

The South Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

P.O.W / M.I.A Park Building
5995 North U.S. Highway 1, Melbourne, FL. 32940

Tuesday, July 08, 2025, 2:00 p.m.

First regular meeting of the South Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was conducted on Tuesday, July 7, 2024, 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 the Brevard Parks and Recreation Department, South Area, via email at Marsha.Blizzard@brevardfl.gov.

Members Present

Roger Hardin
Bob Redmond
Monique Seaman
Gary LoDuca
Raquel Butler

Members Absent

No current members from District 5.

Staff Present

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

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Richard Tucci at 2:01pm. Five (5) members were present. It was noted that the board did have a quorum.

Public Comment

South Area Operations Manager, Mr. Richard Tucci opened the meeting for public comments to members of the south area, Melbourne Beach community pickleball group, represented by Mr. Jack Murphy. Mr. Murphy spoke on behalf of approximately 125 members to express their concerns regarding the inability to play indoor pickleball at the Nancy Higgs Community Center during the county's summer camp program. They'd been informed that no adult recreational programming would run during this year's camp program from 7:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. Mr. Murphy spoke of the several accommodations offered to allow access and asked for the

reasoning and the changes to previous accommodations on camp field trip days and access after 3:30pm when camp attendance reduced, and the smaller groups could be relocated out of the gym. County staff explained that the change was made due to staffing issues. Parks and Recreation standard requires two staff members in the center at all times and the community center did not have the necessary staff to remain open on field trip days.

Parks and Recreation Director, Mr. Ian Golden, led introductions of county staff and new board appointees.

Additional public comments from Mr. Anthony Minerva suggested increasing the rate for pickleball play to cover staff wages and adding a sun sail cover to the outside courts.

Another public member, Mr. Art Ricker, suggested using volunteers to cover pickleball playing times. County staff agreed and committed to explore the option before next summer program and gave brief description of the county's Brave process and parameters for conducting backgrounds on volunteers. Mr. Murphy stated they'd seek to provide volunteers to complete screening.

It was also asked what was the purpose of an Advisory Board? Mr. Richard Tucci responded that the purpose was to make recommendations to the Commissioners they represent. Director, Mr. Ian Golden followed up that the board represents the south area and will receive updates on parks and maintenance, make recommendations to and through staff on issues or concerns, for new equipment or program's and give an opportunity to hear from citizens.

Mr. Tucci stated staffing had been met and notification was being sent that the county would be allowing pickleball again on Wednesdays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Once camp ended the center would be open until 7:00 p.m. to offer open gym in mornings and evenings.

New Business

Fiscal Election of Chair and Vice-Chair for the South-Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 2025 was led by South Area Operations Manager, Richard Tucci.

Hardin was nominated by member Gary Loduca. Mr. Hardin accepted the nomination. His nomination was seconded by board member Mr. Bob Redmond. With a unanimous vote of Aye, the motion to elect Mr. Charles Roger Hardin as Chair, was passed.

Chair Roger Hardin led the nominations for Vice-Chair. Ms. Monique Seaman volunteered for Vice-Chair. The motion to elect Ms. Monique Seaman for Vice-Chair passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion led by Mr. Roger Hardin, Chair, to establish draft by-laws using previous board template; removing all references to Central. Mr. Golden suggested using previous bylaws as a format only then bring back a draft for a vote to adopt at the next meeting.

Member Monique Seaman had a question regarding quorum and voting. A quorum or vote is a majority of members present. Current board would be equal to four members present.

Items for new bylaws included Article X - Meeting Frequency, Time and Location. Previous meeting location was the P.O.W / M.I.A building. Board has the option to change meeting location or rotate in addition to changing the day and times. County staff noted the need for standardization to prevent constant updates to bylaws. Mr. Golden suggested setting the locations with meeting dates for the entire year and the following years' first meeting.

Advisory Board annual reports will need to be submitted to commissioners through Mr. Golden for the one meeting since the dissolution of previous board and creation of new South Brevard Advisory Board. Chairperson, Mr. Hardin agreed to submit the annual report to county staff for submission. For standardization purposes, Mr. Golden stated county staff usually prepares the annual report, but board welcome to send recommendations and other items that may be included. Board member attendance will be part of the annual report too.

Mr. Golden clarified that if the board wants to operate under a set of bylaws until we can amend them, the board can choose to adopt the previous South Area Advisory Board's bylaws, we will then update them based on the new resolution as well as the ordinances and bring them back for the boards' approval.

Chair Hardin preferred going over the bylaws for changes or clarification. Board went through bylaws section by section, eliminating references to Central and District 1 and 2, and updating the number of board members.

