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Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation (N.B.C.P.R.), an advisory board, held Thursday, March 11, 2021 in the Brevard Room of the Brevard County Government Complex-North.

**Members Present**

Bianca Alaimo  
Arnie Benson  
Jane Cline  
Andrew Connors  
William Klein  
Randy Rodriguez

**Members absent**

Nitan (Sunny) Aggrawal  
Amelia Robinson  
Willie Taylor

**City of Titusville Elected Officials / Staff**

Dan Diesel - absent

**Brevard County Parks & Recreation Staff**

Jeff Davis, Jr., North Area Manager  
Tex Loadholtz, Maintenance Superintendent  
Michael Hoffmann, Recreation Superintendent  
Shirley Corliss, Administrative Secretary

**Brevard County District 1 Commission Office Staff**

Carol Mascellino, Administrative Aide to Commissioner Pritchett

**I. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Arnie Benson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Jeff Davis, Jr. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Benson stated that the meeting could be followed via conference call as well.

**II. Roll Call:**

Absent: Nitan (Sunny) Aggrawal, Amelia Robinson, Willie Taylor

Motion requested by Arnie Benson to excuse the absences. Motion by William Klein, seconded by Randy Rodriguez, accepted and moved by all.

AYE: Alaimo, Benson, Cline, Connors, Klein, Rodriguez

NAY: None Carried 6-0

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion requested by Arnie Benson to approve the minutes from the January 14, 2021 meeting with no corrections. Motion by William Klein, seconded by Randy Rodriguez, accepted and moved by all.

AYE: Alaimo, Benson, Cline, Connors, Klein, Rodriguez

NAY: None Carried 6-0

## **IV. REPORTS**

### **A. Miscellaneous Reports & Updates—FYI**

### **B. Chairman's Report on Meetings – no meeting with the Commissioner's Office**

## **V. Advisory Board Members**

**Mr. Connors:** Mr. Connors stated that his parks look great and everything seems to be moving in the right direction. He is really looking forward to the splash pad being opened again and recreational activities returning.

**Mr. Klein:** Mr. Klein stated that he visited his parks. He said that Chain of Lakes is looking good and Wuesthoff is looking good. When he visited Parrish Park, he stated that it looks like there is more erosion. Mr. Klein attended a City Council meeting and there were a lot of questions regarding the many changes to the plans since the last public meeting. Questions regarding kayak and windsurfing capabilities have been raised since the new plans appear to have a raised wall between the parking lot and the beach area. He believes the public needs to be informed of what is going to be done there as it is their park. His additional concerns include erosion, the future of the horseshoe crabs and limited access to the park by the public. He feels as though people will be parking on the other side of the road and walking across to access the beach area.

**Ms. Alaimo:** Ms. Alaimo visited her parks. She noticed the new sign at the Sandrift Community Center and said that it looks great. She noticed a new playground is coming to Manzo Park and she is really excited about that. All of her other parks look great. She stated that Rotary Park is still under construction. She thought everyone was doing a great job and has no complaints.

**Ms. Cline:** Ms. Cline had the privilege of attending an event at the Moore Center and she couldn't have been more proud of this team. The organization, the way the grounds looked, it was a beautiful event. She thanked Mike, Tex and Jeff for the beautiful way it was handled. The parks looks great, she was thankful for the work and dedication of the team to make North Brevard a beautiful place to visit.

**Mr. Benson:** Mr. Benson stated that his parks are looking good. He recently had the opportunity to attend his grandson's Little League game at Holder Park. He stated that the ball fields there are looking fantastic. The grounds around them and the fences are looking really good.

**Mr. Rodriguez:** Mr. Rodriguez stated the parks in Port St John are looking good. While speaking with Tex earlier, he mentioned that all the fields at the Space Coast Community Sports complex have never looked that good before. The choices for the new sod this year proved well through the extreme heat in the summer and the drought part of the winter. The dog park is super active. The long island part of Fay Lake Wilderness had a big crowd of kids going in there. Space Coast Communities Park had a bus of kids using the playground. Someone recently decided to drive a truck through the grass when it was wet at Fay Lake Wilderness Park, leaving big ruts in the ground. The Port St. John Community Foundation started using the park to do community events before Covid hit. They are looking to organize a 5k run; it is in the planning stages. They will also be applying for a permit to do the first ever fireworks show at Fay Lake Wilderness Park on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **VI. City of Titusville:**

**Mayor Dan Diesel:** Not present

## **VII. North Area Parks Operations Staff**

### **Tex Loadholtz: NAPO Maintenance Report**

#### **Space Coast Community Sports Complex**

Musco Control Link system being installed to the football fields this spring. Control-Link makes scheduling, controlling, and monitoring the lights simple and convenient. Through automated scheduling, the system should realize a significant reduction in energy consumption and operating costs.

A high lift was used by the electric contractor to repair sports field lighting bulb outages at all athletic complexes.

Received PO to replace the old chain link fencing at the pavilion and playground with wood fencing same as the rest of the park; scheduling with the contractor.

Preparing materials take off for the construction of a foot bridge connecting the football fields to the parking lot.

Eliminated base path lips and installed new clay to Little League fields.

PSJLL and PSJ Soccer hosted opening days for their respective sports on March 6. Staff executed extensive readiness plans at the concession/press box facilities in preparing for the seasons.

#### **Walter Butler Community Center**

In the process of issuing a PO to the contractor for the installation of new metal gates to be installed on the main road past the playground entrance.

Issuing a PO to the contractor for the flooring replacement in the large meeting room. Scheduling work after spring break.

Coordinating plan to install paver bricks for beautification of landscape beds.

#### **PSJ Boat Ramp**

Continue to repair washouts behind seawall post heavy north waves and wind. Coastal Construction has provided options for consideration as solutions for erosion issue due to high winds and washouts, working with Construction Manager on best course of action.

#### **Manatee Hammock**

Pool is closed for renovations. The notice to proceed was issued to the contractor to begin renovations March 5. The construction start date is April 25 with substantial completion June 25; final completion is July 9.

