

County of Monroe

The Florida Keys



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Mayor Danny L. Kolhage, District 1
Mayor Pro Tem Heather Carruthers, District 3
George Neugent, District 2
David Rice, District 4
Sylvia J. Murphy, District 5

Meeting Summary Monroe County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board April 13, 2015 Nelson Government Center, Key Largo

Board Members: Steve Miller, Jim Boilini

County Representatives: Commissioner Sylvia Murphy, Kevin Wilson, Trish Smith, Robert Glassmer, Chris Ambrosio

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order. No vote was called to approve the January 12, 2015 meeting minutes because a quorum was not present. Chris Ambrosio, Assistant County Attorney, lead a policy discussion on the use of gas powered remote control toys. He explained that the Facilities Maintenance staff is having problems with someone operating a high powered remote control vehicle at Big Pine Community Park. The facilities staff feels as though the vehicle is tearing up the sod at the park and is a potential safety risk for other park users. There are currently no local ordinances to prevent this activity. The attorney's office asked to bring this item to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for discussion. After a brief discussion about whether or not to create an ordinance to prohibit the activity, Mr. Miller requested that the County Attorney's Office draft an ordinance for discussion at the July 13, 2015 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting. He also recommended that the Facilities staff politely ask the person using the vehicle if he would consider Palm Villa Park as an alternative location for the activity.

Mr. Boilini provided an update on Rowell's Marina. Mr. Miller and Mr. Boilini provided recommendations for items to include the pending scope of services for the design contract. The board reviewed the concept plan (11/8/13) and asked to remove the concession building, move the buildings out of the V zone, and to remove the vegetation on the west side of the property to make way for a beach. The board reiterated their position that there should be no boat ramp available for motorized users. There was a brief discussion about the current landscape lease. An RFQ for a design consultant will be advertised in summer 2015. A \$130,000 federal transportation grant will fund the design of the uplands area.

The board introduced a policy discussion regarding park management contracts, after school and summer programs, athletic association roles, and event/facility scheduling at county parks. The YMCA and the Upper Keys Athletic Association were present and contributed their views to the discussion. Mr. Boilini asked for clarification on the YMCA contract responsibilities. The YMCA agreed to move their operations to the 2nd floor of the Key Largo Park Building and let the Upper Keys Athletic Association operate the 1st floor concession stand. The YMCA noted that a contract amendment with the county would be necessary. Mr. Wilson agreed to have his Facilities Maintenance staff make improvements to the 2nd floor of the building to include climate control and signage.

Several audience members complained about the increase in the homeless population at Key Largo Park. Mr. Boilini agreed to contact the Sheriff's Dept to ask them to patrol at the park.

Mr. Wilson agreed to have his Facilities Maintenance staff add countertops, a sink, and floor drain to the concession stand at the Big Pine Community Park. Ms. Smith noted that there is a pending request from the Boys and Girls Club of the Lower Keys to move their operations from Stiglitz House to the Big Pine Community Park. Mr. Miller asked about the structural condition of the Stiglitz House. Ms. Smith explained there is a lease provision that limits the number of children in the house at any given time to comply with a requirement by the Fire Marshall. Mr. Miller asked if Boys and Girls Club uses the Blue Heron facility. Ms. Smith shared that the Boys and Girls Club had reported to her that they use it once a week on Fridays for teen activities. Mr. Miller noted that the Rotary Club would like to use the Blue Heron facility for their meetings. Mr. Wilson asked the group whether child care should be a core service of the county. This led to a lively discussion where participants expressed the need for better child care in the Florida Keys. Mr. Wilson reminded the board that the county will be letting an RFP in the fall for Bernstein Park. He asked the group to think about what provisions should be included in the RFP.

The discussion on park management contracts, after school and summer programs, athletic association roles, and event/facility scheduling at county parks will be presented again in July to garner comments from the lower keys community. Ms. Smith noted that the July meeting will also be used a public workshop for the Big Pine Swimming Hole project. The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled for July 13, 2015. Dr. Boilini stated that he would not be able to attend on that date. Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:45pm.