



Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board Minutes of the Meeting on January 19, 2023

PARK BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Bryan Beckman, Mr. Miles Croom
Ms. Cynthia Grizzle, Mr. Steven Ochsner
Mr. Daniel Savercool, Mr. Arsh Shah
Mr. Alan Shapiro, Ms. Heather Vernillo

PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF:

Mr. Paul Cozzie, Director
Mr. Spencer Curtis, North County Operations Mgr.
Mr. Lyle Fowler, South County Operations Mgr.
Dr. Steve Harper, Resource and Asset Mgr.
Cody Ward, Assistant County Atty.
Ms. Emily Magyar, Senior Grants Specialist
Ms. Deann Baker, Administrative Support Spec.

A regular meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) Advisory Board was held at the Pinellas County Extension Building, located at 12520 Ulmerton Rd. Largo, FL 33774 on January 19, 2023.

I. Open Meeting/Introductions

The Chairman was not reappointed to the board and Vice Chair Peg Cummings was unable to attend this meeting. Director Paul Cozzie facilitated the meeting. Mr. Cozzie called the meeting to order at 9:30 am. He announced Cody Ward as the PCR Advisory Board's new Attorney. Introductions were then made by all participants present. New members announced were Arsh Shah, the Youth Advisory Council member, Alan Shapiro and Heather Vernillo.

II. Approval of Minutes

Paul requested a motion be made to approve the minutes. Miles Croom requested a correction be made on page 1, in the Old Business section, "dogs *should* be on a leash" be changed to "dogs *shall* be on a leash". Mr. Croom also requested a correction be made on page 3 to the name of Dr. Beach listed as Stephen Letterman be changed to Stephen Leatherman. A motion was then made by Miles Croom to approve the amendments and was seconded by Dan Savercool. The motion was then approved unanimously.

III. Citizens to be heard

- Christine Talbert (Retired ICU Nurse) - Requesting that PCR consider changing the entry to the dog parks in Pinellas County by providing a separate entry for small and large dog breeds and install additional signage. A letter she wrote was read by her to the Advisory Board for consideration. She has begun an online petition with 61 people in agreement.
 - Spencer Curtis (North Operations Manager) – spoke to the challenges faced with dog parks in general. PCR is in the process of evaluating feasibility and costs for making the

recommended changes, beginning with Sand Key Park. The other 6 County dog parks will then be addressed. Incident reports indicate not only small dogs vs. large dogs, but also large dogs vs. large dogs and a lack of common courtesy amongst dog owners..

- Citizen Jan Talbert spoke about concerned citizens willing to pay for the requested changes. The issue raised was any funds raised and donated would go to the General Fund and would not be ear marked for the dog parks.
- Mr. Cozzie spoke about the new donation changes and the ability to ear mark donated monies for specific projects. P&CR will accept any donations from the group. There will be some issues that will need to be addressed such as permitting (if impervious surface is added), stormwater mitigation and ADA access.

IV. Old Business

Recommendation on Potential Smoking Ban for County Beach Parks

- At the August Advisory Board meeting a recommendation was made to support a smoking ban on county beaches. The state now allows local governments to impose smoking bans at parks, beaches and other public areas. P&CR brought the smoking ban recommendation to the BCC in September to obtain their input. The consensus was that the Board is in favor of a smoking ban. P&CR will go back to the BCC at a Workshop session on February 23. We will then be looking at Chapter 90 to make any edits or necessary changes. The last Chapter 90 updates were done in 2016.
- Proposed changes to Chapter 90 were reviewed: 1) 90-1 terms of appointments – New term limit of 2 years for Advisory Board members, running concurrently with the term of the nominating Commissioner. Requesting the YAC & Environmental Science Policy nominees terms run from August 1 thru July 31. 2) E-bikes: State law treats E-bikes under FS 316 as bicycles. The update will define Class I, II and III electrical bicycles as defined in the Florida Statutes as may be amended from time to time will be included in the definition of a bicycle. We're eliminating previous language that says *"for purposes of this article, bicycle does not include a motorized bicycle regardless of speed capabilities"*. Clarifying what "motorized" means as far as mode of power generated by the burning of gasoline, oil or other fuel. An E-bike is allowed, but scooters and other modes of transportation powered by a combustible engine are not. 3) 90-4 Adding add or suspend from any building, bridge railings, etc. due to an issue where a class of silk dancers were suspending themselves with silk fabric off county property. 4) 90-7 Activities within county owned and managed land. Frying has always been prohibited. Clarification will be *"to include any other apparatus that uses or produces hot oil"*. 5) Plant Life: Updated the definition and restriction of attaching to trees. The tree must be at least 12" in diameter and attached with a chest high, 1" in diameter flat web strap. 6) Fishing is prohibited in the areas designated for bathing or swimming. 7) 90-7 Environmental issue. The use of soap or other cleansers, including any freestanding shower towers or similar apparatus is prohibited. 8) No person shall possess balloons in any county owned or managed land except in an enclosed building providing helium balloons are properly secured when bringing into a building. *Cynthia suggested adding verbiage on how to properly dispose of balloons after use.* 9) No fueling of any vessels on boat ramps or docks. 10) 90-9 Storage: No RV's, unattached trailers with or without a boat, boats with a trailer and we prohibit oversized vehicles or trailers not intended for a space such as landscape or cargo trailers. This wording will be looked at again and may be revised. 11) Citizen support group, AKA Friend's groups. We will be changing the due date for the budget reporting to be due the end of the fiscal year, October 1.
- Recommendation on Potential Smoking Ban for County Beach Parks Continued
P&CR will go before the BCC with 3 options for a Smoking Ban in County Beach Parks.