Disconnected and stored the a/c unit servicing the old caretaker trailer.

The old caretaker mobile home sold. The purchaser is in the process of having the structure removed from the campground. If a new caretaker applies for the position and is selected, they will be responsible for installing a new manufactured residence.

Identifying trees for pruning within urban forestry guidelines once main camping season is over.

Campground is in peak of season for another four weeks.

Coordinating with Brevard County Fire Rescue with asset transfer of Station #88 to campground to replace existing singlewide trailer for maintenance. Transferred building is double wide. BCFR is working on design of their replacement station, project remains on hold pending BCFR finalizing plans for replacement building.

### **Statham Park**

The new park sign has been installed and adds a professional impression when entering the park. Installation completed in-house led by the area carpenter.

Change in plans for occupancy of River's Edge event center, information forthcoming.

### **Rotary Park Riverfront**

Under construction with project repairs on schedule. The shoreline revetment and dock scheduled for completion March 15. Truss installation complete, metal roof over terminal point of dock installed this week. Project has an estimated completion of 40 weeks or 280 calendar days for target date of substantial completion May 31, 2021.

Boulders and fill materials placed east of pavilion, sodding next.

A new park sign to replace the existing is ready for install. Sign will be installed in-house when close to park re-opening.

Coordinating with Road & Bridge to resurface asphalt from the park entrance circling the pavilion and parking north of construction limits from hurricane repairs.

Plans to detail areas in vicinity of the pavilion being coordinated to include pressure washing, painting, replacing bollards and new fencing.

In process of re-landscaping the restrooms in the north section of the park, rip out portion complete. Pressure washing, sealing and painting the group pavilions.

### **Space View Park**

Project under construction and on schedule, shoreline revetment completed on Gemini side of park at the east point. The new seawall and tiebacks have been installed including backfill, allowing for the seawall cap pour. Pilings for both dock structures have been installed. Project began September 29 and is slated for 180 days with substantial completion, March 2021.

Coordinating with contractor on replacing a few of the large concrete balls falling apart.

### **Manzo Park**

Demolition and removal of the old playground is complete. The new playground is planned for shipment March 16. Installation will begin upon receipt. Area cordoned off as no entry during interim.

Borders being removed from the existing playground being re-purposed as borders for the swings when demolition begins.

Improvement plans include replacement of the wood rail fence between the playground and the parking area.

### **Kennedy Point Park**

Graffiti was spray painted by vandals over much of the south side of the large park sign. The sign has been repainted – looks great.

Two Canary Island date palms died due to disease, one was removed. A pair of ospreys have built a nest in the head of the other, the tree will remain for undetermined amount of time. Quotes have been received for the installation of two Bismarck palms as replacement, timing to plant will be after June 7 when nesting season has past. The cabbage palms which have fallen into the cove due to erosion were also removed.

### **Sandpoint Park**

Hamilton Roofing 90% complete with replacing the metal roof and tongue and groove decking repairs to the Vallencenti Pavilion. Project in progress.

Working with volunteer group on developing a tree planting plan for east pond. Spaced littoral plantings along the pond shoreline will also be discussed .

Contractor removed large fountain in east pond for repair, anticipate re-install March 19.

Expanded power supply availability and access to the City for special events.

Researching permitting requirements for the possibility of connecting the new Titusville Gap Trail to the south west entrance of the park.

A slide in the playground has been taken out of service with a new one on order.

Provided access for electric power supply to the City for installation of aerators to the west pond. Fountain repaired in west pond and operating daily.

### **Gibson Complex**

Coordinated with Gibson Center volunteer group for beautification and landscaping improvements to the facility courtyard, project looks awesome.

The roof replacement to Building D is complete.

Final proposal for the installation of a gutter system to Building A being received this week. Replacement will be scheduled.

Coordinating with the contractor for the repair to the large steel beam on the north/east corner of Building A, materials on order.

Fixtures and pole wiring have been repaired to the lighting for the football fields.

Coordinating with Musco Lighting on installing Control-Link system for quality operation of sports field lighting.

### **Campbell Park**

Area electrician working in-house on improving lighting to the basketball courts with replacement of existing lights and converting the system to LED, project commenced March 8.

Plans to remove and replace the concrete basketball courts pending approval at Board meeting April 6. New courts will be asphalt providing a better outdoor playing surface.

Contractor provided proposals for installing two twenty-six-foot diameter shade hats to cover the playground. Community group to discuss March 12.

Provided PO for the installation 25-foot-high netting on the north side of the east basketball court to prevent balls from entering South St. Poles are in; nets are on order.

Countertops ordered for replacement in each restroom of the community center. The men's room identified first to be complete this winter. Ladies' room to be completed this spring.

### **Blanton Park**

New seats to all swing bays have been received and in process of being installed.

Ordered new basketball backboards and rims, materials are being upgraded to match the boards at Campbell Community Center.

### **WW James Park**

Fields prepared for opening day and Spring Little League baseball season looked awesome. Coordinating with contractor for painting the concession building.

Repair and resurfacing the road around the large stormwater drains at the entrance is complete.

Contractor has completed replacing buckets and vertical poles to dugouts.

### **Wuesthoff Nature Park**

New exercise equipment has been requisitioned awaiting a PO. Plans are to consolidate equipment to two large exercise locations rather than equipment spacing along the trail. Consolidation allows more equipment rather than scattered independent stations.

The concrete pads for the exercise equipment are twenty-five feet by forty-five feet. Presently coordinating with the City on permit requirements.



The old wood decking, stairs and handicap ramp to the building have been demolished and removed. Most of the new lumber has been received, remaining stringers arriving this week, project to commence upon receipt.

Exploring opportunities for use of the old Nature Center for educational programming. Building upgrades may ensue depending on outcome to include roof, wrap around decking, painting and flooring.

