

Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2016 6:00 PM

Murray Nelson Government Center

Minutes recorded by Chris Rivera Monroe County Project Management

Meeting began at 6:00 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Steve Miller

Jim Bolini

Margie Smith

Board Members not present:

Bob Mock

Heather Smith

Media Present: NONE

Monroe County was represented by:

Chris Rivera Project Manager

In attendance was Commissioner Sylvia Murphy, Kevin Wilson (Assistant County Administrator), Rich Jones (Marine Resources Senior Administrator), Robert Glassmer Administrator, Buildings, Parks and Beaches) about 4 members of the public

Previous meeting minutes were approved by all Board members present.

Meeting Minutes:

Discussion about vendors at Parks and Beaches. Kathy Hemmesch gave a presentation about Nom. Nom. a beverage cart that would serve coffee and a variety of healthy snacks and drinks. Steve Miller had mentioned that vendors were on a park by park basis. Steve Miller had brought up that not all parks could have vendors such as parks bought with certain funding had restrictions. Jim Bolini mentioned the Florida Community Trust grant that Big Pine Community Park was built with has restrictions about its use. Chris Rivera said he would look into if there is an ordinance to allow or disallow a certain amount of vendors at Higgs Beach.

Rich Jones gave a presentation on the proposed Kayak launch at Crawl Key (Proposal attached). The board members had concerns about having other Kayak launches so close to the proposed and thought it would be better to leave it as is.

Jim Bolini made a motion to use option 1 from the proposal. Margie Smith seconded. Steve Miller asked all in favor. Unanimous vote given.

Discussion about parking at Higgs Beach and Harry Harris park. Kevin Wilson spoke about the feasibility study the County proposes. It is a study to see if the County can augment park maintenance funding by charging non-residents to park at parks and county parking areas. Jim Bolini asked would you charge locals. Kevin's response was: locals will not be charged. Jim Bolini also asked if they were to do something like this would the money collected be just for the parks? Answer is: money collected from parking would go to support park maintenance. Jim asked about where the money would go for the people who do not pay for parking and get ticketed? Kevin responded with these are all things that we are looking to receive in the feasibility report. Jim Bolini made a motion in favor of the feasibility study. Margie Smith seconded. Steve Miller asked all in favor. Unanimous vote given.

There was a discussion about the Sunset Park extra property and how there was parking issues. It is a sub parcel located down the street from Sunset Park. It is county land that has water access and no boat ramp. The neighborhood would like to restrict parking and Commissioner Murphy mentioned that if there were to be stipulations like that it would restrict the residents in the area also.

Robert Glassmer the Upper Keys Administrator, Buildings, Parks & Beaches spoke about the parks in the upper keys. Robert spoke of the work that has happened at the Key Largo Park. They did work on the irrigation at the ball field separating them into two independent systems and then resodded the fields.

Chris Rivera reviewed work in progress at the other parks.

Chris Rivera gave a brief statement about Rowell's Waterfront Park and the Ranking committee to select a designer for the FDOT grant funded work for an overlook at the park. The Ranking committee was to be held in the Murray Nelson Building on Friday October 21, 2016 at 2 P.M. Public is welcome to attend.

While discussing the parks on Big Pine Steve Miller mentioned that the Rotary Club was interested in managing the Blue Heron Park. Chris Rivera asked for a proposal and Steve Miller said he will get that to the County.

A brief update about the progress at Bernstein Park was given. Most of the demolition had been completed. Jim Bolini asked how high they were raising the park. Response was up to two feet but it varies.

A brief update on Higgs Beach. Atlantic Street relocation has 90% plans completed.

After the parks discussion, members of the public in attendance asked some specific questions about Rowell's. It was mentioned that the Ranking committee was to make a recommendation to the BOCC about a designer for the Park and after the Board approves them that public meeting will be happening to ensure the public has their input.

Jim Bolini made a motion to adjourn. Margie Smith seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM

Kevin Wilson asked that these clarifications be added to the minutes.

1. Both Key Largo & BPK parks were acquired with Florida Communities Trust funding. This restricts commercial activities at the parks. There are exceptions for non-profits such as the Rotary that allows vendors at the 4 July celebration at BPK and the Sheriff's Night out at KL.

2. The Friends of Higgs Beach has suggested to the BOCC and the BOCC adopted a limit of 2 food and 2 non-food vendors at Higgs Beach Park. That meant that one of each in addition to the long term vendors - Salute! & Tropical Watersports were allowed. The lady that sells ice pops and coconuts was selected by RFP. Any new vendors would have to be selected by RFP. We have not had anybody express interest in non-food vending.