

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 10, 2017

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. David Kandz
Mr. Shelby Freeman
Mr. Mathew Eberius
Ms. Mary Ann Renfrow
Mr. John Gray
Mr. Shelby Freeman
Ms. Manita Moultrie

PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Mr. Bill Bucolo
Ms. Mary Rogero
Ms. Iris Champlain

ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY: Mr. Brendan Mackesey

PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF: Mr. Paul Cozzie, Director
Mr. Curtis Spencer, North County Operations Mgr.
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 August 10, 2017.

I. Open Meeting / Introductions

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 20, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved upon motion by Mr. Gray and second by Mr. Freeman.

III. Citizens to be Heard

None.

IV. New Business:

A. Shell Key Management Plan

Mr. Cozzie introduced Dr. Harper, Operations Manager, Environmental Lands, who provided the Board with information regarding the Shell Key Preserve located north of Fort De Soto Park. The County owns the bulk of the preserve, but the State of Florida owns a core portion and we manage that portion on their behalf. Every ten years, the County prepares a Management Plan Update which includes the County's

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goals for objectives both natural and cultural as well as public use of the preserve. Pam Leasure, Land Manager, is in the process of drafting the Plan Update. A public information meeting at Tierra Verde and Tampa Bay Water will be held followed by a formal meeting of the Shell Key Advisory Group where the public can give input to the Plan. The Plan then goes to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) for approval and submission to the State for final approval.

Ms. Renfrow has been working with community groups with regard to the dredging and restoration by pulling out fill to connect the keys, install bridge to improve water flow and restore and plant seagrass. A bill was presented by Senator Latvala to assist with the project and the Governor vetoed same. Discussion was held with regard to further efforts to restore the key as well as beach re-nourishment efforts in the County. Discussion was also held regarding the possible feedback at the public meeting to be held for comments to the plan and addressing the issue of overnight camping.

B. Unincorporated Seminole Sports Facilities Master Plan

The County has contracted with RS&H Engineering and Sports Facility Advisory to do a master plan of the unincorporated Seminole Youth Sports Facilities. The Board has budgeted funds to look at the existing facilities in Seminole and Largo to ascertain the needs and how the facilities could be renovated. The department will be meeting with the groups in the unincorporated area – Seminole Youth Sports Association, Seminole Junior Warhawks Sports Association and Cross Bayou Little League – to best provide facilities to meet their sports needs. Concept plan will be developed by the consultant and an estimated \$16 million budget for actual construction costs in the list of projects for the next penny which will be available after 2020. This study should be completed by February, 2018 to be presented to the BCC. Discussion held regarding the prior program established to supplement non-resident participation in city programs that was discontinued due to lack of funds in 2008. General fund money is distributed to the programs each year together with MSTU funds in the range of \$30,000 to \$35,000 for each organization. Tierra Verde Community Association is also receiving funds this year. Mr. Freeman questioned if other youth groups in the County receive funds. East Lake and Palm Harbor have established taxing districts to pay for their youth sports needs. PAL and other social service agencies are working in the Lealman area. The county deals only with those in unincorporated areas. Mr. Mackesey advised that the agreements contained language that the individual sports programs are responsible for the maintenance of those facilities. Discussion held regarding the various programs and facilities available in the municipalities.

C. Weedon Island Salt Marsh Restoration Plan

Dr. Harper referred members to the handout of the map indicating the area for a one year feasibility study contracted with Fowler Davis for ecological and hydrologic restoration at Weedon Island. We are attempting to get it as well designed as we can

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in this phase and then move on to construction phase and seek funding from the Water Management District. Anticipate it will include filling in of mosquito ditches to improve hydrologic restoration. Further discussion was held with regard to the process that would be used should the restoration take place. At least a three year construction to complete the project. Mr. Gray asked if stormwater was part of the project and Dr. Harper indicated it was not due to the micro topography.

D. Creation of Parks Foundation

Mr. Cozzie asked the board members to consider the establishment of a Parks Foundation and sought direction or consensus from board members. Staff will research the creation of a Parks Foundation and a board to oversee it. If we were to do this, idea would be PCR Advisory board be the foundation board. If that is something this board is willing to do, we will begin research on the subject. Board members were receptive to the formation of a Parks Foundation and staff will begin researching the creation of same. Consideration was voiced regarding additional of members with legal and financial background so the board is fiscally responsible with funds donated. Currently, donated funds go into a trust and agency account and it is not spent unless we are over budget in any fiscal year, as the donations are not large amounts and have accumulated over several years. Suggestions were given for non-profit management resources research and discussion of the PCR Advisory Board staying in place with a separate Board of Directors for a foundation.

E. FY 18 Meeting Locations

Discussion held with regard to having the PCR Advisory Board meetings at various locations other than Park Administration, possibly every other meeting at a park facility to include a North County and South County meeting. Chairman Eberius asked board members if the 9:30 quarterly meeting times work for everyone. Response was affirmative.

VI. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report

Thanks to Board members Eberius and Martin for coming to BCC meeting for presentation of Parks and Recreation Month proclamation. Congratulations to Manita and John for re-appointment to the Board. Discussion held regarding the term of board members being longer than one year and possibly run concurrent with nominating Commissioner.

A. Penny for Pinellas Discussion

Attachment to the Agenda for a card for Penny for Pinellas. Parks receive substantial amount of funding through the penny and it is coming up for vote on November 7 ballot. The county has speakers who can speak to any other groups the board members may be involved with. The County has a webpage delegated to the Penny for Pinellas showing the extensive list of projects, including maps showing locations of projects completed with the Penny.

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B. FY2018 Budget Decision Packages

Budget has been finalized. We will be getting three Ranger positions, two Craftworker positions and an Environmental Specialist. Chairman Eberius indicated that the budget is online should board members choose to review it.

VII. Other Business

- A. Request that John Bishop give an update on Shell Key Preserve Channel Issues at the January meeting if Dr. Ping's report is complete at that time.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.