### **Fox Lake Park**

The purchase order for the new playground equipment has been provided to the vendor. The play system is in manufacturing. Demo of old system in preparation for new playground anticipated May.

In the process of replacing all directional and speed limit signs and trash receptacles with new.

Caretaker residence painted. Working on plans to repaint the maintenance shop this spring.

Receiving proposals for replacement of the single rail wood fencing at the park entrance, playground and large pavilion. Evaluating costs to incorporate timely into budget.

Replacement and conversion on the lighting above serving counter, retrofitting to LED complete. Working with contractor on replacing existing formica serving counters with stainless steel, proposals have been received and approved. Project moving forward.

In process of replacing the five ceiling fans in the kitchen.

### **PSJ Community Center**

Coordinating plans to replace the surface water drain pipe from Corto Road through the north parking area and to the retention pond. A new asphalt basketball court to be constructed at the same time with conversion of the north parking lot into multipurpose use. Timeline expected March to May.

### **Fay Park**

The purchase order for the new playground has been provided to the vendor. The play system is in manufacturing. Demo of old system in preparation for new playground anticipated late March.

### **Fay Lake Wilderness Park**

Project to remove exotic vegetation at the entrance and around dog park continues.

### **North Brevard Senior Center**

Repaired fire sprinkler system.

Coordinating quotes for repair to the room divider.

Replaced the north east door to the building.

Continuing in the process of treating and removing exotic vegetation along the trail.

### **Stuart Park**

Funding requested to replace the twenty-five by twenty-five-foot pavilion, hopefully approved April 6.

## **Blue Hole Park**

Finalizing order for thirteen trees to be planted.

Tree trimming contractor for housing development continues to off-load debris and yard waste in the park. Working with the City for remedy.

## **Sherwood Park**

Coordinating with constituents on use and improved entities. Improvements include pond edge clean up, trimming trees, improving pond visual, adding picnic tables and concrete pads. Coordinating concrete pad installation spring/summer.

## **Chain of Lakes**

In process of replacing the tunnel slide on the playground due to developing cracks, slide is on order.

Improvement project to mill, grade and sod the over flow grass parking area east of softball is complete. Project greatly improves parking conditions and drainage. Area re-opened for use, numerous compliments received.

Continuing to reduce invasive plants along lakes edge through mechanical control.

Identified five areas along the pond edge for planting spartina. Working with tree farm on e-verify documents to have trees delivered.

Preparing softball fields for daily spring training games scheduled through Tourist Development Council and upcoming league softball tournaments.

Coordinating with turf grassing contractor for replacement of five acres of sports turf in the north section of the west soccer field. Approval anticipated April 6.

Red, White and Boom – July 4 celebration to be held at Chain of Lakes this year. Additional information forthcoming.

## **Cuyler Park & Community Center**

Removed the large shade cover frame west of the center and stored for Asset Management.

Conducted pre-proposal meeting with playground vendors and selection team for structure and design strategy for playground and swings replacement. Proposals due March 31.

## **Harry T Moore Cultural Center / Complex**

Pressure washing and painting the stucco of the museum and Cultural Center complete.

Replacing of the concrete windowsills on north side of building complete.

Replaced center display flooring in the museum due to water damage.

Replaced bulbs in light bollards along the building approach.

Receiving quotes to replace 300 linear feet of gutters and downspouts, working with contractor confirming E-verify.

Continuing efforts in beautification around the grounds and museum. Receiving positive comments.

### **Holder Park**

All four buildings painted and ready to go prior to opening Little League day.

Successful opening day for spring Little League season – fields looked awesome.

Conducted pre-proposal meeting with playground vendors and selection team for structure and design strategy for playground replacement. Proposals due March 31.

### **Rails to Trails**

FDOT provided guidelines for sign permit application for new postings on US1 identifying the Aurantia Rd trailhead. Working on package.

FDOT working on design to improve positive drainage in specific locations. A pre-construction meeting was held in the Fall of 2020 to discuss details and timing. All entities involved are scheduled to regroup for final timeline. Work to be scheduled when water shed lower during winter/spring dry season anticipate late February or March. Public notices and trail signage to be done with notification to public in advance.

Continuous maintenance and removal of overhanging vegetation being accomplished by in-house staff.

### **Scottsmoor Landing**

Coordinating with Natural Resource Management Department, Stormwater Treatment Program on the installation of a subsurface treatment system as part of water quality improvements and nutrient removal to the Indian River Lagoon. Project is complete.

### **Parrish Park Scottsmoor**

Detailing park in numerous maintenance aspects including, pressure washing, painting, ballfield grooming, fence repair and restroom deep clean.

### **Sandrift Community Center**

Received proposal to resurface basketball court including activity lines for hop scotch and four-square. Project anticipated for funding approval April 6.

### **Singleton Tennis Courts**

New picnic tables provided to tennis and racquetball courts.

In process of re-stripping the south two tennis courts (#9 & 10) to include six pickleball courts and re-surface painting over the yellow lines on courts #7 & 8. The tennis netting will provide court delineation when pickleball being played.

Parking area improvements have been changed to re-shaping and stabilizing with millings. Cost for project design and permitting were not cost effective considering the size of the project. SJRWMD reviewing request

for approval and exemption. Project permit remains with the City of Titusville pending exemption.

Postponing receiving quote process for replacement of single rail wood fence along front of recreation area until parking area improvements are complete.

New park sign has been delivered. Installation will be scheduled once parking improvements are complete.

### **Marina Park**

In the process of quoting the planting of nine sabal palms within the dog park. Three groups of three trees to be installed to assist in providing shade for constituents.

Met with support group to develop existing bmx track into a skate/bike pump track. More probable for skateboard pump track as a continuation of the existing skate park. No current funding; details will be provided as available.

Removing Brazilian pepper trees creeping into shoreline revetment.

Met with the Construction Manager regarding erosion west of the boat ramp. Researching restoration options under existing permit.

### **Parrish Park Titusville**

Voids have been identified in the north seawall of the parking area. Contractor and engineer formulating a solution with a design complete last week.

