



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**Parks and Recreation Department
Central Area Parks Operations**
840 Forrest Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922

**PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CENTRAL AREA PARKS OPERATIONS
District 2 Merritt Island/Beaches Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
February 17, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Phil Barnes
Jack Masson
Janice Scott
Mary Jane Nail
Ralph Williams, III

Members Not Present

Cathy Jarrell
Debbie Gauntlet

Others Present

Space Coast United Soccer – Scott Armstrong

Staff Present

Terry Lane, Central Area Parks Operations Manager
Richard Tucci, Central Area Recreation Superintendent
Fred Ameigh, Central Area Maintenance Superintendent
Denise Hayes, Central Area Parks Operations

I. Call Meeting to Order

Mr. Lane called the meeting to order at 5:03pm in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

Mr. Lane introduced Mary Jane Nail as the newest Board member.

Mr. Lane suggested the Board elect a temporary Chair for this meeting in the absence of both the current Chair and Vice-Chair.

Ms. Nail nominated Phil Barnes as the temporary Chair for this meeting. The Board voted to have Phil Barnes act as the temporary Chair. The vote was unanimous.

II. Approval of February 19, 2020 and June 24, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes for February 19, 2020 and June 24, 2020.

Ms. Nail seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

Financial Report - Terry Lane, Area Parks Operations Manager

Mr. Lane stated that the total FY20/21 budget for Fund 1020 is 1.9 million, and that 21% of that has been spent in first quarter. Mr. Lane further stated that revenues were down because people were not attending programs because of the Covid-19.

Mr. Lane noted that Salaries and Benefits Labor Distribution was currently at \$0, but that a transfer of monies would be made later near the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Masson asked how Parks and Recreation was compensating for the lack of revenue.

Mr. Lane explained because of the lack of programs and rentals fewer staff were needed at the community centers, and that all of the Recreation Leaders and Recreation Aides were reassigned to other job classifications to perform cleaning duties to assist in the prevention of the spread of the Covid-19, and paid from CARES Act funding. Mr. Lane further explained because programs were shut down there was no need for the use of temporary staffing for programs and rentals, therefore there was a savings in temporary staffing costs as well.

Attendance and Programs Report - Richard Tucci, Recreation Superintendent

Mr. Tucci stated athletic programs would be re-starting this spring, and that each organization has to submit a Covid-19 safety plan showing they are meeting the guidelines set by the CDC, and in addition each participant or participant guardian must sign a Covid-19 "Hold Harmless" form.

Mr. Tucci informed the Board that Summer Camp was held last year, but was extremely reduced due to Covid-19. Staff structured camps maintaining a 6-foot distance between the campers; had everyone wearing mask; and created activity packs for each participant filled with games, puzzles, crafts, and supplies. There was a total of 474 registered camp participants with a total attendance for the summer of 1,868. Staff also provided free transportation from community centers that did not have a minimum of 9 campers to other community centers that met the minimum number of campers.

Mr. Tucci explained that the Summer Food program was offered and ran two separate Summer Food services. The 1st was the traditional Summer Food program providing breakfast and lunch for the campers at the five qualified sites. The 2nd was a drive-through program for parents in the five qualified sites where they could come at lunch time and pick up lunches for that day and breakfast for the next day. In total staff provided 11,120 breakfasts and 10,971 lunches during the summer.

Mr. Tucci informed the Board that Spring Break Camp would be held at all of the community centers beginning March 15th and run through March 19th.

Mr. Tucci stated the staff continues to offer free movies in the park and that attendance to these events were increasing. He further stated the upcoming movies are: "Doolittle" to be held Friday, March 19th at Dick Blake Park from 8pm to 9:30pm; "Shrek" to be held Friday, April

16th at Mitchell Ellington Park from 8pm to 9:30pm; and “Trolls World Tour” to be held Friday, May 7th at McLarty Park from 8pm to 9:30pm. He further stated that staff was looking into having a summer series of family friendly “Music in the Park” concerts and would provide an update on this at the next meeting.

Mr. Tucci informed the Board that the community centers are back to near normal operations, however, staff is still practicing CDC Covid-19/State guidelines for programs.

Ms. Scott asked about the Big Kid Adventures programs.

Tucci stated that Susan Boorse, the coordinator for the Big Kids Adventure program, has been in communication with most of the regular participants, and they were not ready to begin going on adventures yet due to Covid-19, but that the program is still in existence.

Parks Maintenance Report - Fred Ameigh - Parks Maintenance Superintendent

Mr. Ameigh stated Parks and Recreation received a Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant for the replacement of the playground at Mitchell Ellington Park, and that Manatee Cove Park would also be receiving a new playground.

Mr. Ameigh informed the Board of the following:

1. All of the asphalt at Waterway Park had been replaced.
2. Kelly Park East boat ramp had lighting installed that will stay on all night.
3. Woody Simpson Park Community Center gymnasium floor replacement is 90% completed, with only basketball, volleyball and pickleball lines left to be done.
4. A walk-through has been done for the Merritt Island Redevelopment Agency (MIRA) project at Veteran’s Memorial Park.

