

Parks and Rec Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

July 19, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Minutes recorded by Deb Martinez, Facilities/Parks & Beaches
Meeting Called to Order at 5:38pm

Board Members in attendance:

Steve Miller

Margie Smith

Dr. Jim Boilini

Gayle Glover

Board Members not attending:

Darcy Wadsworth

Media Present:

No Media Present

Monroe County was represented by:

Kevin Wilson-Assistant County Administrator

Suzi Rubio-Aide to Kevin Wilson

Chrissy Collins-Executive Administrator

Patricia Eables-Assistant County Attorney

Cary Knight-Director Project Management

Meeting Minutes:

- A motion was made by Gayle Glover to approve meeting via Zoom/CMT methods (Resolution 397-2020) and it was seconded by Dr. Boilini. Motion approved.

Approval of Agenda for July 19, 2021, meeting

Board had no changes and Agenda was approved.

Approval of April 19, 2021, Meeting Minutes

- Board had no changes to the April 19, 2021, Minutes. Dr. Boilini made a motion to approve and Gayle Glover was the second on the Motion. Minutes approved.

Discussion of meeting for October

- The October 18, 2021, will be a hybrid meeting – for those attending in person it will be held in Key Largo starting at 6:00pm at the Murray Nelson Government Center. Zoom information will be posted at a later date.

Project Management Update - Cary Knight

- **Rowell's** - There is a small revision to the Contract on the July BOCC agenda. However, Toppino's is working on getting ready to mobilize. This will be Phase I - realignment of the entrance - upper parking lot - portion of the path and the upper bathroom. The project came in under budget for TDC and capital funding. The remaining grant funds will be used to start the design of Phase 2.
- The grant that was put in has passed the first phase and we are allowed to apply for the grant when the application process formally opens.
- **Veterans Park**- The restroom work is under contract, and we have received FDOT permitting for the pavilion.
- **Sheriff's Residence** - Permitting is being finished.
- **Blue Heron** - 90% completed.
- **Watson Field** - Batting cage will be installed next week.
- **Big Pine Park** - Everything will be completed next month.
- **Big Pine Swimming Hole** - It is currently under construction.
- **Higgs Beach** - The Sand Renourishment project should start within the next two (2) weeks with Toppino's being the selected contractor. Permitting is done. By having a monitoring plan once the sand project is completed, it should qualify the County for future funds.

Sunset Point Park II- Dr. Boilini

- Dr. Boilini stated that he underestimated how many locals used this Park regularly.
- Per Kevin Wilson, there are a number of options that are going to be discussed at the BOCC meeting regarding this area.
- Questions have been asked if the Park can only be open to locals and per the County Attorney, this would not be allowed under current laws.
- Kevin reiterated that this is about Bay Drive - also known as Sunset Point Park II, yet it is not actually a "park". This area is different from the Sunset Point Park Boat Ramp. Several members of the public offered comments.
 - ✓ Dr. Boilini made a motion to have reopen a dialogue with the BOCC regarding allowing locals to have access to the Bay Drive Park (Sunset Point Park II). Margie Smith was the second on the motion. Motion carried.

Key Largo

- **Pickleball Courts at Key Largo Park- Suzi Rubio**
- The bids were opened from the Request for Proposals. There were three (3) proposals and the selection committee has a prospective proposal to present to the Board at the August meeting. The company selected was McCourt Construction. The representative for McCourt advised they would like to get started as soon as the Board votes. They want to get permitting started before Labor Day – however, construction would not be started until after Labor Day. The bid price was \$203,500.

- **Frisbee Golf- Chrissy Collins**
- Frisbee Golf is on track and nine (9) baskets have been ordered and will be shipped mid-August.
- The baskets are pink - any other color would not have been shipped until mid-October.
- After the baskets arrive - staff will walk and plan the course - the baskets will be permanent.

Harry Harris Park & Wilkinson Point- Suzi Rubio

- An RFP went out seeking a contractor for repairs.

Board Comments:

Chairman Miller brought up for discussion, after having been contacted by numerous residents, on having traffic directed down County Road in Big Pine Key in order to reach the Big Pine Key Park rather than Sands Road. There was further discussion by the Board on the issue and whether a sign should be placed on U.S. 1, but no final action was taken.

Kevin Wilson updated the Board that John Allen had been hired as the new Parks and Recreation Director for Monroe County. He is from the Tampa area and Kevin will send his Resume to the Board members. The Board would like to meet with him to discuss his vision for the Parks and Beaches and the vision of the Board.

Public Comments:

Madelin Riquelme - Feels it is not fair for Bay Drive to be shut down to locals. She feels that Key Largo residents would be willing to pay a fee to use the park. She felt having it open on weekdays for the locals would be a great idea.

Motion was made by Dr. Boilini to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Gayle Glover - meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Next Meeting: October 18, 2021, at 6:00pm