Numerous vehicles rutting up and performing donut type activity in beach area. Grading activity areas with frequency to minimize washouts.

Trail head construction through FDOT project along trail complete with new landscape, maintenance being done by FDOT until June 2021.

### **Flap Parrish Trailhead**

CPH has submitted 90% design which is out for review with SJRWMD. Seeking variances through City of Titusville Permitting & Zoning item have been moved to February 24, 2021 meeting. Pre-con date set for September 29, 2021. Project schedule to be reset after the variance is granted.

### **Fabrication Project**

North Area mechanic re-purposing existing materials and resources to construct a motorized large towable water tank. Equipment to be utilized in tree planting projects, pressure washing and cleaning facilities where no water is available and numerous other uses. Carpenter and mechanic's efforts result in large cost savings without increasing the fleet.

### **Invasive Plants**

Area Landscape Technician treating Brazilian Pepper Trees and other invasive terrestrial plants throughout all

North Area parks with frequency.

## **Playgrounds**

All playgrounds continue being sanitized twice weekly.

New engineered wood fiber added to Walter Butler, Fox Lake, Space Coast CSC and Blanton playground surfacing.

Report covers highlights of the month. Daily maintenance, repair and care of all parks, community centers, educational & recreational facilities are entirely made possible by an unbelievable group of employees.

## **Mike Hoffmann: Recreation Report**

The February Movie in the Park (MITP) on Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> had 113 patrons in attendance. The Movie that was shown was “The Princess Bride” and was a Valentine’s Day themed event. We had a “kissing booth” that our maintenance team built and a candy jar guessing game with prizes handed out to the winners

The March MITP is on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at Sand Point Park. The movie this month will be “The Little Mermaid” and will start at 8:00PM. We will have another social media guessing game with additional prizes to give away.

Brevard County Parks and Recreation Department “Pics in the Park” first place winner had their pictured framed and hung in the Viera Government in Building C for the month of March.

Harry T. & Harriette V. Moore Cultural Center hosted an event celebrating the resolution by the Brevard Public School Board acknowledging the unjust firing of Harry T. and Harriette V. Moore, their contributions to BPS and the State of Florida, and the implementation of a Harry T & Harriette V Moore Legacy curriculum to educate all Brevard students on the legacy of the Moores.

North Area Parks Operations (NAPO) office is working with Valiant Air Command on how to administer a free STEM program to North Brevard students. The program would consist of NAPO transporting children to Valiant Air Command for the free STEM project and snacks for the children.

NAPO will be kicking off several athletic leagues this month, including; Men’s Softball on March 15, Adult 6v6 Soccer League on March 20, and Co-ed Softball will start March 24 (flyer attached). Leagues will be held at Chain of Lakes.

Singleton Tennis Courts is currently hosting outdoor pickleball on Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:30PM. This started on Tuesday, January 12 and has really began to blossom. Maintenance is looking to reformat the pickleball court layout to have a total of 6 pickleball courts. Currently, we are averaging 15-20 participants with much anticipated growth.

Cuyler Community Center is in the midst of their annual Youth basketball league. This league provides a structured basketball league with referees and has over 150 kids and 15 different teams competing at the recreational level.

Walter Butler Community Center is currently registering kids ages 6-12 for their annual Youth Basketball

league and will have evaluations on March 13. League play will start March 27.

The Annual Fox Lake Spring Craft Festival has sold out with over 150 vendors registered. This event is well attended. In years past, the rough estimate of attendance of was between 5,000-10,000 participants. Moving forward, we are working with Road & Bridge to use a traffic counter to give a more accurate count of attendance.

Fox Lake Family campout was sold out with over 150 registered participants and was scheduled for the weekend of March 6-7. Due to inclement weather, this event will be rescheduled.

Spring Break Camp starts on Monday, March 15 and will end on Friday, March 19. Camp will be offered at five (5) different locations; PSJCC, Cuyler CC, WBCC, Cuyler CC, and ICC. Camp runs from 7:30am-5:30pm and will offer a variety of activities and field trips.

### **Jeff Davis:**

Mr. Davis stated that he received a phone call about plants and trees being planted at Sand Point Park. He will be putting a plan together with Tex and will be discussing at a later meeting with the Board.

Mr. Davis stated that there will be a new location for the fireworks display in Titusville this year, moving from Sand Point Park to Chain of Lakes Complex. This will provide a much better viewing area with room for many more people to attend the event. There will be vendors and live entertainment in addition to the fireworks. The event will be held on Sunday, July 4.

## **VII. Presentations and/or Recreation Partner Reports: (None Scheduled)**

### **VIII. Old Business**

#### **A. Status of the addition to Sand Point Park (Ann Burton/group):**

Mr. Davis stated that he was in contact with the group. The project /fundraising has been on hold due to the pandemic.

#### **B. Homeless in the Park:**

Mr. Davis has provided brochures that have information on housing and food opportunities to our team. When they encounter homeless individuals, the team provides this information to them. Our team does not remove homeless people from the park. The police can have someone removed from the park and issue a trespass if they are disturbing the public. Additional brochures are available on the table next to the entrance.

#### **C. Reading program at Cuyler Community Center/partner with Mims Elementary:**

Mr. Davis thanked Ms. Cline and staff for assisting with this program. Ms. Eva Britt is implementing this program with a group of 15 children. This is a pilot program and will be rolled out to the other centers in the future if it is successful. They are working with the Harry T. Moore Foundation, The Urban League and Mims Elementary School for this project.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **D. Schedule of meeting dates: (July & December)**

Discussion: Mr. Benson stated that the Board typically takes the months of July and December off. The Board votes to approve this yearly. Mr. Benson stated if there was a need to meet during those months, the Board would schedule a special meeting to handle the business needed.

Motion requested by Mr. Benson to cancel the scheduled NBCPR Meetings in the months of July and December, Motion made by Randy Rodriguez, seconded by William Klein, accepted and moved by all.

