

PINELLAS COUNTY PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESOURCES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING



**Parks and Conservation Resources Administration Office
12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774**

January 22, 2015

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Mary Rogero
Mr. David Waddell
Ms. Suzanne Henslee
Mr. Shelby Freeman
Mr. David Kandz, Chair

PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES DIRECTOR:

Mr. Paul Cozzie

COUNTY ATTORNEY:

Brendan Mackesey

ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY:

Ms. Karen Key

PCR STAFF:

Mr. Lyle Fowler, South District Operations
Mr. Steve Harper, Resource & Asset
Ms. Kathy Swain, North District Operations

A regular meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board was held at the PCR Administration Office, located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774 on January 22, 2015.

I. OPEN MEETING/INTRODUCTIONS:

Mr. Kandz called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. All members introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Kandz/Henslee: To approve minutes as indicated above.

MOTION PASSED: All members voted "Aye"

III. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

- ♦ None

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

♦ **USCG Auxiliary Building**

Paul told the Board the county entered into a lease with the USCG Auxiliary for a future building to be located at Sand Key Park. The USCG made a presentation to the Advisory Board in 2013 regarding the use of some property at this park to establish their education center and flotilla headquarters. The department has learned the Sand Key property was purchased with LWCF funds, which have strict prohibitions on permitted uses of these lands, and FDEP has informed the County the USCG Flotilla HQ is not an acceptable use. A teleconference meeting is scheduled this afternoon with the NPS Southeast Regional Manager. There were three main concerns.

1. Control of property by outside entity.
2. Contribution to outdoor recreation.
3. Public concept of the above.

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- ♦ **Belleair Boat Ramp Bait House**

Kathy Swain gave an update of the bait house to the Board members and passed around an illustration of how the future bait house will look. She said the project is on track and the staging area is all set up. This project is projected to take between 6-8 months to be completed.

- ♦ **Wall Springs Tower Update**

Paul gave an update on replacement efforts for the Wall Springs Park Tower, which was destroyed by arson earlier last year. He handed out an illustration of two options for the ADA access to the tower. The County will be going with option A, which will be built separately and attached to the main structure. This will offer different views and more outlook area. This tower will also be treated to prevent fire in the future.

- ♦ **Park Ordinance Update**

Paul discussed latest efforts to update the Parks ordinance and asked the Board to review the handout and to come up with questions and concerns and to let him know so it can be placed on the agenda for April. He spoke of setting park hours from 7:00am to sunset and also to have a proposed fee schedule by the next meeting.

- ♦ **Gold Star Mother's Monument**

Lyle Fowler gave an update to the Board about the Gold Star Mother's Monument. PCR staff is working with the County's Communications Department and Veterans Affairs Division to assist the Gold Star Mothers organization to dedicate a Battle Cross Memorial at War Veterans' park to honor Pinellas County fallen soldiers (KIA) who participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. The Parks Department has erected the pedestal and monument and will be working with the group to arrange for the production of plaques with names of fallen soldiers, as well as assist with the dedication ceremonies. Lyle mentioned there would be a Memorial event held on May 30th @ noon for a length of one hour for about 100 people. PCR will provide support for the event. Invitations will go out to Board members.

- ♦ **Elfer's Spur Trail Segment / Pinellas Trail Erosion Project**

Paul discussed a potential Florida Recreational Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant project concerning erosion on the Elfer's Spur portion of the Pinellas Trail, which is situated on City of Tarpon Springs property. This project is too big for the city of Tarpon Springs to handle alone and so we are hoping that the city and the County can come together with a solution to resolve this issue. This project could cost 1.5 million dollars. Paul mentioned that at some point we may have to close off Elfer's Spur due to the safety of the citizens.

MOTION: Kandz/Waddell: To approve the submittal of the grant project.

MOTION PASSED: All members voted "Aye"

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- ♦ **Recreation MSTU – Mr. Waddell requested verbatim of this portion of the minutes.**

The Board of County Commissioners has expressed an interest in revisiting assistance for recreation for the unincorporated areas of the County, particularly in underserved areas like High Point, Ridgecrest and Lealman. Paul explained that he and Interim Assistant County Administrator Joe Lauro have been meeting with a lot of the municipalities and non-profits in order to gauge what might be the areas where the County could be of most assistance. Staff has also been having discussions with area recreation license holders such as Seminole Junior Warhawks and Seminole Youth Athletic Association to determine what their needs are. We will be discussing with the board later on in the year.

Unfortunately, the recording of the minutes from this meeting were erased as the memory was full on the recording device and space was needed to complete another meeting. Additional notes from the recording secretary indicate that discussion was held addressing the concerns of the Board to focus on target communities to see if there is a partnership possibility and work with the license holders, such as Cross Bayou Little League, operating on county properties.

- ♦ **FY2016 Budget Development**

Paul discussed the FY2016 Budget development process and explained some of the areas where the department may be requesting program enhancements; i.e. staffing at education centers and maintenance issues. Paul also encouraged board members to review the department's presentation to the County Commission, which occurred on January 15 and is available for viewing on the County Commission website.

- ♦ **LWCF Grant Application / Joe's Creek Greenway Park**

Paul discussed the County's intention to submit a LWCF grant application for Joe's Creek Greenway Park for the maximum grant request of \$200,000. The grant would go toward development of the north portion of the park, to include a soccer field, a par course, signage, equipment, and associated improvements. The motion was made and unanimously approved to support the department's application submission.

VI. PARKS AND CONSERVATION RESOURCES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Paul discussed the Project 2017 purpose was to look out into the future and to identify how you would organize your department and what your ideas are during economic times still in place. Ideas such as getting more staff, using career ladders to develop employees and motivation for certifications for more knowledge in the work place.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Freeman was asking what the status was of the skeet shooting with Sawgrass Lake Park. Adjacent to the park is Skyway Skeet Shoot Club. He mentioned hearing about a lead and arsenic project conducted over the summer was to clean up the park from the debris resulting by skeet shooting. Mr. Freeman was **concerned** about our tax dollars being spent to clean up

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the lead at the location. Paul responded by saying that there is a web site with DEP and that we would provide that site to him.

Suzanne had brought up a suggestion that event fees at the parks could be lower. Paul responded by noting that many of the fees are designed to offset the inconvenience to the general park visitor who has no access to the park when these events take place.

MOTION: Kandz/Henslee: To adjourn meeting.

MOTION PASSED: All members voted "Aye"

The meeting concluded at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Key
Parks and Conservation Resources Acting Board Secretary