

PINELLAS COUNTY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
August 20, 2020

PARK BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Michael Bauer
Ms. Debbie Chayet
Ms. Lindsay Cross
Mr. Andrew Larsen
Ms. Manitia Moultrie
Mr. Dan Savercool
Mr. Brian Scott
Dr. Brandon Shuler

PARK BOARD MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Ms. Peg Cummings
Ms. Maryann Renfrow

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.
Ms. Jolanda Jordan, Sr. Dept. Admin. Manager
Mr. Brendan Mackesey, Assistant County Atty.
Ms. Amanda Smith, Project Mgmt. Spec.

A virtual meeting of the Pinellas County Parks and Conservation Resources (PCR) Advisory Board (Board) was held, Pursuant to Executive Order No. 20-69, issued by the Office of Governor Ron DeSantis on March 20, 2020 and extended by Executive Order 20-112, local government bodies may conduct meetings of their governing boards without having a quorum of its members present physically or at any specific location, and utilizing communications media technology such as telephonic or video conferencing, as provided by Section 120.54(5)(b)2, Florida Statutes, on August 20, 2020.

I. Open Meeting/ Introductions

Chairman Chayet opened the meeting at 9:30a.m. