

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2016

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:	Ms. Mary Rogero Mr. Shelby Freeman Mr. Bill Bucolo Mr. Shelby Freeman Mr. Matt Eberius Mrs. Geraldine Raja Mr. David Kandz, Chair
PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:	Mr. David Waddell Mr. Jackson Gillette
PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES DIRECTOR:	Mr. Paul Cozzie
ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY:	Mr. Brendan Mackesey
ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY:	Ms. Cheryl DeCou
PARKS & CONSERVATION RESOURCES STAFF:	Mr. Lyle Fowler, South District Operations Mr. Curtis Spencer, North District Operations Ms. Dawn Ricketts, Dept. Admin. Manager

A regular meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources Advisory Board (Park Board) was held at the Parks and Conservation Resources Administration Office, located at 12520 Ulmerton Road, Largo, FL 33774 on July 21, 2016.

I. Open Meeting / Introductions:

Chairman David Kandz opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Introductions were made by all participants present. Two new members, Ms. Geraldine Raja and Mr. Matthew Eberius, were welcomed to the board.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 22, 2015 and April 16, 2015 were approved. Motion by Ms. Rogero and second by Mr. Freeman.

III. Citizens to be Heard: None.

IV. Old Business:

A. Parks Ordinance: Mr. Cozzie informed the Park Board members that the revisions to the ordinance for Chapter 90 of the County Code, Parks and Conservation Resources, was passed by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) at the July 19, 2016 public hearing. There were no questions from the BCC with regard to the ordinance. Discussion was held regarding the use of drones in the parks. Mr. Cozzie stated that there are some instances where a drone can be specially permitted to allow for fire

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monitoring, news media and police or sheriff patrol. Otherwise, drones are not permitted to take off or land in any park, managed lands or preserve.

- B. Renaming Philippe Park: Mr. Lou Claudio was present at the meeting for an update on the renaming of Philippe Park. He made a presentation to the Board at the April 16, 2015 meeting. Mr. Cozzie informed Mr. Claudio and the Board that he has been in discussions with the Assistant County Administrator that re-naming a park is beyond the purview of the PCR Advisory Board and there is no policy or procedure in place for re-naming of a County park.

Further discussion was held regarding the history of the park and the historical significance of the region. A brief history was added by Mr. Claudio for the two new board members citing the fact that the Indian mound at Philippe Park is on the National Registry of Historical Places. Mr. Claudio also shared with the Board a rendering of the signage at the front of the park which included the name change to Philippe – Tocobago Park. Mr. Claudio gave his email address to the PCR Board members if they had any questions for him. Mr. Mackesey advised the members to remember the sunshine law provision that they can individually communicate with Mr. Claudio regarding this request; however, they cannot communicate with each other unless at a board meeting.

Discussion was also held regarding the changing of Boca Ciega Park to Boca Ciega Millennium Park and the procedure followed to accomplish the name change. Mr. Cozzie advised Mr. Claudio and the Board that he would follow up with County Administration and asked Mr. Claudio to give him 30 days to obtain a response. Mr. Cozzie informed the Board that the County has been working with the Town of Indian Shores to put a sculpture representing a Tocobago Indian showing the historical context to pre-European timeframe.

- C. Wall Springs Park: Mr. Cozzie provided the Board with an update on Walls Springs Tower. The County has been in negotiations with the insurer for funds to provide for the ADA ramp on the tower. The tentative settlement going to the BCC is approximately \$1.5 million of the \$1.8 to \$1.9 million replacement cost. The tower requires replacement to the existing building code which requires the ramp to be installed. The new structure will be treated with flame retardant. It has opened up an issue regarding replacement of towers in other parks and possibility of replacing with a platform and/or ramp rather than a vertical tower. Ms. Rogero asked about the use of cameras at the tower for security. Mr. Mackesey responded that two issues come up with the use of cameras. Their use would impose a legal duty upon the County and public records requirements that would require up to 5 years of storage.

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The tower replacement is anticipated to be open my May of 2017. Starting next year, the County will be begin construction on the expansion of Wall Springs Park to include an observation platform, restroom facility and picnic shelter.

V. New Business:

- A. Penny for Pinellas: This fall, the county will be looking at projects under the Parks Department and Mr. Cozzie encouraged the members before the next meeting to make suggestions for potential projects that can be funded by the Penny for Pinellas. We will be addressing Weedon Island and Brooker Creek Education Centers to update the technology involved in those exhibits. We are receiving input from the citizens about upgrading athletic facilities. Infrastructure issues will also need to be addressed due to the increasing age of the park facilities. Fort De Soto is looking at doing some major improvements as far as visitors' center, consolidating offices for the campground and administration.

Discussion was held regarding the length of the beaches at Fort De Soto. The North Beach used to be yards and now is down to feet. Fort De Soto has a dynamic coastline being impacted by natural forces. Possibly at the next meeting, we can provide more information on the cyclical erosion of the beaches. Mr. Cozzie mentioned that the County is working with residents of Tierra Verde and the Army Corps of Engineers to come up with a solution for the erosion problems at Shell Key. Mr. Mackesey advised the board that he also represents Coastal Division and can arrange for Dr. John Bishop, the County's Coastal Coordinator, to come talk to the Board about the feasibility study regarding beach re-nourishment. He will invite Dr. Bishop to the October meeting.

Mrs. Raja asked about an interest in having someone from the Shell Key Preserve group to talk to the board. Mr. Cozzie advised he has been meeting with the residents at their meetings and the one issue is the permitting involved in moving the sand to Fort De Soto and Gulfport. The Shell Key pass is not in the preserve and we don't have any objection from County standpoint to having it dredged. It needs to be determined how often will it be done and who will pay for it. Congressman Jolly will be here next week with the Army Corps of Engineers to address Shell Key issues and the regulations involved.

VI. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report:

- A. Project 2017 Update: The department was asked to incorporate cost efficiency into the operations in the parks since we are dealing with limited budgets. Rangers have been assigned to the individual parks and now are more visible and getting to know the issues in the parks and become familiar to the visitors. We are working on the set up of a business services center, including an RFP for new registration software that

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will include the shelters and campgrounds to provide “one stop shopping” for the public.

- B. Strategic Plan: The Strategic Plan for the County was included in the agenda packet for this meeting. Discussion was held regarding the plan and how we tie in specific strategies to requests for budget, justification for budget items and board agenda items for the BCC.
- C. FY 2017 Budget: The budget for Parks and Conservation Resources has been submitted and there is a public hearing coming up soon to pass the budget. Ours is actually smaller than the current year, as we have moved the mowing of right of ways to Public Works. This has also allowed us to increase the number of mowing cycles in the parks. Ms. Rogero inquired about additional staff being added. Mr. Cozzie advised that there may be a Grant Coordinator position added to our staff which will allow us to be competitive in the grants area. This is a position that was consolidated into the Office of Management and Budget during the recession that is now coming back to the department.

- VII. Other Business:** Mr. Bucolo asked about the monetizing of the assets of the department. Mr. Cozzie advised that we have an Enterprise Asset Management program being implemented countywide. We are looking at finding efficiencies wherever we can with the intent of getting people into the parks and into the field. If we can save money by making us more efficient with a new software registration system, we can have budget dollars to put the people back into the parks. Mr. Bucolo asked about the strategic plan and if there is somewhere he can research. Mr. Cozzie advised that the department strategic plan is being developed with the assistance of OMB to set measurements for each of the aspects of the plan. We should have it finalized in time for the next meeting and it will be placed on the agenda.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.