Defining quorum and voting language from Resolution 25-016, Section 5. Quorum.

Article VIII. Removal. Chairperson wants to change the current language of A District Commissioner may remove an appointee to a district commissioner appointment with or without cause, to read, may remove an appointee to **their** district commissioner. County staff will verify if the request would be in accordance with the Brevard County Florida Code of Ordinances.

Article IX. Public Meetings Section 2. (2). Add three (3) minute time limit to Public Comment Section on the agenda and have comment cards for future meetings to gather public member information and item they wish to discuss. Section 2 (3) (4). Mr. Golden stated board can't deny someone from the public their ability to speak contingent on giving their information but can be based on behavior of those wishing to speak. Public comments should be directed to the Chair with staff or other members seeking clarification through the Chair.

Article X. Meeting Frequency, Time and Location. Add language or create another section setting up rotation schedule for the county fiscal year. Most members agreed to the second Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. Further discussion needed. Section 3. - Rotation language. Locations within the South Area to be determined at next meeting; doesn't have to be in the bylaws, just on schedule.

Mr. Golden will request a representative from the County Attorney's Office to speak to board regarding Governing in the Sunshine rules and regulations. All decisions and discussions are conducted in the public. Can't use staff as a conduit to poll or discuss items with other

members. If member wants to add item to agenda or have discussions, email county staff to submit to Chair or address at next meeting.

Mr. Richard Tucci presented board with highlights of Maintenance and Recreation events and projects from January through July 2025.

Maintenance aerated and top dressed all soccer and football fields. Installed various signage at different parks and boat ramps for public safety including Submerged Rock, Rip Current Warning, No Parking, No Golfcarts, and No Tobacco signage. Completed outdoor exercise stations at Viera Regional Park. Rebuilt airboat ramp at Lake Washington. Flug crossover completed. Built wheelchair enclosure for donated beach wheelchair at Futch Park CTX bathroom installed a Canova Beach Park. Swapping water fountains out with water bottle fill stations. Invasive brush removal at Viera Regional Park.

Recreation held Spring Fling at South Mainland Community Center. Rodes Park hosted reimagined rummage sale. Long Point Easter egg hunt at Nancy Higgs Community Center. Spring Concert series continues to grow attendance. The Adaptive Recreation Center at Wickham Park hosted several events including their Valentines dance. Rodes and Viera Community Centers hosted early voting during the first two weeks of summer camp. Continuing In addition to the Winter and Spring Art and Craft Expo's at Wickham Park, we continue our First Friday events and remodeling with adaptive access to playgrounds. Ian's focus is to make all county playgrounds adaptive when remodeling. In addition to usual field usage fourteen Athletic Recreation Partners hosted tournaments.

Rising water and storm effects have damaged Long Point Campground sites, it's ranger station and bridge to Scout Island; currently inaccessible as deemed unsafe.

Summer camp attendance has increased yet seen a decrease with temporary staffing.

Summer Food Program has also seen an increase with expectation of growth.

The goal is to adapt and grow programming with public input. We have a new marketing director that has been updating county park information. She is also highlighting a county park each month and launched a Passport Program in support of National Parks month in July.

Chair Charles Hardin asked about a previously installed sprinkler system at Nancy Higgs. Mr. Tucci explained that a previous football group was expected to use the fields and funds were earmarked for the new system. When the group backed out, the decision was to complete the project with the allocated funds. Upon public input the county will be installing permanent goals and posts for temporary soccer, football or lacrosse nets for community use. The system uses well water. Currently focusing on field improvements with new spray technician and foresees a recreation sports group wanting to establish a program in the future.

Board member inquired about plans for Jorgenson's Landing dirt parking lot. Mr. Tucci, stated not currently in the 5-year plan along with a lack of good boat ramps and sports fields in Brevard County.

Chair Charles Hardin expressed public concern that children are using the water catcher area to jump their bikes and people not using the designated dog park, nor picking up after their pets at Nancy Higgs. Mr. Tucci stated it was a public compliance issue not a knowledge issue. Dog baggies are provided.

Mr. Hardin suggested board members introduce themselves when out and about and get public input for possible issues or concerns.

County staff will send contact information of the director, operations manager and superintendents for the board to send any concerns or safety issues that need attention, like fencing, open fryers, non-compliance by Recreation Partners, and citizen recommendations.

Discussion on county staffing issues and retention.

Public Comment

No public present. Chairperson acknowledged no public comment.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by member Gary LoDuca. Seconded by member Monique Seaman, All in favor, motion passed.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:42 p.m.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2025

Approved Minutes from July 08, 2025, South Brevard Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

/s/ Mr. C. Roger Hardin 10-15-2025