

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 21, 2019

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ms. Debbie Chayet  
Ms. Lindsay Cross  
Ms. Peg Cummings  
Mr. David Kandz  
Ms. Manitia Moultrie  
Ms. Maryann Renfrow  
Mr. Dan Savercool  
Mr. Brian Scott

PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Mr. Michael Bauer

PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF:

Mr. Paul Cozzie, Director  
Mr. Rahim Harji, Assistant County Admin.  
Mr. Spencer Curtis, North County Operations Mgr.  
Mr. Lyle Fowler, South County Operations Mgr.  
Mr. Steve Harper, Resource and Asset Mgr.  
Ms. Jolanda Jordan, Dept. Admin. Manager  
Ms. Amanda Smith, Admin. Support Specialist

A regular meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) Advisory Board (Board) was held at the Pinellas County Extension Building, located at 12520 Ulmerton Rd. Largo, FL 33774 on November 21, 2019.

**I. Open Meeting/ Introductions**

Chairman Kandz opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Introductions were made by all participants present. The Board welcomed three new members, Mr. Brian Scott, Ms. Lindsay Cross and Mr. Dan Savercool.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the July 18, 2019 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved with no corrections.

**III. Presentation**

Mr. David Kandz has reached the end of his term on the Parks Advisory Board. He was presented with a plaque honoring his service to Pinellas County citizens.

#### **IV. Citizens to be Heard**

Members from the SWAMP Mountain Bike Club, Shane Richeson and Jason Rossicoe, joined the Advisory Board meeting. SWAMP is a large off roading community that provides recreation via mountain biking for people of all ages, including an interscholastic mountain biking league. They hope to work with Pinellas County Parks in identifying mountain biking trails for their programs.

Mr. Lee Wilkerson, a volunteer with the Parks and Conservation Resources Department, stated his concern that the older parks are not getting the same amount of attention as the newer parks. He feels that the parks are not being adequately staffed and that the staff that is working are being used for tasks that he feels they should not be performing, such as cleaning bathrooms.

Mr. Rahim Harji, Mr. Paul Cozzie and members of the Board informed Mr. Wilkerson that the Parks and Conservation Resources Department was reduced substantially during the last recession. This reduction has not been recovered from and has required Park Rangers to take on different duties to aid in park operations. Measures are being taken to improve the state of current park operations beginning with establishing a standard of expected operation. Establishing a standard expectation will allow the County and the Board of County Commissioners to know what areas need improvement the most.

#### **V. Old Business**

- Unincorporated Seminole Youth Sports Facility Master Plan Update

The County has been working with the unincorporated Seminole youth sports associations to create a conceptual masterplan for the management of the Seminole youth sports facilities. The County's role in recreation has been resource based up until this point. The need for a master plan to run these facilities has become imperative. Other opportunities for funding for these facilities is currently being researched.

- Parks and Environmental Lands Acquisition Process

The Environmental Land Acquisition Template was completed. It uses a set of predetermined factors to score a properties usefulness to the County when determining whether to purchase a property. The Board has raised some concerns on the scoring process citing concerns of missing opportunities to acquire parcels because of the ranking system process. The land acquisition template will be used as a tool in the procurement process. It will help narrow down the list of available lands and help focus efforts on parcels that make sense to pursue.

- Wall Springs Coastal Additions I & II Construction Update

The Wall Springs Coastal additions include adding amenities, such as a picnic shelter, restroom, natural and paved trails, Wai Lani road sidewalk and an elevated observation deck. Improvements to the maintenance drive and seawall replacement are also scheduled to take place. The project began in the Fall of 2018 and was scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2020. Improvements are ahead of schedule and part of the grant requirements are scheduled to be completed by the

end of December 2019. A request for another park ranger for Wall Springs park was denied but will hopefully be approved once construction of the park is completed.

## VI. New Business

- Integrated Vegetation Management, (IVM) Working Group Update

The IVM working group has met several times over the last few months to compile information on the management of invasive exotic plants on public lands. The goal of the group includes forming a decision matrix for plant management based off several deciding factors in treatment. Once the IVM working group completes the decision matrix, as well as other deliverables, these items will be shared with the PCR Advisory Board for feedback before finalizing.

- Equestrian Usage Request

PCR has been asked to allow usage of Fort De Soto park for equestrian riding. PCR operation's managers have also been asked to identify any other areas within the Counties managed parks that equestrian riding would be appropriate.

The PCR Advisory Board made a motion to recommend that equestrian riding be prohibited on Fort De Soto Park as well as any other areas that contain or are adjacent to bodies of water.

This motion was voted on by the Board and passed unanimously siting an ordinance that prohibits horse riding within 25 feet of water, two sites already provided on County property for Equestrian riding, Equestrian riding business use is not compatible with environmentally sensitive lands and the County does not have the resources to clean up after an Equestrian business.

Operation's Managers will provide a list of properties that may be compatible for this use. A list will be presented at the January 16<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting for Board members to review.

- FY20 CIP Projects

The Board reviewed some of the approved CIP projects for upcoming years. The list includes new Fort De Soto dune walkovers and improvements to Fort De Soto park, Taylor Park Shoreline restoration, Belleair Causeway Boat ramp floating dock replacement, Wall Springs tower replacement, and Countywide park road, sidewalks and shelter roof improvements.

- Resident Park Manager Recruitments

The recruitment process for the new Resident Park Manager of Fort De Soto park has been initiated. The first phase, telephone interviews, has been completed. The list has been narrowed down and in-person interviews will be scheduled to take place. The PCR Department has asked the Advisory Board to provide a member for the in-person portion of the recruitment process. Board member Debbie Chayet has agreed to perform this task.

**VII. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report**

- Civic Rec Software

Civic Rec is the new software that PCR is using to book Fort De Soto campsites, sell permits for Shell Key, and to reserve shelters in all the parks. It is currently in the final development phase before it will be launched.

**VIII. Other Business**

- The PCR Advisory Board will vote for the new Chairperson and Co-Chairperson at the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The January 16<sup>th</sup> Advisory Board meeting will take place at Wall Springs Park. The meeting will convene in the parking lot and Board members will perform a site inspection once the meeting has adjourned.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.