Mr. Barnes asked if the tennis courts at Kiwanis Island Park had been fixed.

Mr. Lane stated that the tennis court renovations were complete.

Mr. Ameigh added that the lighting at the tennis courts should be completed either today or tomorrow.

Mr. Lane stated that the MIRA project was a 1.5 million dollars project and that an amphitheater was being discussed.

Mr. Ameigh stated that staff was preparing for little league opening days.

IV. New Business

Election of 2021 Chairperson

Mr. Lane opened the floor for nominations for the 2021 Chair.

Ms. Scott nominated Mary Jane Nail for the 2021 Chair. Mr. Barnes seconded the nomination.

Ms. Nail nominated Phil Barnes for the 2021 Chair. The was no second.

Being there were no objections to Ms. Nails nomination as Chair, Ms. Nail accepted the nomination.

Ms. Scott made a motion to nominate Mary Jane Nail as the 2021 Chair. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Nail opened the floor for nominations for the 2021 Vice-Chair.

Ms. Scott nominated Phil Barnes for the 2021 Vice-Chair. Mr. Williams seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations.

Ms. Nail closed the floor to any further nominations and called for a vote. The vote to nominate Phil Barnes as the 2021 Vice-Chair was unanimous.

Ms. Nail, as the new Chair took over conducting the meeting.

Budget FY 20/21

Mr. Lane stated staff will begin planning for the next budgetary year in March.

Mr. Lane stated the state of Florida voted to increase the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. The measure would increase the State's current hourly wage to \$10 an hour beginning in September, and increase by \$1.00 each year until it hits \$15 in 2026. He further stated that the hourly wage increase would impact the budget.

Ms. Scott asked about the ownership of Lori Wilson Park.

Mr. Lane explained that the Board of County Commissioners voted to give the management/ownership of Lori Wilson Park to the Tourism Development Office (TDO). Mr. Lane further explained that TDO pays to have two Parks Maintenance Technicians at the park at all times and has contracted a mowing company, and that TDO provides the funding when repairs are needed. Mr. Lane stated that when repairs are needed the Parks and Recreation maintenance informs TDO and they decided whether or not to make the repairs, as it is TDO funding, not Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Masson asked if TDO was paying for Parks and Recreation to maintain the Park.

Mr. Lane explained that in the beginning TDO had provided a certain amount of money annually that Parks and Recreation used to make necessary repairs without having to ask, but now Parks and Recreation maintenance staff has to notify TDO of needed repairs and then wait for them approve the repairs and provide the funding for the repairs.

Mr. Masson gave a history of events that led to TDO owning and maintaining Lori Wilson Park.

This Board expressed concern regarding TDO's operation and management of Lori Wilson Park, and wanted staff to inform the District 2 Commissioner of their concerns.

Ms. Nail noted that Ralph Williams had to leave the meeting to attend another important engagement.

Projects

Mr. Lane stated Parks and Recreation received funding from Brevard Boater Improvement Program to repave the parking lot at Kelly Park East.

Mr. Lane stated the basketball, tennis and pickleball courts have been being resurfaced at Woody Simpson Park, Kiwanis Island Park, and Kelly Park West.

Mr. Lane stated that TDO funded a new irrigation pump at the Lori Wilson dog park and that the next step would be re-sodding the dog park.

Mr. Lane stated the tennis court at Watts Park were going to resurfaced.

Mr. Lane identified the following Balance Forward projects:

1. Rotary Park Nature Center re-roofing.
2. Rotary Park Nature Center cement board or fiber siding for the building.
3. Kiwanis Island Park Community Center voice activated alarm installation.
4. Watts Park playground replacement.
5. Manatee Cove Park playground replacement.
6. Kiwanis Island Park playground replacement.

Recreation Partner Application - Space Coast United Soccer

Mr. Tucci introduced Scott Armstrong from Space Coast United Soccer.

Mr. Armstrong stated he was coming before the Board to ask for approval to become a recreation partner utilizing Rotary Park on Merritt Island. He further stated the organization currently had 3 teams ready to participate if approved.

Ms. Nail asked what does the organization bring to the community.

Mr. Armstrong explained the organization brings soccer programs for 2 years old up to 19 years old. He stated the organization guarantees that every child plays a minimum of 50% of the time. The organization provides scholarships for children who are economically unable to play. The scholarships pay for the children's registration and uniforms. The funding for the scholarships comes from the registration fees collected from the 2 tournaments that the organization holds each year, and from registration fees paid by the participants in the regular programming.

Mr. Lane explained that the organization is currently under contract with South Area Parks Operations, but because they utilized several parks in the Central Area as well, and the Parks and Recreation Director decided the organization should be under direct contract with Central Area Parks Operations.

Mr. Masson made motion to recommend Space Coast United Soccer as Recreation Partner for Central Area Parks Operations to the Director of Parks and Recreation. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Public Input

None

VI. Adjournment

Ms. Nail called for the adjournment of the meeting at 6:36pm.

Signature line for Chair Mary Jane Nail