AYE: Alaimo, Benson, Cline, Connors, Klein, Rodriguez NAY: None Carried 6-0

#### **X. Public Comment:**

**Kay St. Onge** – Sand Point Park: Ms. St. Onge stated that she lives in Titusville. She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. Last week she met with Mayor Diesel and City Manager Larese. They suggested that she come and speak with the Board tonight about projects they favor at Sand Point Park. She stated that citizens are ready to roll up their sleeves and dig in their pockets for planting projects to help restore the park after the sewage spill a few weeks ago. The project to plant trees and lateral planting along the east pond would help absorb polluted water in the ponds preventing further contamination into the lagoon. The plantings would beautify the park and provide wildlife habitats. Citizens are willing to donate fragrant and salt tolerant trees to be planted by Parks & Recreation at the east pond. An initial donation of \$2000 dollars has been pledged and more to come. As donations come in, they hope additional trees will be planted around the park. The city has engaged to install floating vegetative islands in both ponds in the park. Tex Loadholtz has arranged for Mayor Diesel, Lorilee Thompson and Ms. St. Onge to meet at the east pond to come up with a plan. She would ask the Board for a second approval for an additional project. The second project would include the planting of mangroves along the lagoon shoreline. Mangroves would absorb nutrients, stabilize the shoreline and provide breeding ground for fish. The Marine Research Council is willing to discuss mangrove planting with Parks & Recreation. Titusville Tree Farm has donated mangroves to MRC for their purpose. Keep Brevard Beautiful volunteers are willing to plant the mangroves. City Council and the Mayor are in favor of this project which has been discussed between Mayor Diesel and Jeff Davis. Tex has been seeking approval for mangrove planting from Mary Ellen Donner. The local Tetrapod Audubon Society, League of Women Voters and Marine Research Council have recommended these projects to help remediate local sewage spills. These planting projects are a win-win opportunity. With the City's blessing, the hard work & fund raising of citizens and approval of Parks & Recreation, the Park, Tourism and the Lagoon would all benefit. Ms. St. Onge thanked the Board for their consideration of these projects.

Mr. Benson asked the Board if there were any questions. Mr. Connor stated that it was a great presentation, very well spoken and he is in support of this project.

Mr. Davis stated that Tex will be having a meeting to put a plan together. At next month's meeting, he would like to present that plan to the Advisory Board before going to the Public with any plans. Mr. Rodriguez asked if it would be too late in April to begin planting. Mr. Loadholtz stated that trees can be planted at any time of the year.

**Ray Haskell** – Parrish Park: Mr. Haskell stated that he has some concerns about the Parrish Park revamp. Mr.

Haskell spent years defending turf on the other side, he ran Little League in this town for 10 years, he defended those ball fields until he lost them and now they see Parrish Park needs a lot of help. He is glad you guys are doing it but they see a lot of ideas that causes great concern. There are people here with great ideas and he is hoping that the Board will listen to them and convince our County folks to take good care of that place because everyone loves it in this town. They don't want to see it hurt, they don't want to see it commercialized and they don't want it taken away. He hopes the Board will listen to all of the folks speaking, support the revamping ideas and do it right.

**Maryls Breckle – Parrish Park:** Ms. Breckle brought pictures to pass around to the board while she was speaking. She stated that during the pandemic, she spent a lot of time on Zoom meetings in educational on environmental things. Zoom meetings from the University of Florida Extension, the Marine Resources Council, St. Johns River Water Management, a lady named Sara Bia from Maryland, the Reform Bay Project over on the west coast of Florida and everyone talks about planting to protect shorelines. That is what the photos that she has presented are about. They show a picture of the shoreline at Parrish Park back in 1958 and then more recently. From the pictures you can see that we are losing shoreline. If you go out there, you can see we are losing shoreline. It's falling off fast. The scientists have learned native grasses can have roots anywhere from 3 to 18 feet deep. And those roots cling to the sand and keep it from being washed out. If you have turf grass that have roots that are 3 or 4 inches deep, it doesn't hold. Its real important to use plantings that will hold the shoreline. On the other picture it shows the damage after Hurricane Irma that was done along the Max Brewer Bridge. There is a walk way under there across the street from Sand Point Park down under the bridge. That whole walkway was washed out underneath there. There was one mangrove trying to hold that and the rest was rocks. Hardened shorelines do not do the job. You can have some rocks there but you really need the mangroves and plantings that are natural to Florida to do that job. She hopes the Board will take that into consideration.

Mr. Klein stated that on the pictures that were handed out from 1958 to 2019, there is about 60-80 feet of shoreline eroded away during that period of time. This is because without plants there, nothing is being done to protect the shoreline. Mr. Klein has been reading a lot about shoreline planting and deep root plants will hold the sand. In the pictures you can see that the sand washed out below the rocks and the rocks tumbled on down. There was about an 8- foot-deep ledge underneath where the sidewalk used to be. This is what Mr. Klein thinks will happen at the new Parrish Park if you don't have shoreline planting.

**Kevin Rosa – Parrish Park:** Mr. Rosa stated that he represents a group of organization of kayakers, paddleboarders, windsailing, and other water sports. One of his main concerns is vehicular erosion at Parrish Park. Since County Road 5A in Mims was closed, the four-wheel drive and four wheelers have made Parrish Park their personal mud bog. The group would like them ticketed for reckless driving, donuts, spinning their wheels at the waters edge. When they spin their wheels, the shoreline washes out. If this wasn't happening for the last 4 years, we wouldn't be addressing this multi-million-dollar project. As far as the concrete/seawallpaving, the Parks Department unfortunately has a horrible history of everything they build falling apart. The Port St John Boat Ramp, Kennedy Point Park Boat Ramp, Parrish Park Boat Ramp, the Biolab Kayak Ramp which is not the County's ramp, Space View fell apart. They do not want concrete that is going to fall into the river. Water access – Rotary South you used to be able to get into the water. Now there is saw grass and revetment with no access to the water there. Marina Park – you used to be able to get into the water there, that has been taken away. Scottsmoor Landing has been dredged and tons of sand has been trucked in. They do not want a concrete



seawall. They want grass and sand and a dune. They want all the previous uses at Parrish Park to be able to use it. If the seawall is put there, people won't carry their kayaks / other devices from the parking lot and over the sea wall, they will just stop going there. They want a dune that has grass on it, one that you can't drive on. Boulders can be used to keep the traffic back. Spectators love watching the wind surfers. They will go away if you pave this lot. You will be responsible for not having them there anymore. You want no vehicles within 15 feet of the waters edge. If you can't carry your vehicle to the water, then you need to use a motorized ramp. Please don't use your 3.5 million-dollar grant to take away the accessthat they have to the water.

