

# **Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreational Advisory Board (PRAB)**

**Meeting Summary – May 7, 2012**

**Big Coppitt Firehouse – Big Coppitt, Fl.**

## **Present:**

Steve Miller, Chair/PRB Member  
Dr. Jim Boilini, Co-Chair/PRB Member  
Bob Mock, PRB Member  
Amy Spielberg, PRB Member  
Chris Tejera, PRB Member

## **Staff:**

Dent Pierce, Public Works/Facilities Division  
Rosa Washington, Monroe County Liaison

## **Agencies & Community:**

Tom Coward – Board Member Friends of Higgs Beach  
Michael Behmke – Board Member Friends of Higgs Beach

## **Meeting**

**Call to Order:** Steve Miller, Chair/PRB Member at 6:12pm. A quorum was present

Self-Introductions

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Minutes of 03-15-12 approved as written (motion to approve by Dr. Boilini and seconded by Ms. Tejada).

Tom Coward and Michael Behmke from the Friends of Higgs Beach presented the Board with information regarding the Higgs Beach Masterplan and their vision for the future of the park/beach.

Mr. Coward and Mr. Behmke shared several details with the Board regarding the project's funding, concession, possible realignment of the road, possible additional burial grounds identified and the plans for the playground. They mentioned that there was a consideration of a water feature for the park, but that could possibly be too expensive due to the maintenance it would require. Mr. Coward and Mr. Behmke also explained to the Board the limitations of Tourist Development Council (TDC) funding for this project.

Dr. Boilini asked if the Friends of Higgs Beach organization has had any participation from the representatives of the ADA Accessibility representatives.

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Mr. Behmke said that Friends of Higgs Beach have addressed some of the ADA concerns, but there are still more to address.

Chairman Miller thanked Mr. Coward and Mr. Behmke for taking time to come and share this information with the Board.

### **Update – Bernstein Park**

Mr. Pierce provided an update on Bernstein Park, which is being used for Soccer and Baseball. This park gets lots of use; any given afternoon and evening you see dozens of children there playing various sports and activities.

Mr. Pierce shared with the group that there is an item in the County's budget that if approved, would allow Monroe County to request an architect's proposal to raise, fill and crown the field. The Board was informed that the park would probably be out of commission while the work is being done.

Dr. Boilini stated that, "It will great to get this done; the kids in the Bernstein Park area deserve a nice park."

Dr. Boilini made the motion to recommend that staff start process to bring Bernstein Park to the level of other parks in the County.

Motion was seconded by Ms. Spielberg, and passed unanimously.

Mr. Coward suggested that Board members send e-mails to their Commissioners supporting the improvements to Bernstein Park.

### **Update Key Largo Park**

The County has completed maintenance/improvements to the tennis courts and soon will be doing the track. Lights for the Volley Ball courts are in the budget.

Board members will continue outreach to their area Chambers of Commerce.

FDOT should complete their project of consolidating their signs soon. The directional signs which will include parks in their listing should be installed by next meeting.

Board agreed to hold next meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012, Murray Nelson Govt. Center in Key Largo.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM

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