elected Chair, unanimously.

Chair, Roger Hardin led the motion to elect a Vice Chair. Ms. Mary Jane Nail nominated Ms. Janice Scott who declined. Ms. Scott nominated Mr. Nick Galluzzi, who also declined. Ms. Betty Wells nominated Ms. Mary Jane Nail; seconded by Mr. Hardin. By unanimous vote, Ms. Mary Jane Nail was elected Vice-Chair.

The Transportation Planning Office (TPO) requested delivery of presentation to the South / Central Advisory Board on a new trail plan for North Merritt Island. Because plan will not be ready for presentation until mid-February 2025, TPO requested that the presentation be sent electronically for review and comment, via email. No vote was required to accept or reject the plan, for informational purposes only.

In lieu of in-person presentation, members requested video presentation or link.

Chair, Roger Hardin made a motion to allow TPO to send presentation electronically. Motion passed to accept electronic presentation. Seconded by Vice Chair, Mary Jane Nail. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Janice Scott requested clarification of Parks shoreline jurisdiction at beaches. Mr. Lane explained that jurisdiction ends at the dunes. After the dunes, it's the local municipalities, and unincorporated beaches are under the jurisdiction of Natural Resources, another parks department. Example would be beach renourishment.

Chair Hardin led discussion about the timely notification of changes to park names and requests for usage. Recently, two south county parks were renamed: Coconut Point Park was renamed Val M Steele Park, and the South Beaches Community Center was renamed Nancy Higgs Community Center. Previously, park or pavilion dedications and renaming's would be brought before advisory boards, Why were these not brought before the board? Mr. Lane stated that if a recommendation is brought to the parks department, a recommendation will go before the advisory board. If someone goes directly to the Board of County Commissioners, an advisory board recommendation is not required. Mr. Tucci stated that both of the park renaming requests came during a commissioners meeting by a county commissioner. Parks and Recreation has a process for planting trees and placing park benches for memorials.

Member Ms. Betty Wells requested information on all area parks. County staff directed members to the Brevard County website to view updated park information and would email arial views and additional information through the administrative secretary.

Mr. Hardin informed the board that the Westin Corporation, Cocoa Beach, approached the Board of County Commissioners to have exclusive use of the south half of Lori Wilson Park up to 100 days for their own clients and the entire park, north and south, up to 12 days per year. Mr. Hardin read letter sent to all commissioners protesting this exclusive use. Park staff informed the board that Westin rescinded the request due to citizen protest.

Chair Hardin planned to speak to his commissioner, requesting that the South / Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board be informed of matters regarding the parks. As an advisory board and the first line of citizen input, should be given the opportunity to weigh in on those matters. What's the purpose of advisory board if not allowed to make recommendations that effect the parks. He encouraged the other members to do the same.

Ms. Betty Wells requested central county staff replace kitchen stove prior to Senior's Christmas Breakfast event at Cocoa West. Budget set for the replacement of four ovens - stoves at Woody Simpson, Kiwanis Island Community Center, Cocoa West and F. Burton Smith Park. Currently getting quotes.

Public Comments

No public present. Chairperson acknowledged no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion by Roger Hardin to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Nick Galluzzi. All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025.

Minutes from January 7, 2025 meeting were not approved, due to dissolution of South - Central Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, through the adoption of Resolution 25-016, on February 25, 2025.