Mr. Klein stated that he recently saw plans showing that there would be steps going down from the parking lot. Mr. Klein asked how difficult it would be for the windsurfers to carry their boards to the water from the parking lot. Mr. Rosa stated that anywhere you have concrete steps, green algae will grow on it causing it to be slippery. No one is going to carry their kayak down the steps. There is also a liability if you allow people to carry things down the steps. They need the sand and grass. A natural top dressing piles the sand up and the grass grows through it. That's what they want. The vehicles taken off of the beach, add pilings or boulders to keep the traffic back and still have the beach access. People could still fish but people could not drive onto the beach and tear it up. This would not be that expensive, they would have tons of money left over. Mr. Rosa has a Facebook group that is growing fast to support the ideas brought this evening.

**Tom Shifalo – Spawning at Parrish Park:** Ms. Shifalo stated that she is here to talk about the importance of the ancient horseshoe crab. Lorilee Thompson has handed out a couple of charts representing the top 4 sites in Florida without considering the Indian River Lagoon. In Taylor County there were only 800+. On the second page in the very center showing the same four and the addition of the orange represents Brevard County's Parrish park north shore. There were over 1,800 crabs sighted on the north shore. On the third page, Brevard County's Parrish Park south there were 24,000 at one counting. You can imagine the importance of a natural shoreline for horseshoe crabs. Especially in this day and age in the rush to get vaccinations, horseshoe crab blood is used in medical testing. Any kind of medical devise that goes into the human body weather through injection, replacement as in hip replacement, pacemaker, they are tested with horseshoe crab blood because the elements in the blood react if there is any kind of biological stress to the organism. This is very important at this time when you consider the scientific research that is going on. This will also disrupt the windsurfers and the people like her that like to watch the activities in the afternoon. She doesn't even get into the water but she does go to assist with counting the horseshoe crabs for the State of Florida and participate in the study that is going on. She would urge the Board if they get to consider the plans to consider Parrish Park for the people and the horseshoe crabs.

Mr. Kline stated that he heard the horseshoe crab eggs are used by the shore birds as they migrate and he also heard that the red knot birds feed on the horseshoe crab eggs to fuel their 9,000-mile migration from wintering grounds in South America. Ms. Shifalo stated that this is scientifically true and has been observed. Ms. Shifalo stated that people coming to watch the birds is one of the biggest tourist attractions in the area.

**John Ingebritson – Titusville Causeway – Parrish Park:** Mr. Ingebritson handed out a sheet showing the shorelines around Brevard County. He stated that he travels the state selling wares. On the map in the lower part of the County in Sebastian, it is all hardened now. Down where Sylvester Stallone and the singer from Miami, in that area is all hardened, its all sheet piles and a huge concrete slab, there is a walkway slammed on top. That

project alone has killed several black mangroves. He goes through there every week and he has seen the black mangroves wither and die. The problem with all these hardened areas you see around our area alone, there are not a lot of places where people in bare feet can get in the water. There are various solutions that are not good for you guys as far as adapting a board walk with steps down into the water because you get barnacles. And talking about steps, in a gusty winds condition, watercraft, kite surfer, wind surfer, kayak/canoe, if its windy and you are going up steps and you got something that will catch the wind, you will scrape your feet on the barnacles. You can stand and even walk on barnacles as long as you don't scrape your feet. Kevin mentioned that he wanted the wheels to be prohibited to launching craft in and out of the water and that is what is basically burning up this grass. The grass has all been torn away by these wheels. Whether it is mudders or jet skiers. Several years ago, he watched a guy get stuck in a pick-up truck and he detached his jet ski trailer and his friends pulled that out. Then he drove his truck into the river back and forth ripping the hell out of all the grass trying to get out of the river. This is a treasure that we have here. We don't have a whole lot of actual walking in the water spots to go to. We have Kelly Park, we have the causeway on 528, the causeway on 520 but these places are shrinking, there are less and less of them all the time.

**Laura Ward – Parrish Park:** Ms. Ward stated she is a resident of the County and she thanked Mr. Davis for helping her get law enforcement to stop the vandalism that goes on at Parrish Park. Ms. Ward asked if the Parrish Park Project was presented to this Board. Mr. Benson stated that it had. She stated that whenever they ask about it, they are told that public comment was taken. Her understanding from people that attended one public meeting that was held in October. At that time, plans had already been drawn up and were presented to the public at that public meeting. Ms. Ward stated that typically when projects are done, they go out to the public to see what the concerns are and then come back to address those concerns and needs. Especially when a project like this is so important to the community. Just drive over there, you don't have to pick a Sunday, just pick a weekday. You would not believe what you see. Families with their kids having cookouts, wind surfers, kites, jet skis, it just goes on and on. The use that is made of this park is just unbelievable. And so, when you do a project like that, typically you go out to the public to receive the concerns, talk to the users about how they use the park and then do a proposal plan. Then you go back to the public and take more input for what is good and what is bad. She understands that these renderings were brought to that meeting showing the park concept that had already been drawn up. If you look at these renderings, the most compelling thing that you see is this large expansive beach, as though you were looking at Waikiki beach, while in reality that is not the case and the building on the ground does not resemble this in any way. That is not the fault of the people involved but the misrepresentation which is her characterization of it is the misrepresentation was not intentional as things happen but when you are the public and you are looking at Waikiki beach, yeah that looks great. But that is not what is going to be over there. There is no beach that will be left and that's a big problem.

