



## **Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board**

### **Minutes of the Meeting on April 16, 2026**

|                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:           | Mr. Andrew Brosman, Mr. Tex Carter,<br>Mr. Miles Croom, Mr. Rick Dumont,<br>Ms. Cynthia Grizzle, Ms. Kim Hukari,<br>Mr. Steven Ochsner, Ms. Heather Vernillo                                                                                                                                                              |
| PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:       | Mr. Ermal Gigolaj, Ms. Julie Vayne                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF: | Mr. Paul Cozzie, Director<br>Mr. Spencer Curtis, Deputy Director<br>Mr. Lyle Fowler, Section Manager II<br>Dr. Steve Harper, Park Services, Operations Manager<br>Ms. Monette Preston, Visitor & Services Outreach<br>Ms. Maria White, Assistant County Attorney<br>Ms. Deann Baker, Administrative Support Specialist II |

A regular Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) Advisory Board meeting was held at the Pinellas County Extension Building at 12520 Ulmerton Rd., Largo, FL 33774 on January 15, 2026.

- I. **Open Meeting/Introductions**
  - Cynthia Grizzle, PCR Advisory Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.
  - Mr. Andrew Brosman introduced himself as the newest member of the Advisory Board.
- II. **Approval of Minutes – January 15, 2026**
  - The meeting minutes from the January 15 meeting were reviewed, with one correction noted: In the Action Items section, pier was misspelled. Mr. Carter moved to approve the minutes with the correction, and Mr. Croom seconded.
- III. **Citizens to be Heard**
  - None
- IV. **Old Business**

Park Naming/Renaming Discussion

  - Barry appeared to believe the board had already recommended a name change; board members clarified that this was not the case. The board had previously been tasked with reviewing the policy, not recommending a change.

- Chair Grizzle received a letter from County Administrator Barry Burton requesting a review of the Honorary Naming Rights Policy. He is requesting advice on the following 2 questions:
1. *The Honorary Naming Rights Policy is silent on requests or proposals for “renaming” parks and facilities. Should “renaming” or “reconsideration” requests be subject to the policy as is or should there be a different process? In the former case, the asset doesn’t currently have a name. In the latter, the asset has a name, and a name that may have been in place for many years. To reconsider or override an existing name should the consideration be different?*
  2. *The Parks Advisory Board has been county administration’s most used committee for naming/renaming referrals. The request to rename Phillipe Park has been heard by the Parks Advisory Board multiple times. The most recent action taken by the County was to add a sub-name to the existing park signage. County Administration understood the matter to be resolved after that action. Thus, my second question is to obtain your board’s opinion on whether I should initiate a formal process for renaming Phillipe Park.*
    - There is no distinction between naming and renaming facilities in the Honorary Naming Rights policy. The policy exists without a clear process for renaming existing facilities.
    - The Advisory Board can rename facilities. Examples include the John Moroni Center and Ray Neri Park, which were approved by board action.
    - Paul noted the need to create a “Renaming Policy” rather than use the Honorary Naming Rights policy to address the renaming of Philippe Park.
    - Maria White paraphrased the policy. An honorary naming rights proposal must be submitted to the County Administrator, who must ensure it complies with the naming rights policy before referring it to the Advisory Board.
      - *Should “renaming” or “reconsideration” requests be subject to the policy as is or should there be a different process? **Tex Carter moved to respond to Barry, requesting a separate, more appropriate policy for the renaming of parks and facilities. The motion was passed unanimously.***
      - *Question #2 did not warrant additional discussion at this time.*
    - Next Steps:
      - Cynthia to respond to Barry summarizing the Board’s position.
      - Paul and Maria White to meet with County Administrator Barry Burton to clarify policy interpretation before addressing Barry’s second question.

## V. New Business

- a. A Land Remembered Filming Request, Ft. De Soto
  - News reports suggesting environmental activists shut down filming were inaccurate.
  - Parks staff, Film Commission, and production teams held multiple meetings.
  - Proposed filming raised serious ecological and logistical concerns; construction of structures, bringing livestock (pigs/cattle), locations, and timing during nesting seasons.
  - PCR and the Film Commission will strengthen guidelines to avoid future misunderstandings.
  - PCR would not approve the request due to:
    - Shorebird nesting season
    - Sea turtle season
    - Vulnerable vegetation and wildlife

## VI. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report

- a. The new reservation system, Kaizen, launched on April 8<sup>th</sup>; taken offline April 10<sup>th</sup>, due to payment-processing security concerns.
  - Teams are now working with the Clerk's Office and Office of Management and Budget; expected resolution by end of week.
  - Stricter payment security requirements delayed full rollout.
- b. Boat Ramp Repairs (War Veterans and Ft. De Soto)
  - Ramps severely damaged by storms (2024).
  - FEMA, engineers, and consultants involved.
  - War Veterans: wood pilings to be replaced with concrete pilings.
  - Ft. De Soto: recommendation to raise existing pilings 4–5 feet for resiliency.
  - Construction planned to start after July 4.
  - Ft. De Soto boat ramp work will occur in phases to maintain partial access.
- c. Other Infrastructure Issues
  - Seawall, road, and campground issues are still under repair from storm damage.
  - Recycling area update in final review.
  - Road resurfacing for Ft. De Soto planned for after the summer season.
  - Dust and pothole issues in campground loop roads discussed; equipment downtime caused delays.

## VII. Other Business

- a. Bee City USA Annual Report Picture
  - A photo of the Advisory Board was taken in the butterfly garden to be published in Bee City USA's annual report, February 2027.
- b. PCR's Advisory Board NRPA Memberships
  - PCR has purchased a yearly NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) membership for each of the Advisory Board members.

With no further business, Tex Carter moved to adjourn, seconded by Miles Croom.  
The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

The next meeting of the PCR Advisory Board is scheduled for July 16, 2026