

Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2019 6:00 PM

Bernstein Park
67515 5th Street
Stock Island

Minutes recorded by Deb Martinez, Facilities/Parks & Beaches
Meeting began at 6:00 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Steve Miller
Dr. Jim Bolini
Margie Smith
Darcy Wadsworth

Board Members not present:

Gayle Glover

Media Present:

No Media Present

Monroe County was represented by:

Willie DeSantis - Facilities Maintenance Director
Chrissy Collins-Executive Administrator
Patricia Eables-Assistant County Attorney
Keith Bring- Project Manager
Cary Vick-Project Manager

There were three (3) members of the public in attendance.

Meeting Minutes:

- Introductions
- Minutes from the November 7, 2018, meeting were approved.

- **Bernstein Park**
 - ✓ Keith Bring advised that the fitness park area near the basketball courts is in the permitting stage and should be completed by late April or early May.
 - ✓ Steve Miller asked if bicycles should be allowed on the walking path. Willie advised that an ordinance was being drafted to keep bicycles off the path.
 - ✓ Attendee Tiffany Pellicier asked if chemicals were used on the field. Willie stated that no chemicals are used- just fertilizer and water.
 - ✓ Dr. Bolini complimented the park saying he felt it was the best in the county.

- **Big Coppitt Fireman's Park**
 - ✓ Cary Vick advised a number of Irma repairs are being sent out for RFP.

- **Veteran's Park**
 - ✓ The road project has been completed.
 - ✓ The underground utilities assessment is being completed.
 - ✓ The park will be partially open for the 7-mile bridge run in April.

- **Big Pine Community Park/Watson Field/Blue Heron**
 - ✓ The underground utilities assessments are almost completed.
 - ✓ The fencing at Watson Field is completed, however, currently there is no lighting. The lighting will be upgraded because the current lighting is obsolete and may install lights similar to those at Bernstein Park.
 - ✓ Steve Miller stated that the Bocce league really wants lights. Willie advised that once all the fencing was completed, temporary lighting may be an option.
 - ✓ Per Cary Vick, the swimming hole project is going to the BOCC for funding. There is a contractor lined up and if all goes well, it could be under construction by spring/summer.
 - ✓ Big Pine Community Park is still being repaired and the drywall has been started.
 - ✓ The house at Blue Heron Park will not be getting torn down- it will be repaired- FEMA said the damages were less than 50%.
 - ✓ The basketball and hockey areas of Big Pine Community Park are getting new asphalt.

- Harry Harris Park/ Key Largo Park/Friendship Park
 - ✓ The baseball field at Harry Harris will be opening on March 2, 2019. Daytime hours only.
 - ✓ Negotiations are taking place to design/repair the jetty and swimming area.
 - ✓ Work is ongoing in getting lighting repaired and the repairs will happen after baseball season.
 - ✓ An impact fee has been applied for to get another pickleball court at Key Largo Park.
 - ✓ Dr. Bolini mentioned that shade covers should be at Key Largo Park. It was suggested that there could possibly be a grant out there for them, however it was stated that grants for those are hard to find, and currently the county doesn't have a grant writer.

- Rowell's
 - ✓ Plans are being drawn and work is being done, permitting issues for the entrance, bathroom, parking, and walking area. There is a possibility that work will begin in the fall for Phase 1.
 - ✓ Dr. Bolini would like to see the same recycled material that is in the children's park at Bernstein installed for the playground at Rowell's.

- Higgs Beach/Pines Park
 - ✓ Moving of the road is in the hands of DOT.
 - ✓ Repairs to the stairs at Reynolds St. Pier are almost completed.
 - ✓ The master design plan is ready for approval. The DEP and National Park System are holding it up.
 - ✓ Extending the beach has been delayed due to the government shutdown.
 - ✓ It was asked if there would be any maintenance on the stairway by the seawall near White St. Pier- FEMA needed to come back out and capture the damages. It will either be repaired, or a new seawall will be put up. A TDC application is being submitted for the seawall.
 - ✓ The drainage project at Pines Park has been completed and the new driveway is getting ready to be paved.

- Update on Sugarloaf School
 - ✓ Patricia Eables advised after meeting with Roman Gastesi and Kevin Wilson, they would like Stuart Schaffer and Coach Pete Triado to meet with the School Board to see if they would be interested in a partnership with the County. They would also like representatives from the County to attend the meeting. Stuart has a copy of the minutes from the November meeting and will going to the School Board to discuss options.

Steve Miller suggested that someone reach out to Commissioner Carruthers to inquire about the representative that was appointed to the board for District 3. He inquired as to when was the last meeting the appointee attended. Note: The appointee last attended a meeting on April 17, 2017.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting- motion was seconded- meeting adjourned at 6:59 PM.