Mr. Benson stated that this is an Advisory Board and one of the things they like to do is get feedback from the public so they can pass that information on. He stated that this is the first time people have shown interest in months. Ms. Ward stated that the project is rolling along and she understands that the Commissioner is concerned about losing funding which is a valid concern but we cannot find out what the date is for the funding and they would like to know that. Mr. Benson asked that Mr. Davis make note of that. She stated that you need to talk to the public more and listen to the impact a major asset for the City.

**Commissioner Rita Pritchett came to the podium and introduced herself.** Commissioner Pritchett stated that there is a lot of information that is going around. There is some good information and some bad information. She stated that the project started about 2 ½ years ago. The money being used for the project is a grant in the amount of about 2.5 million dollars. She was excited to have some funds to use. Ms. Laurilee Thompson came into the office to discuss this. Mr. Klein also came to discuss this in the office. They sat down with some ideas and some plans that they had to improve the area there. Laurilee had been sending pictures of horseshoe crabs and they are so beautiful along that area and there is a lot of concern about losing the space there for them. And we always have lagoon issues. The runoff into the lagoon. And there is also really bad issues with the water table going up and that beach is eroding fiercely and the FDOT on one side eroding. Their plan was to come and throw a bunch of rocks out there to save their road. So, they started to do a little bit of work. Finally, they got some funds and they correlated it to the bike path. If we don't do anything, in a couple years, there is not going to be a beach, and what they are planning on doing is putting a road out so cars are parked on it and she believes with all her heart that by keeping the cars off of that part of the beach, the sand crabs trying to nest and also erodes the beach faster. So, the plan is not a sea wall. It's an underground thing that is going to treat the runoff from the road before it goes in where it will come in and go out. If the beach erodes all the way up to that, it is going to look like a sea wall but if its not there, the whole beach is going to erode. Laurilee sent some wonderful pictures of the beach before it eroded from a storm and it looked like a chunk of sand in the water. And what this will do is keep it from going that far and as the water recedes the beach will come back up. Her plan is that after she gets this part of it done that she will be able to approach Natural Resources for additional funding to start recreating some of the sand so that will help. Another thing is that it is 90% complete already. She had it at 2.5 million and Laurilee said that she had to have impervious concrete and she had to go back and find another million dollars and she talked them into it. So now it is at 3.5 million dollars. She thinks it is a good project. She knows it will be a change but if we don't do anything we're about to lose the whole beach. He said that what is on the board is just the variance from set back and not having to have so many trees. That's what she has right now. She stated that they did have two public comments and they did consider them. Mr. Klein wanted the vertical thing so the cars don't drive over them and she showed them in the plan. She thanked everyone and said if they have any other ideas, she thinks they do need to work on different types of vegetation and those types of things to move forward but this is already 90% complete as far as designs and it has been 2 ½ years. (There was discussion away from the microphone that could not be transcribed). There was a suggestion for bringing in sand and Commissioner stated that she does not have money for sand. Someone asked why the bike path has to go through. Commissioner answered that the bike path is done.

**Pam Dirschka – Parrish Park & Sand Point Park:** Ms. Dirschka stated that she wished she had known more about this project 2 ½ years ago so she could have been more involved. She is very involved with the environment and very involved in the community and really until Kevin Rosa put this Facebook group together, she did not know anything about this project. Ms. Dirschka had a wind surfing business and her husband was windsurfing there before the towers were built. She stated that it is really important to a lot of recreation sports to have direct access to the water. When you put concrete in, it has to be done in a way that impervious might work, she is not an expert on that, she just knows that you are carrying your equipment and it is unique here and people come from a lot of places to enjoy and our local people really enjoy it. She is glad there are people

working on the plan. She wished there were more involvement in the community so people like her knew about it early on. She really thinks we need to reach out to our community and she is glad that Kevin has done that. She also wanted to say that she support Kay and Marie and the tree team, she has followed much of their activity and she supports the recommendations that they have done and let's keep help making our community better.

**Melissa Stahl – Parrish Park project:** Ms. Stahl thanked the board for letting them address this issue. She has a lot of interest in this issue and thanked everyone for the comments and suggestions that they have. She thanked the Commissioner for her to come out and addressing some of the issues that she had been trying to hunt down. She understands that we do have a grant that is working towards this and we may have deadlines but there are some issues that obviously have not been addressed for a lot of the actual users of tis park. She is fairly new to Titusville and only here for a couple of years and just recently started getting involved in learning some of the things that she treasures. She did come here to watch some of the sports and to be involved in watching the water sports so to see that the possibility that it may disappear takes away one of the reasons for her to stay because that is why she came. So, she just wanted to express that to the Board. And some of the concerns that they have right now before the plan even gets put into place like the Commissioner mentioned we do not need or want those vehicles on the beach because it is one of the reasons that it is eroding so quickly now. Those mudders, she would like to use Mr. Rodriguez's idea to put a bounty on them. The mudders are out there not only at Fay Lake Wilderness but also at our beach. Laura Ward has been speaking with Mr. Davis and trying to get some support and trying to figure out how we can get TPD or whoever is supposed to help manage that area for the security and safety and whatnot. We want to get them involved and she has been speaking with them and trying to get them there but we need to figure out how we can get some of those rules on there that there is no access, it should stop now. That area is bleeding out so we need to stop that bleeding and put some rules into place. There is 117 parks, 3 campgrounds, She can go over and over. About 16,500 areas that Parks & Recreation are responsible for maintaining those parks and someone how there are rules involved but how are they being enforced. There is no rules at our parks being enforced. So, she was just wanted to make sure those were addressed. And someone made the comment that they didn't know there were so many of us out here, yea this will not be the only time you see us. It is not going to be the last, we're a thorn in your side. We plan to be here quiet a bit. There are 150 of us that are interested and some of us cannot be everywhere at once but we'll take up your time. I hate to do that but we will take up your time until we have your attention.

