

# Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2018 6:00 PM

The Harvey Government Center

Minutes recorded by Deb Martinez, Facilities/Parks & Beaches

Meeting began at 6:07 PM

**Board Members in attendance:**

Steve Miller

Dr. Jim Boilini

**Board Members not present:**

Gayle Glover

Margie Smith

**Media Present:**

No Media was present

**Monroe County was represented by:**

Chris Rivera - Project Management/Parks and Rec Liaison

Willie DeSantis - Interim Facilities Maintenance Director

Chrissy Collins - Executive Administrator

Patricia Eables – Assistant County Attorney to the Board

There were no members of the public in attendance.

## Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes from previous meeting on August 28, 2017, were approved and passed.

Chris Rivera gave an update on the following:

- **Higgs Beach:**

- Most of the mean high water sand has been replaced and the beach is open.
- Reynolds Pier is still closed to the public due to storm damage. There is an FDOT Lap Grant to re-surface the pier.

- **Pines Park:**

- The plan is for further development for drainage & park design.
- Bids were open on 3.21.2018 for drainage & parking lot for Phase 1.

- **Bernstein Park:**

- The contractor is making repairs as result of Hurricane Irma and the Park can't be open until these repairs are completed.
- Playground equipment is being replaced.
- Basketball courts need to be repaired & the condition of the baseball field is being assessed.
- Road work is scheduled to begin in September, by engineering -MCBOCC
- Vegetation is being replaced where needed. (Part of Contractor Responsibility)

\*Patricia Eables advised that a notice to proceed went out to three (3) artists for artwork under the Art in Public Places program.

- **Boca Chica/Geiger Key Park:**

- The boat ramp is being evaluated/no current projects.

- **Big Coppitt/Fireman's Park**

- No current project at this time, there is some fencing that still needs to be replaced, and the park is open to the public.
- Fireman's Park needs to have benches repaired.

- **Gulf View Park:**

- FBIP Grant was received to construct a new accessory pier & boat ramp

- **Wilhelmina Harvey Park:**

- The fence is being repaired and playground equipment that was ordered before the hurricane was replaced/no current projects

- **Baypoint Park:**

- New shade structures will be arriving on May 17<sup>th</sup> and installed.
- Tennis Court fencing needs to be fixed.
- Due to hurricane related lighting issues, the Park closes at sunset.

**Ramrod Park:**

- No damage/no current projects.

**Blue Heron Park:**

- Pickle ball courts are open.
- The community building is still being evaluated and Chris Riviera has met with FEMA to discuss possible funding assistance to get the building up to code or replaced.

\*Question from Dr. Boilini: What does the Parks and Rec Advisory Board feel should happen to the building if the BOCC asks? Replace building to provide after school activities.

\*Steve Miller questioned if it would be better to knock down the structure and rebuild, possibly putting in a modular? Chris Riviera responded that all options are being looked into and that the BOCC has Blue Heron on their April agenda for discussion and direction to staff.

**Big Pine Community Park:**

- While the Park sustained significant damage, it is 60% open.
- The ballfield, basketball & handball courts are not open.
- The bocce courts are being worked on & should be open within a month.
- Exercise stations have not been repaired or replaced as of yet; however, mulch has been spread so they can be used.
- Big Pine Community Center elevator is not working- it has mold and other repairs and unable to begin until it is mold free.
- Construction on the Scenic Vista will begin mid/late May.
- The TDC application for the amphitheater is being submitted again.
- Stiglitz house had significant damage. Chris Riviera has been in contact with FEMA discussing possible financial assistance to either repair or rebuild.

**Palm Villa Park:**

- No current projects.

**Swimming Hole:**

- Proposals due in May for the CEI (re-advertised in March).
- Site was a marine debris storage area, but all boats were removed by contractors; not sure what is in the bottom now, so will possibly need to hire divers to find out.

**Watson Field:**

- Fencing, lighting, and sod need to be replaced. (Irma related)
- Concession stand needs to be gutted. (Irma related)
- The dog park, tennis, and volley ball courts are open.

**Veterans Memorial Park:**

- Chris Rivera will be meeting with architect regarding rebuilding; however, due to significant storm damage; it will not be operational for a long time.

**Burr Beach:**

- No current projects.

**Harry Harris Park:**

- Sustained significant damage similar to Big Pine Community Park, however the boat ramp, beach, and restrooms side is open to the public.
- The boat ramp is going to be re-black topped and will need to be closed during that time.

\*Dr. Boilini questioned if there has been any thought/consideration to rework the design and/or sod issues at the ballpark. He has been receiving questions from local residents. Chris Rivera wanted to know why they would want to change the design and asked Dr. Boilini to send him the questions he was receiving and Chris will respond to them. Chris also advised FEMA funds couldn't be used to help redesign the field.

**Settlers Park:**

- No current projects.

**Key Largo Community Park:**

- The park is open; however, parking lot lights need to be replaced. (Irma related)
- Basketball & Hockey area are closed and need minor repairs. (Irma related)
- No projects for pool area at this time.

\*Dr. Boilini stated that there needs to be a permanent solution for pickle ball and the one (1) acre empty parcel near Key Largo Park may be an option for a permanent pickle ball court. Those attending agreed a solution was needed; however, there were other priorities first such as getting county buildings repaired and community outreach.

**Sunset Park:**

- No current projects.

**Friendship Park:**

- No current projects.

**Rowell's Waterfront Park:**

- Bathroom design is almost 100% completed.
- Construction on bathroom to start by end of July.
- This area is on standby for Marine debris.

\*Attendees discussed receiving FEMA funds and Steve Miller asked if time line for receiving the funds was realistic and Chris Rivera said that yes it was feasible.

\*Both Dr. Boilini & Steve Miller commended Public Works for the phenomenal job they have done and are still doing on re-opening the County parks and facilities after the storm. Both felt the department went above and beyond to get things done.

Chris Rivera advised that Stuart Schaffer and Coach Pete Tirado have requested that the Sugarloaf School Park be placed on the July agenda for further discussion. He also introduced Chrissy Collins, who will replace him as the staff liaison to the Board.

Upcoming meeting dates are July 16 and October 15, 2018, but locations have not yet been determined.

Meeting adjourned at 7:19 PM.