

# Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

## Special Meeting- Pickleball at County Facilities on Big Pine Key

February 6, 2017 6:00 PM      Big Pine Park Community Center  
Minutes recorded by Chris Rivera Monroe County Project Management  
Meeting began at 6:00 PM

Board Members in attendance:  
Steve Miller

Board Members not present:  
Jim Bolini  
Margie Smith  
Heather Smith  
Bob Mock

Media Present:  
None

Monroe County was represented by:  
Chris Rivera Project Manager

There were about 20 members of the public in attendance

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting began by Steve Miller bringing up the topic of vandalism. It was mentioned that vandalism is the defacing of property without permission.  
Chris Rivera then read the Agenda to the public present.  
Steve Miller asked to change the second part of how the public would speak and be heard. He said that we do not need to have each person get up and speak for a period of time. The public would be able to raise their hand and be called on to speak. Only one person may speak at a time.  
Various members of the public spoke and were listened to. The following were the points of discussion.  
    Why we are not allowed to draw pickleball lines at Watson Field.

Is it really vandalism to draw lines on the tennis courts?

There are so many pickle ball players now that they do not have enough space for all to play.

The number of accessible courts needs to be increased.

Pickle ball players need 4-6 courts at a minimum.

Tennis players treat Watson Field courts as their personal courts.

Pickle ball is a growing sport and needs to be accounted for in the long term of the county.

Hearing the concerns it was suggested that if the pickle ballers would fill out a request to use county property they could lock in a time to play at the Big Pine Park courts where they would not be asked to leave if they had permission. They would be able to set times and block out play times. The Parks and Rec Board stated that the current policies of not allowing chalked lines at the Watson Field courts and for users without a "use of County Property" request at any County facility will be allowed a maximum of one hour of play time if any other persons are waiting to use the same facility would remain in effect. At this moment there will be no chalking of lines at the Watson Field Park.

A suggestion was made about adding lines to the basketball court which is hardly used in the Blue Heron Park.

A suggestion was made that if the Bocce courts are built then the space that is not used can be repurposed for Pickle ball courts and then the tennis players can have their courts and pickle ball players can have theirs.

Many discussions back and forth were had about the consequences of vandalism.

Chris Rivera said that the County does want to help all citizens and make our parks accessible for all people. He would bring all of the suggestions heard at this meeting to project management and see what if any might help solve this issue.

If pickle ball players want to use the facilities at Watson field they are more than welcome to use that facility and tennis players cannot ask them to leave before their hour session is complete. However pickleball players are NOT allowed to alter any part of the courts. NO lines and NO lowering the nets.

Clarification

The policy that 50% of all Big Pine Tennis Courts be used for Pickle ball is a recommendation of the Monroe County Parks and Rec Board not the Monroe County Board of Commissioners as was stated at the meeting. We apologize for the confusion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM