

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2017

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Kandz
Mr. Bill Bucolo
Mr. Mathew Eberius
Ms. Janet Martin
Mr. John Gray
Ms. Iris Champlin

PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Shelby Freeman
Ms. Mary Rogero
Ms. Mary Ann Renfrow
Ms. Manita Moultrie

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY: Mr. Brendan Mackesey

PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF: Mr. Curtis Spencer, North County Operations Mgr.
Ms. Dawn Ricketts, Dept. Admin. Manager
Mr. Steve Harper, Resource Asset Management
Manager
Mr. Lyle Fowler, South County Operations Mgr.

ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY: Ms. Cheryl DeCou

A regular meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board (Board) was held at the Parks and Conservation Resources Administration Office, located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774 on April 20, 2017.

I. Open Meeting / Introductions

Chairman David Kandz opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. Introductions were made by all participants present.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 19, 2017 meeting were approved with one scrivener's error corrected. Upon motion by Mr. Gray and second by Ms. Martin, the minutes were approved.

III. Citizens to be Heard

None.

IV. Old Business

A. Philippe Park – Tocobaga Recognition: Mr. Cozzie informed the Board members that after discussion with County Administration, there did not seem to be support for the change of the park's name but there was support for recognition of the Tocobaga presence. Hence, the words "Historic Site of the Tocobaga Capital City" will be added to the entrance sign at the park. At this time, Mr. Lou Claudio, the Pinellas County

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2017

citizen who brought this request to the Board, joined the meeting. Mr. Cozzie passed a picture to the Board members and others present to show how the entrance wall would be changed. Mr. Claudio advised that while this was an accomplishment, he feels the change does not make the actual history of the tribe more visible in the park and expressed his concerns regarding same.

V. New Business

A. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

After nomination and unanimous vote, Mr. Eberius was elected Chair and Ms. Martin was elected Vice Chair of the Board, each to serve a term of one year.

VI. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report

A. Penny for Pinellas Discussion

Mr. Cozzie presented the Board with a draft list of the Proposed Project Requests for Penny IV if voted in by citizens, a copy of which is attached and made a part of the record. PCR's revised submittal totals \$104 million; however, indications are that PCR's share will be closer to \$65 million. The items are listed by priority. As the majority of our parks are going to be in the 50-year plus range, repair and/or replacement of bridges, roadways, picnic shelter roofs and restrooms to meet ADA requirements are the priorities. Messrs. Kandz and Bucolo questioned the use of solar energy in the parks and a discussion regarding the use of solar versus the cost was held. Ms. Martin inquired about funding for the removal of exotics from the parks. Mr. Harper advised the Board that Penny funds are for CIP projects. There are funds budgeted from the General Fund for this purpose and we receive grants to accomplish the removal of exotics.

B. FY2018 Budget Decision Packages

The budget decision packages consisted of items that were not included in the annual budget submission but represented items considered by staff to be essential to the continued operation of the parks. One package requested new ranger positions to maintain services at our busiest parks, including Fort De Soto, Sand Key and Fred Howard beach parks. Another package submitted and received favorably by Administration was for two full time employees to address bridge and boardwalk maintenance.

Ms. Champlin inquired about the position requirements for a Park Ranger 1 and advised she could bring the information to the Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) as a career suggestion for students not college bound. Ms. DeCou will forward the job description to her and arrange for a Chief Ranger to speak at a future YAC meeting.

A discussion was held regarding a question from Mr. Gray regarding wood boring clams and the effect of those on dock pilings. Staff is looking into jacketing the piers at Belle Harbor Marina and vessel registration fees are earmarked to be used for a

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 20, 2017

study to get a baseline on conditions of the piers and pilings as an asset management tool.

Discussion was also held regarding the Florida Naturalist Program offered by UF/IFAS Extension and certification is one criteria for the career ladder for our Park Rangers.

VII. Other Business

- A. Mr. Fowler advised the Board that the work of repaving of the Gulf and Bay Pier parking lots at Fort De Soto is being done in the evening so as to not interrupt visitation. Refurbishing of the medians is also being accomplished.
- B. Mr. Harper requested that Board members remind family and friends about the wildfire threat. Resource Management is taking proactive measures with timber thinning and reconfiguration of fire breaks.
- C. Mr. Cozzie updated the members on the various Pinellas Trail segments opening soon. Mr. Bucolo questioned performance of maintenance and law enforcement along the trail. Discussion was held regarding the cities and sheriff's involvement in law enforcement and maintenance and patrolling performed by four rangers along the entire span of the trail. Mr. Bucolo questioned the use of motorized vehicles on the trail and discussion was held regarding rules set by ordinance in conformance with Florida statute and allowance for certain ADA exemptions.

Being no further business and upon motion by Mr. Bucolo and seconded by Mr. Eberius, the meeting was adjourned at 10:26 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the PCR Advisory Board is Thursday, July 20, 2017, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at 12520 Ulmerton Road, De Soto Room, Largo, Florida.