

Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2018 6:00 PM

The Murray Nelson Government Center

Minutes recorded by Deb Martinez, Facilities/Parks & Beaches

Meeting began at 6:01 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Steve Miller

Dr. Jim Boilini

Margie Smith

Board Members not present:

Gayle Glover

Media Present:

Theresa Java- Florida Keys Free Press

Monroe County was represented by:

Kevin Wilson-Assistant County Administrator

Willie DeSantis - Interim Facilities Maintenance Director

Robert Glassmer-Administrator Facilities, Parks & Beaches

Chrissy Collins - Executive Administrator

There were approximately 30 members of the public in attendance.

Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes from previous meeting, April 16, 2018, were approved and passed.
- Steve Miller advised the public attendees if they wanted to speak at the meeting they would need to sign in.
- The meeting began with a discussion regarding Pickle Ball.

Key Largo

- **Key Largo Community Park:**
- Rick Houser- Public- Gave attendees an overview of pickle ball and as a member of an unofficial pickle ball league, would like to see dedicated pickle ball courts at Key Largo Park. They are currently taping line on the basketball court. If dedicated pickle balls courts are not possible, they would like to see permanent lines on the basketball court (these line could be a different color than those of the basketball lines.) Rick researched and was able to give approximate pricing for this. The number of players utilizing the court varies. The courts are normally used for pickle ball between 8:30am-12:00pm. Dr. Boilini stated that they, basketball and pickle ball players, co-habitat together well. Kevin Wilson said it would take some time to get quotes for pickle ball courts and possibly up to a year to get dedicated ones for Key Largo Park. Dr. Boilini made a motion to release part of the basketball court for pickle ball until a long term solution could be found- Steve Miller seconded the motion. Motion Approved.
- Jessica Dockery-Public- Suggested shade screen for the playground at the park.
- Terry Regelman-Public- Expressed concern that only 2 of the 6 tennis courts had lighting and feels they should all have lighting. Kevin Wilson advised pricing is being looked into.
- **Key Largo Community Pool-No Current Projects.**
 - Dr. Boilini advised there are some lights damaged at the pool, and there is no contract with Musko. Kevin Wilson suggested contacting a local electrician for estimates.
- **Sunset Point Park- No Current Projects.**
- **Friendship Park- No Current Projects.**
- **Rowell's Waterfront Park-**Part of the park opened on the 4th of July. Dr. Boilini asked for an explanation regarding why we needed to wait for FDOT regarding the restroom. Kevin Wilson advised because a grant from FDOT was received – their approval is needed before work can begin.

- Julie Duvall-Public- Asked if the artist rendering of Rowell's is still accurate. Kevin Wilson advised that it was still.
- Beth Rosenow-Public- Would like not just open space- but a family friendly atmosphere with shade screens over the playground area. Also feels a splash pad would be good for Rowell's.
- Linda Perloff- Public- Would like to see a shade structure and level lot for Tai Chi and Yoga. The area would need to hold 15-20 people. Linda also feels that the park closes too early. Would like to see stay open a little later- about 20 minutes after sunset. Dr. Boilini advised that the county ordinance decides the hours and this is important for staffing purposes. Kevin Wilson stated that currently the park does close ½ hour after sunset.
- Jessica Dockery- Public- Would like to see the area be dog friendly, with a fence for the dogs. She would also like to see a sandy area for the kids to play. The playground equipment in the park is made of plastic and gets very hot and causes burns, she feels that the playground area needs shade screens to prevent this from happening.

Tavernier

- **Burr Beach**-No Current Projects
- **Harry Harris Park:**
 - Work is being done on the ballfield side and debris is being removed, however, an architect is still needed for the scope of work and full electrical.
 - The boat ramp is currently open.
 - There is no kiosk at the gate, so it's currently free to use.
 - Sue Heim-Public- Wanted to address the illegal parking and request something be done about it. She said that there is no consistency on when or who can get in the park. Kevin Wilson advised that parking on the right-of-way on the pavement is not illegal, however, if vehicles are parked on the paved way, the sheriff's office should be ticketing these vehicles.
- John Dunn-Public- President of Upper Keys Athletic Association- Currently the ball field is not available for use however, John would like to see the ball field being moved about 180 degrees- as to not hit balls at the homes behind the park. Also, the dugouts were knocked down season before last, and have been replaced with fencing and has limited shade. Currently there is no approval for a permanent structure- he would like to see a permanent structure put up in a no flood zone. Steve Miller advised if the changes were made, that the teams would lose the field for at least a season if not longer. John advised that they were aware of this. John wanted to make sure that their suggestions were heard and also advised that not everyone was happy with the temporary fencing. It would take a capital investment to make the change. Steve Miller asked if it would be possible to look further into this request. Kevin Wilson committed to look at the cost.

John advised he had talked to contractors who want to donate their time and labor to make this happen. Kevin Wilson advised if they have a plan he will take it to the commissioners, however, the county will not be responsible if volunteers get injured. Dr. Boilini made a motion that the county staff get information regarding keeping the ball park as it is now vs. redesigning. Margie Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- **Settlers Park**-No current projects.

Little Duck Key

- **Veterans Memorial Park:**
- The park was severely damage during Irma, however, Kevin Wilson believes that portions of the park will be usable in six (6) months or less. The board was happy to hear that a partial opening may be sooner rather than later.

Big Pine Key

- **Blue Heron Park:**
- The structure is under evaluation- Kevin Wilson has advised it will be torn down.

- **Big Pine Community Park:**
- Scenic Vista- One grant covered two (2) projects-The Water Observation Platform and Reynolds Street Pier in Key West. The Big Pine project should be completed by the end of July.
- Amphitheater- The Amphitheater was turned down for TDC funding.
- The playground, bocce, and tennis courts are now open, and the 4th of July celebration was a huge success.
- **Palm Villa Park**- No current projects.
- **Swimming Hole**-The applicants for the proposals have been ranked and now we are waiting on FDOT to see if they agree with the decision. Because FDOT money is being used for this project- they need to approve every step of the way.
- **Watson Field**- The ball field fence will be replaced soon.

✓ Per Kevin Wilson- we are trying to accommodate as many public events as possible.

Ramrod Key

- **Ramrod Park**- No current projects.

Saddlebunch Key

- **Baypoint Park**- No current projects.

Geiger Key

- Boca Chica Beach- No current projects.
- Geiger Key Park- No current projects.

Big Coppitt

- **Big Coppitt Park**- No current projects.
- **Barcelona Boat Ramp**- The ramp will be closed for one (1) day in July or August- (date will be advised), so a crane will be set up – to set a house on Big Coppitt. We have asked the organization to give two (2) weeks’ notice of the date- so a closed sign can be posted on the ramp.
- **Wilhelmina Harvey Park**- No current projects.

Stock Island

- **Bernstein Park**
- The punch list is being completed.
 - ✓ **Note:** There was a soft opening on Monday, July 23rd, and a formal Grand Opening will be held on August 15, 2018, during the BOCC meeting.
- The park is being managed by the Facilities/Parks and Beaches department and there are full-time employees on site.
- Scheduling for the ballfield is being determined; however, there may be an interlocal agreement with the city of Key West.
- The building rooms will be scheduled by the Facilities/Parks and Beaches department.

Key West

- **Higgs Beach**
- **The Reynolds Street Pier**- One grant covered two (2) projects-The Reynolds Street Pier and the Observation Platform in Big Pine. The pier project is scheduled to start in August and to be substantially completed by the end of October.
- **Pines Park**-The parking area improvements are part of an ongoing project attached to the East Martello drainage. The TDC has approved phase 2 and funds will be available October 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 7:26 PM.