

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 22, 2018

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. David Kandz
Mr. Shelby Freeman
Mr. Mathew Eberius
Mr. John Gray
Mr. Shelby Freeman
Mr. Peter Stavropoulos
Ms. Manita Moultrie
Ms. Mary Rogero
Mr. Bill Buccolo

PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ms. Mary Ann Renfrow

PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF:

Mr. Paul Cozzie, Director
Mr. Curtis Spencer, North County Operations Mgr.
Mr. Steve Harper, Manager, Resources and
Asset Management
Mr. Lyle Fowler, South County Operations Mgr.
Ms. Dawn Ricketts, Department Administrative Mgr.
Ms. Cheryl DeCou, Recording Secretary

A regular meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) Advisory Board (Board) was held at the Parks and Conservation Resources Administration Office, located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774 on February 22, 2018.

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 October 19, 2017 meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Citizens to be Heard

Peter Logli and Randall Ierna were in attendance on behalf of the Tierra Verde Community Association.

IV. Old Business:

1. Shell Key Management Plan: Mr. Cozzie addressed the Board with updated information regarding the Shell Key Management Plan (Plan). The Plan was due to the State in the fall of 2017, however, due to issues associated with the timing of the completion of Dr. Ping Wang's report and concerns from Tierra Verde residents. The County requested and received a one year extension. Once we have the Plan finalized, the intent is to hold a public meeting for review of the Plan by the residents of the County; the meeting to be held in the Tierra Verde area. We expect that the Board of County Commissioners will review the Wang study by May and then the public meeting will be held. Staff is hopeful to finalize the Plan and have it to the state by the end of the summer.

Mr. Cozzie advised the Board members and Tierra Verde residents in attendance that Dr Ping Wang's report is still a work in progress and not available for review at this time. Mr. Cozzie

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advised that we are not in the position to report on any of the dredging of the canal and the overall report and reminded Board members that Shell Key is owned by the State of Florida and managed by the County.

Regarding dogs on the beach, the County cannot prevent access from the land bridge, however, access is over private property so that may be something to be dealt with working with the homeowners should a problem arise with parking offsite and accessing Shell Key from that direction.

2. Unincorporated Seminole Youth Sports Facility Master Plan: Mr. Cozzie updated the Board members regarding the award of funds from the BCC to address unincorporated Seminole sports facilities. The County has contracted with consultants to create a master plan and a needs assessment performed in conjunction with the three athletic organizations in the area: Seminole Youth Athletic Association, Cross Bayou Little League and Seminole Junior Warhawks Athletic Association.

Needs assessment created an estimate of cost and constructability which is still in draft form and the consultant is preparing concept plans based on the needs assessment. The Master Plan should be available to the Board in draft form by late summer. Once it is finalized, a meeting will be held with all the parties to discuss findings and what the concepts are and from there, the plan would be presented to the BCC for final approval and funding from 2020 penny funds. Once available, the documentation will be shared with members for review. Discussion held regarding how the firms go about providing design and needs assessment and facilities and infrastructure needed to successfully provide the sports to the youth of the community.

V. New Business:

1. Wall Springs Coastal Addition I & II – Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Applications: Conceptual site plans related to the conservation grant application were passed out to the members of the Parks Board and is part of the record. PCR is finalizing the contract to go out to bid and we are seeking grant funding in the amount of \$200,000 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund which is due in late March. Our new Grants Specialist, Jennifer Calvert, has finalized the application. Discussion of where the park is located and what amenities and nature of the park on St. Joseph Sound. Debbie Chayet was instrumental in the County purchasing the current property that is Wall Springs Park. Using the documentation provided to the board, Debbie gave the information that collectively over the years, the County has retained extensive property for public use and we have tried to maintain low intensity impact on the environment. Components in the grant and additions are to include elevated observation deck on the point allowing for a scenic vista in addition to a bike/pedestrian path, restroom facilities, parking area and picnic shelter. There are structures on the property that we hope to use in the future for environmental education and other activities.

Questions? Will there be an entrance off Wailani Road to the east of the Girl Scout camp? Yes, there is a Girl Scout camp located within the properties comprising Wall Springs and an

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entrance with traffic control will be going out to bid and with all procedures and negotiations to follow, we are looking at late 2019 for an opening of this area. The Tower is anticipated to be open to the public by the end of June, 2018.

Motion for support of the grant application was made by Ms. Rogero, seconded by Mr. Bucolo and unanimously approved by the Board.

2. "Doing Things" Presentation: Annually, each department does a presentation to the BCC outlining the things done as well as what the department is planning to do in the next year. Mr. Cozzie's PowerPoint presentation was shared with the Board Members. A copy of the report is attached and made a part of the record. Highlights include park visitor survey in the upcoming months to collect ongoing feedback about expectations about experiences and feedback at Fort De Soto, Fred Howard and Lake Seminole Parks regarding cleanliness, maintenance, safety and security in the parks. UF/IFAS Extension is collaborating with the Convention and Visitors Bureau on an ecotourism needs assessment. Point of Sale Reservation system upgrade to be implemented this fiscal year. Make it a one stop shopping for citizens for shelter reservations, camping reservations, parking and boat ramp passes.

Questions from members and visitors:

Conservation lands undeveloped? Is there any interest from public or business access to use? Conservation lands are not maintained for public access; no pathways or sidewalks. If there is a reason to get on the land for research, we have the capability to allow staff and contractors to do so. Managed areas and other areas we have natural features inventory of these areas as part of the management plans. Information is available for perusal on the website. We have few staff to work on these management areas and a board member asked if we are open to volunteers to assist with the management to which Dr. Harper replied affirmatively.

Mr. Logli asked if the county was seeing any trends or populations with coyote interaction increasing. Concern with increase in the Tierra Verde area. Environmental Management has addressed concerns that we are experiencing more interaction with coyote population over the last decade. One of the County GIS pages summarizes that citizen reported coyote sightings. Discussion was held regarding the website and the number of sighting.

A question was presented regarding the County's artificial reef program. The reefs are not maintained by PCR; Solid Waste is responsible for the reef program and works closely with Coastal Management.

Question regarding concerns of Shell Key Park after Hurricane Irma: Have any civil engineers been contracted to determine destruction caused by the hurricane? After Irma, significant changes to Shell Key Preserve were noted; however, no study has been done. The wide channel that opened on the western key basically split the key roughly in half and makes a bit difficult to manage.

VI. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report

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Staff is beginning to work on FY19 budgets. We have not received any specific directions of what not to include in the budget for next year, however, we are facing an additional homestead exemption going to voters in November. Working with standard budget requests which are due in mid-March. We continue to focus on the areas that we always have; do not expect to be in the market for additional staffing unless we can find alternate funding sources.

The Orange Street overpass on the Pinellas Trail in Dunedin was closed by Public Works and they have worked extensively to safety reroute pedestrian and bike traffic. FDOT required the closing due to corrosion. Discussion was held regarding the installation of the new bridges. The contractor has been selected and based on the established timeline, possible completion and reopening should occur by the end of September, 2018.

Discussion held on boardwalk replacements at parks based on a question from a board member about the condition of the boardwalks at Weedon Island. We have hired two additional craft workers to address boardwalks and boat ramps. We are becoming more proactive in maintenance of the boardwalks and no longer re-deck, however, we use a composite to get a longer life out of that material.

VII. Other Business

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00 a.m.