**Laurilee Thompson – Parrish Park parking lot, Sand Point Park – tree planting:** Laurilee Thompson stated that the second card was only to thank the Board for working with her to plant the trees, they really appreciate the support. It is one of the premier parks and it will make it look a lot nicer. Laurilee thanks the Commissioner for coming and talking to everyone about the grant. She stated that this has been going on for the last three years. (Paperwork was passed around to the Board) On the pictures, there is a stake from April of 2019. That stake is the amount of erosion that has taken place and you can see the yellow arrows and you can see on September 23, 18 months later. That stake was way out in the river. That's how much shoreline that was lost in 18 months. She went out with the tape measure yesterday and measured the narrowest park of the causeway. The concrete bollard foundation is going to be 10 feet from the water at the narrowest part from the causeway. We've lost 10 feet of shoreline in 18 months. Her concern is that if you do this project without

putting sand on the beach at the same time or very close after it is done, that beach is going to be gone in a very short time. And once the sand goes away, you can't get it back, you can't get the permitting to put the sand back. It makes no sense to her. There is free sand available, it is the same exact stuff that the causeway is made out of dredge fill and its up in Scottsmoor. There is tons of it and we could use our equipment and go get it, it wouldn't cost that much. Go up and get some dump truck loads of fill and bring it back. She knows that they dumped fill at Kelly Park. She saw the piles of sand on the shore. Then she saw the bulldozers pushing it into the water at Kelly Park with no silt boom. The terribtidy went was out in the river. But if she could get the permitting, she thinks there would be a chance because of the significance of the horseshoe crabs. This is the most significant crab nesting area in the state. The Titusville causeway is critical to the survival of the horseshoe crabs in the Indian River Lagoon. Look at that picture that was handed to you. Every causeway around us is hardened except for the NASA causeway and they're going to take it out when they build their 50-million-dollar bridge. So, if we don't save the shoreline that's on the Titusville causeway, horseshoe crabs, a thing that's been on Earth for 600 million years stands at risk of going away, blinking out of the Indian River Lagoon. You can't count the dykes on the refuge anymore, they nest along the dykes but because of erosion, the dykes are coming apart. Fish and wildlife is putting in rocks. Every time they make a dock repair and every time they put in rocks, its going to erode on both sides of the rocks so eventually all of the dykes along the river shore along the wildlife refuge, there are not going to be sandy beaches anymore, they are going to be piles of rocks. In addition to the horseshoe crabs, you have the humans that use the beach. This causeway is the beach for the people that can't afford to buy a house on the river or buy a boat so they can go out in the river. You look at the people that are going out on the causeway and that's how they get to the river. If you look at the seawall that is at Sand Point Park, it started out as a seawall but now it has rocks in front of it and in front of the pavilion because the seawall couldn't hold. They had to put rocks in. So, the concrete bollard foundation that's going to be ten feet from the waterline, you lost ten feet of shoreline in 18 months, that's how long it will take the river to chew away to that concrete bollard foundation. They did a nourishment project on the Ft. Pierce causeway, they have a beautiful beach and they have pindings way away from the waterline to keep people from pulling their cars down there and they got this beautiful sandy beach shoreline with seagrass growing on the other side. If we end up with the concrete bollard foundation ended up being a seawall because the sand erodes we'll never get sea grass back . Because seagrass will not grow along the seawall. The backwash from the waves slamming into the seawall scours the bottom and you not only won't get seagrass, you won't have creatures that can live there either, no sand worms, no clams. Seawalls ruin everything. And so, we have an opportunity for now to do a project to the gateway to the third most visited wildlife refuge in the nation. There are wildlife photographers, birds on the beach, the horseshoe crabs, you go down there after a horseshoe crabs gone, there are massive flocks of shorebirds flying around and wildlife photographers all over the place. If we lose the beach, we lose all of that. Free sand, all we need to do is figure out how to get it there.

Thank you for the support on the trees. She has met with a prominent business man that prefers to remain anonymous this morning and he is going to go out and pick up the other people in the business community and raise money to use. Thank you very much.

Mr. Klein asked if there is time to work on the project for Parrish Park. It may be a good idea to get 50 volunteers together to talk about going together and getting permits to help the parks get the permits

because he doesn't think they've done anything to get a permit. Maybe if you get a good volunteer group you all can help us get that nourishment project going. Lorilee is trying to get volunteers. This is a unique situation but it's not like their rubber-stamped project. This is a very very important project for both people and wildlife and maybe because of the significance of the crabs, if we get a beach in, you can look in the bottom right hand picture, after the erosion happened, now you have a beach, and eventually it did, the waves came up and they smoothed out that area that you see along here and now that hole that was created and caused by the mud trucks , its leveled out now and it's a nice beach. The waves come up on the beach and they roll back in the water, then they come up on the beach and they roll back in the water and the sand moves around. You can go to Playalinda after a big storm and there will be a six-foot-high embankment and you think oh my goodness, what happened and then you come back a month later and the beach is back. The sand moves around. But if you put barriers up so that they waves are crashing into the barriers, its going to suck the sand out. And then if we get a big storm, it could actually undermine the project. Just like it did the sidewalks under the bridge. Walls against the water don't work, nice smooth beaches where the water can roll up and down, that's what we need.

Mr. Benson thanked everyone for coming out. He said they should come out more often because this is the type of feedback needed.

Motion requested by Mr. Benson to adjourn, Motion made by Randy Rodriguez, seconded by Bianca Alaimo, accepted and moved by all.

AYE: Alaimo, Benson, Cline, Connors, Klein, Rodriguez NAY: None Carried 6-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm

Public present: 11

Public comment cards: 11

Members present 6

Staff present: 6

City staff: 0 Total: 23

Respectfully submitted, Mr. Arnold Benson, Chair  
sc