

Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 18 2016 6:00 PM

Minutes recorded by Chris Rivera Monroe County Project Management

Meeting began at 6:15 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Steve Miller

Jim Boilini

Heather Smith

Board Members not present:

Christine Tejera

Bob Mock

Media Present:

None

Monroe County was represented by:

Doug Sposito Director of Project Management

Chris Rivera Project Manager

There were about 15 members of the public in attendance

Previous meeting minutes were not approved by Board members.

Meeting Minutes:

- Discussion of Blue Heron contract for management- Steve Miller has stated that the Big Pine Lowers Keys Rotary Club is interested in managing the park. Doug Sposito stated that there would need to be a proposal from the Rotary for the County to consider them for management. A member of the Rotary was in attendance and asked if there were funds for improvements. Doug Sposito answered that the County does not have funds for that and maintenance would be part of the contract if the Rotary should take over the management of the park.
- Discussed the Amphitheater TDC application. The application was retracted due to the TDC (Maxine Pacini) informing the County that there were not enough funds available. The application will be re-applied for during the spring TDC application. It was also discussed that the

unsolicited drawing was probably not going to be provided as previously stated. Project Management would be able to put a TDC application in to include engineering and construction of the amphitheater.

- Discussed Bocce TDC application- The Bocce TDC application was retracted due to the TDC (Maxine Pacini) informing Project Management that the Big Pine Key Park is not considered a waterfront park. The Board heard from members of the public about the Bocce courts and how they were in need of repair. The Bocce courts are used 5-7 days a week. There are about 290 citizens who are on the Bocce league. The Board was asked for a resolution in support of the Bocce make over.
- Jim Bolini made a motion to support the \$70,000 Bocce and exercise path renovations be funded by the County. Heather Smith seconded the motion. All board members present voted in favor.
- Over all maintenance of the park was discussed. The water line trimming was an issue. Members of the public expressed concern about trimming the Mangroves down to see the sun rise. It was explained that the mangroves could only be trimmed in only two ways. As per state Department one is being trimming down to a 6 foot height and two being Windowing up to 10-12 feet. Windowing is the best way to view water from the shore. It was discussed that both could be done to the waterfront.
- Bikes in skate Parks was discussed. Doug Sposito explained about the County's position and asked the board to make a motion to support.
- Jim Bolini made a motion to support Bikes in the Skate Park. Heather Smith seconded the motion. Dan Dombrowski, Director of the Boys and Girls was in attendance and expressed concern about the bikes being allowed in the skate park. Steve miller expressed concern about bikes in skate parks. The Board voted unanimously in favor of Bikes in Skate Parks.
- A citizen expressed concern that the Playground lights were not bright enough for play during the dusk hours the park is still open. Chris Rivera said he would look into it.
- Discussed Higgs Beach TDC applications. Two applications were retracted due to the TDC (Maxine Pacini) Informing the County that there were not enough funds to support the applications. The Nature Visitor Center and beach Sand re-nourishment were the retracted applications. The Playground with water feature was denied by the board members.
- Pickle ball court proposals were listened to. Friends of Higgs Beach were present and spoke about the need for more pickle ball courts at Higgs beach.
- Jim Bolini made a motion to approve the Pickle Ball courts at Higgs beach. Heather Smith seconded the motion. All board members voted in favor.

- The Pickle Ball Club asked to be allowed to offer Pickle Ball lessons at the County courts and charge a fee. Doug Sposito told them it would likely require both staff and BOCC approval. The club representatives said they would contact Chris Rivera to discuss further.
- Jim Bolini brought up concerns that citizens have brought to him. Lighting at the Key Largo Tennis courts. Chris Rivera said he would take a look and get back to the board with recommendations.
- Key Largo Park Concessions AC. Was it completed? Chris Rivera said he would look into and get back to the board.
- The board members present were asked to sign the disqualification letter for Christine Terjera. Steve Miller, Jim Bolini and Heather Smith all signed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM