



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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MONROE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2023

- In-Person and Virtual Meeting
- Minutes recorded by Naomi Pagidas, Executive Assistant, Monroe County Parks & Beaches
- Darcy Wadsworth, who was running late to the meeting, passed the gavel to Dr. Boilini. Upon her arrival Dr. Boilini handed the gavel back to Darcy Wadsworth
- Meeting called to order at 6:10 p.m.

Board Members in-person attendance:

Darcy Wadsworth
Dr. Jim Boilini
Margie Smith
Matthew Babich

Media Present:

No Media Present

Monroe County was represented by:

John Allen - Director, Parks and Beaches
Nathalia Archer - Assistant County Attorney
Tom Henry - Manager, Parks and Beaches
Suzi Rubio - Aide to Kevin G. Wilson, Senior Project and Budget Manager Administration
Kirrin Peart - Sr. Recreation Team Leader, Parks and Beaches
Jethon Williams - IT Media Manager
Jovanie Vasquez - TV/Multimedia Technician

Public Attendees:

No Public Present

Meeting Minutes:

The Board approved meeting via Zoom/CMT methods (Resolution 397-2020) and in-person. Dr. Boilini made a motion to approve, and Matthew Babich seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

• **Agenda Changes/Approval of Agenda**

Old Business:

Matthew Babich added

- Monroe County 200 Years/200 Miles update
- Adopt-A-Park update

Dr. Boilini made the motion to approve, and all were in favor. Motion was approved.

- **Approval of Board Meeting Minutes of March 27, 2023.** Board had no changes to the March 27, 2023, meeting minutes. Matthew Babich made a motion to approve, and Darcy Wadsworth seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

- **Project Management Update:** Kevin Wilson granted Suzi Rubio authority to discuss the Project Management-Project Status Report.

Big Pine Key Community Park:

- Flood panel project contract has been awarded.

Veteran’s Memorial Park:

- ADA Pavilion and Tiki Huts: Tiki huts are completed. Pavilion installation is pending due to cap rock issues.
- Restroom Repair: Restroom repairs are in discussion with the engineering team.

Higgs Beach & West Martello:

- All damage assessments have been identified and being sent to FEMA for review.

Bay Point Park – American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):

- McFarland Johnson was hired to develop a design.

Big Pine Community Park Sports Field Improvements – ARPA:

- Scope of work was changed from sports field improvements to adding soccer field Musco Lighting.

Bernstein Park Re-Sod/Turf – ARPA:

- The engineer, Bill Horn, is revising plans to include necessary improvements to irrigation system and sod replacement.

Blue Heron Park Master Plan – ARPA:

- The Blue Heron Master Plan will include new pickleball courts and a driving range. The Blue Heron Park improvements will include adding a new playground and a fitness court.

Higgs Beach Restroom Replacement:

- New restroom construction will begin in May 2023. Suzi Rubio will attempt to find a design to share with the committee.

Pine Channel Nature Center Trail Enhancements:

- The County received \$200,000 (two-hundred thousand dollars) in TDC funding for trail enhancements.

Rowell’s Waterfront Park Phase I:

- Phase I should be completed once the bathroom repairs are finished. The park will close when Phase II begins in late July or early August 2023; John Allen added that there will be another restroom near the water, new shelters, soccer field and a parking lot during Phase II, and a new dog park during Phase III.

Plantation Key Government Center:

- The old courthouse in Plantation Key has the potential to be a recreation space for a senior center. The major spalling repairs and improvements to the building will delay the proposed community center.

Dr. Boilini asked for the RFP update on managing the Upper Keys Jacobs Aquatic Center. Nathalia Archer: The Upper Keys community pool lease is extended to September 30, 2023. The lease extension item will be before the BOCC on May 17, 2023, with the anticipation to have the RFP completed and advertised by mid-May.

Jacob Aquatic Center, RFP management and TDC application for pool liner: Nathalia Archer: Project Management applied for TDC funding for FY24 to replace the Jacobs Aquatic Center pool liner. The estimated cost is \$250,000-\$300,000.

Darcy Wadsworth arrived at the meeting location, and Dr. Boilini passed the gavel back to Darcy Wadsworth.

- **Parks and Beaches Director Update:**

- Other Current Projects:

- New playgrounds and rubberized surfaces will be installed throughout the Keys.
 - Friendship Park and Wilhelmina Harvey Park: new rubberized surface
 - Old Settlers Park and Blue Heron Park: new playgrounds
 - Key Largo Community Park: new fitness court
 - Big Pine Community Park: new playground with rubberized surface
- Big Pine Community Park:
 - Installing additional Musco Lighting to the field
- Higgs Beach dog park and Sugarloaf School:
 - New tiki huts
- Harry Harris Park:
 - RFS is under legal review for fencing around ballfields
 - Adding new playground near ballfield
- Big Coppitt Park:
 - Added concrete cornhole boards

- Ordinance Amending Various Articles of Chapter 18, including e-bikes, playground age restrictions, etc.:

- Nathalia Archer: The ordinance went before the BOCC in April to Request to Advertise. The proposed ordinance will disallow adults in playgrounds without a child who is fourteen (14) years of age or younger. The proposed ordinance also included to regulate electric devices to only where vehicular traffic is allowed.

- Upcoming BOCC Agenda Items:

- Nathalia Archer: Summer Camp Program Ordinance - The ordinance will establish the initial summer camp regulations. A test pilot program will begin at Big Pine this summer with plans to expand throughout the Keys in the future.

- Keys Kids Swim Program:

- A pilot swim program started with Key Largo Elementary School in early May, and it will be used to develop a model for future programs throughout the Keys. There are sixty-seven (67) participating children which most have never been in a pool and are now learning how to swim. A grant from The Keys Children's Foundation covers free summer swim lesson vouchers to eligible children in grades 1-8 that fail a swim test.

- Teqball – Naomi Pagidas:

- Teqball is a fast-growing global soccer-based sport with Teqball tables across fifty (50) states. Teqball USA donated eight (8) tables to Monroe County Parks and Beaches to help them grow the sport. The tables will be placed at Higgs Beach, Harry Harris Park, Key Largo Community Park, Big Pine Community Park, and Blue Heron Park. A table will be placed at Rowell's Waterfront Park after construction.

- Summer Camp – Kirrin Peart:

- The Summer Camp program will run for approximately seven (7) weeks in Big Pine Key. The department will hire a summer camp director and counselors. The application is being completed along with permission slips and other pertinent documents that will require legal review. The plan is to expand the program in 2024. Kirrin Peart may be contacted if interested in the summer camp program.

- **Old Business:**

1. Reconfirm 2023 meeting dates: March 27, 2023, was held in Marathon; May 8, 2023, at Key Largo; July 10, 2023, reschedule meeting or Zoom option; October 16, 2023, at Bernstein.

- Move July 10, 2023, meeting to July 17, 2023, at Big Pine Community Center. Matt Babich made a motion to approve, and Margie Smith seconded the motion. Motion was approved.

- Matt Babich added 200 Year/200 Miles: Kirrin Peart update - the 200 Year/200 Mile flyer is posted on digital media and hard copies were distributed throughout the County libraries to promote the event. The participation responses are slow, and Matt Babich suggested to contact Stacey Mitchell, TDC Executive Director to help advertise the event.
- Matt Babich added Adopt-A-Park: How can the community get involved? John Allen stated that if anyone is interested in volunteer opportunities, they can contact Parks and Beaches. Donations to the County are welcomed, with proper BOCC approval.
- Margie Smith added Key Largo Dog Park: John Allen stated that there is no updated information on adding dog parks in the Upper Keys.
- **New Business:**
 1. Hurricane IAN FEMA Repairs: Parks and Beaches is working with the Project Management Department on repairs. Parks and Beaches will handle certain projects such as playground replacement and shade structures, while Project Management will handle pickleball courts, fencing, beach replenishment and pier repairs. The departments meet biweekly to discuss FEMA status.
 - Matt Babich: Higgs Beach playground update: John Allen indicated that the equipment damaged at Higgs Beach was as result of Hurricane Ian, and it is unrepairable. warranty. The equipment needs to be replaced like for like, which may take a while before it is replaced. Nathalia Archer commented that extensive federal regulations must be met to get FEMA reimbursement.
 2. Jacob Aquatic Center, RFP management and TDC application for pool liner: Item was discussed on Page 2
 3. YMCA/Key Largo Community Park: The YMCA used to manage the rentals and events, but due to limited staffing, the County has taken over responsibilities. Dr. Boilini inquired about the YMCA RFP, and Suzi Rubio clarified that the YMCA is still under contract and that there is no RFP for the YMCA, but rather, there is an RFP for Jacobs Aquatic Center; they are two different entities.
- **Additional Public Comments:** No public present.
- **Board Comments:** Matt Babich, as a new member, asked for clarification on donations to the County, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board committee voting process. It was discussed that the donation items are presented to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board committee for approval before presenting it to the BOCC.

Dr. Boilini recommended to officially open the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. A motion was made by Dr. Boilini, and seconded by Margie Smith. All were in favor.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Darcy Wadsworth, and seconded by Matt Babich. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.