

Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 6:00 PM
Bernstein Park
6751 5th St
Stock Island, FL 33040

Minutes recorded by Deb Martinez, Facilities/Parks & Beaches
Meeting began at 6:10 PM

Board Members in attendance:

Steve Miller
Margie Smith
Darcy Wadsworth

Board Members not present:

Dr. Jim Bolini
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
Cary Knight-Director Project Management
Tom Henry- Project Manager

There were two (2) members of the public in attendance.

Meeting Minutes:

- A motion was made by Darcy Wadsworth to approve the Minutes from the October 21, 2019, meeting and Margie Smith seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

Sunshine Law Review:

The Sunshine Law presentation will be held at another meeting when the full Board is present.

Bernstein Park

Redevelopment

- Cary Knight advised that there is consideration of changing out the current turf on the fields possibly to artificial turf. Steve Miller expressed concerns regarding all the drawbacks of artificial turf.
- The high school has the turf and it is working out well thus far, but the County is waiting to see how it works for the City of Key West before any decision is made.

Fitness Court

- The construction of the fitness court is completed (decals pending) and the Park is now considered multi-generational.
- The irrigation system will be extended to cover the area adjacent to the fitness court and regular turf grass will be installed to prevent erosion.

Diane Beruldsen-(Public)- Would like to see the field lights adjusted. Willie DeSantis advised that the lights would be checked and adjusted if necessary. Diane also expressed concern that the field was being overused. She would also like to see “no bikes in park” added to signage. She stated that the current rules per the signage are not being abided by and that the Sheriff’s Deputies do not do anything about it. Diane also expressed her concern that the Park field use was not being shared evenly.

Patricia Eables advised that the Ordinance would be changing for Bernstein Park and that all changes should be made at one time and inquired if the Board had other concerns to address in the ordinance. The request for not allowing bicycles in the Park would have to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners before new signage can be installed. Discussion was held on perhaps moving some bike racks inside the Park since some of the park visitors do not have bicycle locks.

In addition, Darcy Wadsworth expressed concern regarding older children on the playground equipment that is meant for younger children. It was suggested that staff reach out to the manufacturer to see what the age requirement/cut off would be for the current playground equipment.

Higgs Beach

Park Access Road 6F (conversion of use process)

- There is a stalemate with DEP who says the original use has been violated. A request has been made for the FAA to do a study on moving the non-directional beacon and tower. Replacement of the bathrooms is progressing.

Sand Re-nourishment

- The final review and approval of the permit expected is January or February 2020, and the RFP is expected to be published then in a few weeks.
- Construction should be completed by May 2020 before turtle season starts.

Big Pine Key Parks

- Ballpark lighting has been completed at the Big Pine Community Park and the lighting is the same as installed at Bernstein Park.
- After meeting with the contractor, the pathway lighting is scheduled to be repaired.
- Would rather replace than repair the Blue Heron Park residence due to the amount of Irma damage so they are seeking approval from FEMA.
- Swimming Hole project needs revisions to clear the County permitting process. In addition, a new sub-contractor needs to be hired due to issues with contractor. The CEI and Contractor are both under contract though. There was discussion to consider making the swimming lane at least 25 meters in length so the area could be used for competition meets.
- An RFP for the Sheriff's deputy house at Big Pine Park will be going out for bid again.

Rowell's Waterfront Park

- Plans for Phase 1 are final, and all permits are confirmed.
- An extension was received to the FDOT LAP Agreement through September 2020 - completion possible by May 2020.

Key Largo Park

- The Task Order was signed to address remaining items at the Park, including parking lot lighting.
- For next year, the community would like to have Bermuda grass on the ball field instead of the current St. Augustine grass. However, other projects need to be completed before this can be addressed due to the expected costs, which will be over \$50,000 and will require an RFP. Further discussion will be held on the matter at the next Key Largo meeting.

Harry Harris Park

- The contractor began installing lighting on December 18, 2019, and this should be completed before baseball season begins.
- The resurfacing of the basketball court and walking path began on January 6, 2020.
- The Task Order for the consultant to begin work on the Beach Jetty and Wilkinson's Point is to be considered for approval by the BOCC on January 22, 2020.
- The first new boater information kiosk was installed at Harry Harris Park in January 2020 and this project was funded with a FBIP grant.

Fireman's Park

There was discussion on reconfiguring the Park to remove the bocce courts and Willie DeSantis will find out more information.

Veterans Park

An RFP is being finalized to be published to redo the bathrooms after the Hurricane Irma damage. FCAA is doing an injection well at the Park and the County is working on replacement of the shade shelters. FDOT had used the park as a staging area so they repaved the ramp.

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Darcy Wadsworth and seconded by Margie Smith - meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.