

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

MINUTES

April 10 2025 • 4:00 p.m.
North Brevard Senior Center
909 Lane Avenue, Titusville, Florida

I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Bianca Alaimo, Chair.

A. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

The invocation was led by Chair Alaimo and the Pledge of Allegiance was stated by all.

B. Roll Call

Roll Call was held and it was noted that Christopher Reynolds and Koren Odermann were absent.

Motion by Randy Rodriguez to approve the absences. The motion was seconded by Bill Klein. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Kevin Rosa to approve the January 9, 2025 Minutes. The motion was seconded by Randy Rodriguez. The motion carried unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Construction

Mike Butcher, Parks Construction Manager, introduced himself and spoke regarding the following parks and projects:

Parrish Park - Titusville – Coast to Coast Trailhead – Repairs of the damage created by Hurricane Milton commences on April 21st with substantial completion expected in one hundred thirty days. Re-opening of the park is anticipated in August. Washout around the foundation by the bathroom is awaiting sod. Bathrooms are currently working. A small portion of the sidewalk was replaced as well. The gazebo on the boat ramp side of the park is being assessed by an engineer to determine the next course of action. The south side of A. Max Brewer Causeway is a project managed by the Brevard County Office of Natural Resources and no timeline was noted.

Pier 220 – The dock replacement is complete. Quotes are being solicited for the parking lot repair. This is a City of Titusville owned and County maintained park. Any work regarding the electric concerns need to be reviewed and approved by the City of Titusville before moving forward.

Sand Point Park – The vendor will install the railing once fabricating has passed permitting. Three mid-sized pavilions have been replaced with an additional three more to be replaced once permitting has cleared.

Manatee Hammock Campground – The site plan for the addition of a new restroom, laundry room and shower is under review with Brevard County. Extensive coordination is required with the City of Titusville regarding sewer hookups and also with Florida Power and Light for the electric.

Fay Park – Permitting is complete for the new storage shed that is being installed.

Blanton Park – The upgrades to this park are funded by a donation from Parrish Medical Center. Amenities will include a new basketball court, adjustable basketball hoops, exercise equipment and a playground. The parking element has been scaled back due to cost. There is additional discussion regarding a possible playing field for the Boys and Girls Club as well as a renovation to the bathroom.

Fox Lake Park – The boat ramp design is at ninety percent completion and has been presented to the St. Johns River Water Management District for permitting. Solicitation through Brevard County Purchasing Services is required for a full dock replacement.

Chain of Lakes – Pre-site meetings have been made regarding the addition of a new softball/baseball field in coordination with the City of Titusville. Brevard County will handle permitting. This project is in the early stages and will require meetings with both the St. Johns River Management District and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine what is required.

Questions and Comments from Advisory Board Members:

Bill Kline suggested deep rooting trees such as Mangroves or Spartina be planted to protect the shoreline at Sand Point Park. He further stated that black or white mangroves or buttonwood, planted behind the seawall versus red mangroves to hold the sand in place is needed. Mr. Kline further offered that black mangroves in particular grow higher. Jeff Davis, Jr., Parks Operations Manager requested a meeting on site with Mr. Kline and Maintenance Superintendent, Tex Loadholtz. Mike Butcher recommended reviewing shoreline stabilization processes to determine the best long-term solution.

Bianca Alaimo requested an update on the derelict boats at Sand Point Park. Mike Butcher indicated a Department of Environmental Protection contractor has removed oil, gas, and hazardous materials from the boats. Ms. Alaimo questioned the liability of someone entering onto a derelict vessel. Mr. Butcher replied that is a legal issue and that Florida Fish and Wildlife has tagged the vessels and would be responsible for removal. Mr. Kline added that the sailboats have been removed and the power boat is the only remaining derelict vessel. Mr. Kline mentioned that a small sailboat sank.

Ms. Alaimo stated the exercise equipment is continuously vandalized and questioned whether it should keep getting replaced. Mr. Davis indicated that is a problem at multiple locations and that it must be replaced as quickly as possible. It was recommended the Titusville Police Department perform additional patrols in these areas.

B. North Area Parks Operations Staff.

Mr. Davis reminded the board to refer to Tex Loadholtz's maintenance report and to contact him directly with any concerns or questions.

C. Advisory Board Members

Bill Klein reported that his assigned parks look good. He noted the south side of Chain of Lakes where the ballfield is located, the adjoining walkway is washed out preventing wheelchairs from navigating the area without assistance.

Randy Rodriguez reported his parks are looking good. He noted the Port St. John Boat is back in business and that everything is coming back since the storm. He has no complaints.

Bianca Alaimo had no report and bud state that everything looks updated and tidy.

Kevin Rosa reported the restrooms at Bernice G. Jackson Park were locked at 10:30 a.m. on a Sunday. He noted graffiti, loitering and the cutting of mangroves at Parris Park - Titusville and also mentioned loud and sexually explicit music. He requested an

additional speed hump be added.

Dan Diesel complimented the new pavilions at Sand Point Park. He stated the work being done so far looks good and he is looking forward to being assigned parks and getting to know the Mims area more.

D. City of Titusville

Mayor Connors stated he has ideas to repurpose parks and is interested in adding disc golf to possibly Chain of Lakes and Fox Lake Park. He estimates the cost to be approximately forty to fifty thousand dollars. The Mayor announced Red, White and Boom will be held at Chain of Lakes on July fourth. Mayor Connors mentioned the BMX track at Marina Park and the possibility of exploring a private partnership to make it a tourist attraction with a mini golf course.

E. Miscellaneous

No discussion occurred.

III. Old Business

A. Park Assignments

Dan Diesel offered to be assigned to the previous board member, Coggins, parks. Discussion regarding the changes took place. Mr. Davis asked the board to contact him directly regarding any other necessary revisions and that a motion at the next regularly scheduled meeting will be required. Ms. Alaimo suggested to split Koren Odermann's park assignments so that Ms. Odermann is not overloaded. Ms. Alaimo, Mr. Klein and Mr. Rose will each take one park.

IV. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

V. Presentations

There were no presentations.

VI. Public Comment

Mark Bailey thanked staff for all of the work being done and said our parks look good. He mentioned a red mangrove being dug up on the south side of the A. Max Brewer Causeway. Mike Butcher said he would notify the Office of Natural Resources. Mr. Bailey asked about a waterway for water sports. Mr. Butcher ensured the beach area of Parrish Park – Titusville will be made accessible by foot.

Laurilee Thompson also noted the mangroves being pulled out at Parrish park - Titusville. She stated we will have the best causeway in the state due to taxpayer money. She suggested planning to restrict motorized vessels and vehicles as they should not be inside the wave break. Ms. Thompson personally met with the owner of Sea and Shoreline onsite. There will be one hundred dump truck loads of sand coming in and noted that eighty feet of shoreline has been lost over the years. Mayor Connor's has been in conversation with Congressman Haridopolis, the Florida Department of Transportation and Florida Fish and Wildlife about connecting the Coast to Coast Trail to the west coast of Florida.

Bill Benekey stated the Titusville Sailing Club has a boat yard at Sand Point Park. He indicated their equipment is breaking when launching/retrieving sailing equipment from the boat ramp. He further stated the concrete boat ramp is settled and creating a curb like barrier that they must go over and it damages the wheels.

Randy Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m. Bill Klein seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.