

# Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2019 6:00 PM  
Murray Nelson Government Center  
102050 Overseas Highway  
Key Largo

Minutes recorded by Deb Martinez, Facilities/Parks & Beaches  
Meeting began at 6:01 PM

## **Board Members in attendance:**

Steve Miller  
Dr. Jim Bolini  
Margie Smith  
Darcy Wadsworth  
Gayle Glover

## **Media Present:**

No Media Present

## **Monroe County was represented by:**

Kevin Wilson- Assistant County Administrator  
Willie DeSantis - Facilities Maintenance Director  
Chrissy Collins-Executive Administrator  
Robert Glassmer-Administrator Facilities, Parks and Beaches  
Patricia Eables-Assistant County Attorney  
Keith Bring- Project Manager

There were approximately fifteen (15) members of the public in attendance.

## **Meeting Minutes:**

### **Introductions**

- Steve Miller had members of the Parks and Rec Board introduce themselves to the public.

### **Key Largo Community Park-**

Concerns were expressed by attending members of the public regarding the County applying for a grant for three (3) parcels to build affordable housing, including a parcel at Key Largo Park.

- Paul Bean -Public- Paul is against developing the site for affordable housing. He feels this will bring too many people and more congestion into the area. He stated that in the past he believed that the parcel was going to be used for overflow parking and feels it should be used for that purpose to alleviate congestion in the area.
- Rick Houser-Public- He thought dedicated pickleball courts were going on the parcel.
- Alisha Cantana-Public- She is worried about the parking issues.
- Nancy Bean-Public- She would like to see permanent pickleball courts and extra parking.
- Rick Hauser -Public-He is concerned that it will take years for permanent pickleball courts and doesn't like having housing in the Park.

Keith Bring and Kevin Wilson advised that the pickleball courts have to go through the design and permitting phase. There is a possibility of six (6) courts -They would like to get with Rick Hauser at some point to discuss the best way to set up pickleball courts. Keith also advised the lighting repairs in main parking area of Park is in engineering and design phase.

Steve Miller stated while he is not a fan of giving up green space, he would also like to see gravel parking and pickleball courts in that space.

A motion was made by Dr. Bolini to allow the County to go ahead with applying for the grant and included in the motion is that there could be affordable housing at the Key Largo Community Park. Motion was seconded by Margie Smith and passed.

### **Rowell's**

- Jack Kardys, of J Kardys Strategies, LLC, showed the attendees an updated presentation that included suggestions that were made at a previous public meeting. The presentation included a splash pad with sound buffer and no motorized boating access.
- Margie Smith- Board Member-Asked how the dog park would be confined, yet still available to use for other potential purposes. Jack stated it would be separated by a "sleeve fence."
- Buddy Urban- Public- Tamarind Bay-Feels that pickleball courts should be put in at Rowell's. He doesn't want the park to become like Disney World. When asked to define that statement- he said the splash pad with all the young children, he felt it would just be too noisy, and just inviting non-residents. He did like that fact that there was no boat access and liked the overall design.
- Jim Aguer- Public-Tamarind Bay- Felt that the plan was great, and it addressed his concerns regarding boat access. He was also concerned about the noise at the splash pad and feels that since there is one at Jacobs, he doesn't understand why there needs to be one at Rowell's. He stated the residents at Tamarind Bay would have to deal with the noise year-round.
- Margie Smith-Board Member-She didn't feel the noise at the splash pad would be that loud, especially with the buffer.

Management at the Park will determine the hours at the splash pad.

Dr. Bolini made a motion to approve the conceptual plans presented by Jack Kardys and recommended they be presented to the BOCC. Motion was seconded by Margie Smith and passed.

### **Harry Harris Park**

- Steve Miller- Board Member- Wanted to know if the Park would be ready for mini lobster season. Kevin Wilson responded- Yes. Kevin also stated that the County was trying to have Harry Harris staffed so it could charge an entrance fee for the mini lobster season.
- Keith Bring- Project Management- Advised that the lighting and repairs at the baseball field were in the permitting stage. The scoreboard is contingent on the electrical, but Kevin Wilson advised the electrical design is done. Also, the electrical panels need to be brought up to code and raised up 12 feet. Keith also advised that the asphalt repairs for the courts and trailhead are in permitting and the jetty need to go through the design phase. Also, at this point we don't know if there will be changes to the lagoon area.
- Scott Papp-Public- Feels that Harry Harris could be a great park, however, thinks it is taking too long to get it back to what it was before the storm. He was discouraged because the kiosk (to collect fees) had been delivered on May 22 and it still was not up and operational, and that leaves room for parking to be open territory.
- Steve Miller-Board Member-Advised attendees that Big Pine & Harry Harris Parks were in similar situations.
- Kevin Wilson-Advised that the fees at Harry Harris were not a big revenue stream.
- Dr. Bolini-Board Member- Asked if there was anything outside of FEMA funding that could be done. Kevin responded- Yes, go to the BOCC regarding Ad Valorem taxes.
- Kevin Wilson advised that there were a ton of projects that needed done and that there were more issues than money for all of them.
- Alisha Cantana- Public- Urged the attendees to have patience- let them know it took her two (2) years to get her dock permits.

### **Wilhelmina Park**

- Willie DeSantis-Facilities Maintenance Director-Advised that shade sails have been put up at this Park.

### **Big Pine Community Park**

- Steve Miller- Let everyone know that County staff was an integral part of making the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration at the Park happen.
- Keith Bring – Project Management - also advised that the contractor was selected for the lighting at the Park and the contract was going to the BOCC this week for approval. Then it will be going to permitting- the lighting will be LED – the same as at Bernstein Park.
- The Community Center – Drywall repairs are being done and we are going out to bid for the exterior. Portions of the building may be available- possibly in October.
- Fencing- Final fencing should be completed soon at Watson Field and Big Pine Park.

- Baseball Field- We are trying to open portions of the field and then after the season – get a water irrigation system installed.

### **Blue Heron**

- Final fencing should be completed.
- Lighting is being addressed.
- Housing- there were no bids- it needs to go back out to bid the process again.
- Pickleball court available for day time play.

### **Friendship Park**

- Willie DeSantis-Facilities Maintenance Director-Advised that shade sails are being installed at this Park.

**Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Darcy Wadsworth - motion was seconded - meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM.**