Paul shared a presentation with the board and reviewed each option. Park Rangers are Code Enforcement officers by definition and will be responsible for enforcement and education.

V. New Business

Presentation: Government in the Sunshine: Mr. Cody Ward, Assistant County Attorney presented the Government in the Sunshine Law.

LWCF Grant \$1.5 M for Ray Neri Park (Emily Magyar)

- The Grant application will be submitted on January 31 for the development of Ray Neri Park in Lealman. Total grant funding is \$1.5 M with a match of \$1.5 M. The total estimate given 2 years ago for the project was \$9 M. Partially funded by ARPA dollars at a later phase. Construction to begin late summer, 2023.
- A conceptual site plan was shared with the board.
- Previous discussion with this Advisory Board was held in July 2019. There was a public meeting held in May 2019. No recent public discussions.
- The project is in the final design phase. Included in the design are dog parks, restrooms, a playground for 5 -12 years of age, 11 pavillions, benches, picnic tables, walkway, multi-purpose field and fencing.
- A motion was made by Bryan Beckman and seconded by Miles Croom to support the \$1.5M grant application for Ray Neri Park.

VI. Director's Report

- \$4.6M in playground replacements was approved and will be done in the next 3 years. 3 projects will be done this year, Taylor Lake Park being 1st. PCR has received a \$200K grant. All playgrounds will be all inclusive and ADA compliant.
- ARPA Projects: Pinellas County is receiving approximately \$189 million as part of the Federal American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Funding must be used by end of 2026. Projects are on the new Office of Management and Budgets County web page. Five (5) Parks projects were approved by the Board of County Commissioners in March of 2022:
 - Raymond Neri Park Construction, \$3,800,000: Construction of Phase 1 design elements of Raymond H. Neri Park. Improvements include an entrance road, parking lot, dog parks, play fields, playgrounds, restrooms, trails, and walkways. Multiple funding sources are being sought for this approximately \$9.0 million project, including from the Land & Water Conservation Fund as discussed in new business.
 - Highpoint Community Park, \$3,300,000: Development of a 10-acre community park to include basketball courts, multi-purpose fields, restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking paths, landscaping, parking and utilities.
 - Dansville Community Park at Stormwater Facility, \$5,725,000: Creating a passive community park with benches and a walking path at the stormwater facility.
 - South Cross Bayou Little League Field Refurbishment, \$10,000,000
- Sand Key Dog Park: Covered in "Citizens to be Heard section
- The SWAMP mountain bike trail will be built on the NE side of Lake Seminole Park.
- Sustainability (SRAP) Plan: Still in draft format. PCR has tree plantings.
- Land Acquisition List: Paul will be presenting this list in 1 on 1 sessions with the Commissioners.

VII. Other Business

- FY24 Budgets will be due the 1st week in March. Our budget will include elevated expenses.
- Chair and Vice Chair elections and Chapter 90 will be on the April 20, 2023 agenda.

Adjournment

With no further business, Bryan Beckman made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Miles Croom. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting of the PCR Advisory Board is scheduled for April 20, 2023