

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

DATE: October 7, 2014

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14

Consent Agenda ☐

Regular Agenda ☒

Public Hearing ☐

County Administrator's Signature:

Subject:

Adoption of a Resolution for the Annual Observance of Veterans' Service by Waiving Fees at County Parks and Park Facilities on Veterans Day.

Department:

Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR)

Staff Member Responsible:

Paul Cozzie, Director

Recommended Action:

I RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (BOARD) ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR THE ANNUAL OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' SERVICE AND WAIVE ALL PARKING FEES, TO INCLUDE BEACH AND BOAT RAMP PARKING, AT ALL COUNTY PARKS AND PCR FACILITIES ON THE RECOGNIZED FEDERAL VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY EACH YEAR.

Summary Explanation/Background:

At the June 24, 2014 Board meeting, the Board voted to waive parking fees at Fort De Soto Park, Sand Key Park and Fred Howard Park to honor military veterans on the 4th of July (Independence Day) holiday and requested staff to bring back a policy for future observances, estimating the financial impact on budgeted revenues.

Staff has considered the three patriotic holidays recognized as federal holidays and typically associated with the service of our country's veterans; July 4th/Independence Day, Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Independence Day is celebrated annually on July 4th and commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Memorial Day is celebrated every year on the last Monday of May to remember the men and women who died while serving in the country's armed forces. Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11th and honors all members who have served in the United States armed forces. Typically, if Veterans Day falls on a weekend, the national holiday observance is either the preceding Friday (if November 11 falls on a Saturday) or Monday (if November 11 falls on a Sunday).

A survey of several other urbanized and or neighboring Florida counties, including Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, Pasco, Sarasota and Lee, as well as the City of Clearwater, indicates no special designation or fee waiver associated with any particular veterans' observances (attachment No. 1). Several counties offer a discounted annual pass rate for active military and veterans, as well as free passes for disabled veterans.

Fiscal Impact/Cost/Revenue Summary:

Limited data is available as the parking fees at Ft. De Soto and Fred Howard parks have only been in existence since January 2012. Additionally, prior to October 2011, the City of Clearwater was responsible for beach parking fees at Sand Key Park. Other factors, such as the day of the week the holiday falls on, weather and season may also affect fee collections. Attachment No. 2 summarizes historical revenue collection on these holidays. Based on the analysis, the approximate loss of annual parking revenue for Veterans Day parking waiver is \$5,000 for Fiscal Year 2015.

Exhibits/Attachments Attached:

Department Analysis, Attachment No. 1 and No. 2
Resolution

RESOLUTION 14-__

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA, WAIVING CERTAIN FEES IN COUNTY PARKS ON THE ANNUAL FEDERAL VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY.

WHEREAS, Pinellas County Code Sec. 90-18 directs the Parks and Conservation Resources Department ("Department") to charge fees for various uses of county-owned or managed lands ("Parks"), as such fees may be established by resolution of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners ("Board"); and

WHEREAS, the Board has established fees for the use of County Parks in the Board's annual User Fee Resolution ("Fee Resolution"); and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to waive certain Fees each year in observance of the annual Veterans Day Holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF PINELLAS COUNTY FLORIDA, AT A DULY ASSEMBLED MEETING HELD ON THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2014, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

The Board hereby waives the following specified fees effective each year on the date federally designated for the observance of the Veterans Day Holiday: the daily parking fees in the Boat Ramp Parking Fees section of the Fee Resolution and the Fort DeSoto Park, Sand Key Park and Fred Howard Park (beach) Parking Fee section of the Fee Resolution.

Section 2.

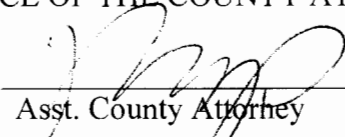
This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Commissioner _____ offered the foregoing Resolution and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Commissioner _____, and upon roll call, the vote was:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent and not voting:

APPROVED AS TO FORM OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY
By:  Asst. County Attorney

AGENCY	PARK ENTRY OR PARKING FEES	VETERANS DISCOUNT	OTHER ENTRY OR SPECIAL PURPOSE FEE WAIVERS
Broward County	\$1.50 per person/ \$8 vehicle max. weekends & holidays only	Disabled veterans who apply through County Veterans Services Offices may receive free park passes (renewable every five years). Active military and veterans eligible for 25% discount on annual park pass.	None
Hillsborough County	\$2.00 per vehicle/ addtl \$1.00 per person over 8 persons	Lifetime entry passes for honorably discharged veterans with service connected disability and surviving spouses and parents of deceased military who have fallen in combat 25% discount off annual park passes for active duty member and honorably discharged members of the Armed Forces, National Guard, or Reserves	None
Orange County	\$3 per vehicle up to 2 passengers \$5 per vehicle up to 3 or more passengers \$10 bus or commercial van	25% discount for active military for room rentals, boat passes, camp sites, and fitness memberships but NO DISCOUNT for park admission and parking fees Lifetime entry passes for honorably discharged veterans with service connected disability	None
Pasco County	\$2.00 daily fee \$60 annual park pass	Disabled veterans allowed free park passes – no other discounts for active or retired military	Park daily fees were waived on National Get Out Doors Day
Sarasota County	Does not charge parking or entrance fees	n/a	n/a
Lee County	Parking fees at some facilities	Fees waived for veterans displaying the disabled veterans' license tag.	Parking fees at beaches/parks waived for everyone on the last weekend in July to celebrate National Parks and Recreation month. No special designation for military Veterans.
City of Clearwater	\$1.25 - \$3.00/hr beach parking	None	None
Pinellas County	\$5.00 daily beach parking fee \$75 annual beach parking pass \$6.00 daily boat ramp parking \$110 annual boat ramp pass	\$55 annual beach parking pass for Active and Retired Military	\$55 beach pass for Seniors 65+ \$37.50 beach pass for limited income Free pass for 100 hrs volunteer service \$55 boat pass for Seniors 65+

HOLIDAY	FALLS ON CALENDAR	WEATHER	PARKING FEE REVENUE Beach/ Boating
Memorial Day 2012	Mon., May 28	Light/Scattered Rain	\$16,983/ \$1,380
July 4 th 2012	Wed., July 4	Partly Cloudy	\$25,179/ \$4,976
Veterans Day 2012	Mon., Nov. 12	Clear	\$3,442/ \$801
Memorial Day 2013	Mon., May 27	Clear	\$35,655/ \$4,496
July 4 th 2013	Thurs., July 4	Rain/T-Storms	\$17,574/ \$3,378
Veterans Day 2013	Mon., Nov. 11	Clear	\$4,724/ \$840
Memorial Day 2014	Mon., May 26	Clear	\$32,526/ \$4,237
July 4 th 2014 (fee waived at Fort De Soto, Sand Key and Howard Park)	Fri., July 4	Clear/Partly Cloudy	\$1,795/* \$3,197
Veterans Day 2014	Mon., Nov. 12	-----	-----

(*Although fees were waived at Fort De Soto, Fred Howard and Sand Key, some fees were collected at these locations, and Madeira Beach fee stations still operated)