

Regular meeting of the Parks and Recreational Advisory Board (PRAB)
Summary Minutes – January 14, 2013
Big Coppitt Firehouse, Big Coppitt, Fl.

Members Present:

Dr. Jim Boilini, Co-Chair/Member
Chris Tejera, Member
Bob Mock, Member

Staff Present:

Rosa Washington, Monroe County Parks & Rec Board Liaison
Trish Smith, Monroe County Transportation Planning Manager
Willie DeSantis, Supervisor Facilities Maintenance

Guests Present:

Dan Dombroski, Boys & Girls Club - Big Pine
Phil Frank, Terramar Environmental Services

Meeting

Call to Order: Co- Chair Boilini called the meeting to order at 6:18pm. A quorum was present.

Self-Introductions

Co-Chair Boilini welcomed all to the meeting.

Summary Minutes of 01-14-13, approved as written (motion by Dr. Boilini and seconded by Ms. Tejera and approved by a unanimous vote of those members present).

Mr. Dombroski shared with the Board information about the after-school program that he has instituted at Blue Heron Park, on behalf of the Boys and Girls Club. The Teen Center will also have Saturday night hours from 6:00PM to 10:00PM. Mr. Dombroski has many future plans for Blue Heron/Teen Center and he hopes that as these projects evolve he will have the support of the Board.

We were fortunate to have Phil Frank from Terramar Environmental Services and resident of the Lower Keys attend the meeting to offer suggestions as to what and how we can add further attractions/amenities to Big Pine Park, and other projects in the area.

Big Pine Park

Mr. Franks suggested that the County may consider installing observation decks at Big Pine Park, with no boating access.

Board Co-Chair Boilini asked, “How difficult is it to trim the trees and brush that we have at Big Pine Park?”

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Mr. Frank responded, “You must coordinate environmental resources, and obtain a Florida Department of Environmental Protection Permit.” Mr. Frank also informed the Board that a permit to trim the mangroves is good for life.

Mr. Frank did not recommend the County seeking water access at Big Pine Park due to the sea grass, sand migrating and other challenges that can be expensive.

Next, Ms. Smith shared with the Board that she is overseen Monroe County’s portion of the Heritage Trail and Overseas Highway Project, and she suggested that the Board consider supporting a scenic overlook at Big Pine Park.

Board Co-Chair Boilini asked, “How much would an overlook cost?” Ms. Smith informed the Board she is not sure of the exact amount, but there are funds available from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) via the Heritage Trail Project. Locations for the overlooks will be selected from the BOCC approved plan.

Motion: Co-Chair Boilini made a motion to recommend to Monroe County that the trees and mangrove located at Big Pine Park be trimmed, and that they follow-up on possible Scenic Highway funds to possibly have an overlook at Big Pine Park. Motion was seconded by Ms. Tejera and approved by a unanimous vote of those members present.

Ms. Washington informed the Board that the webpage for the Board is almost ready, but they are waiting for Mr. Miller’s picture and bio.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM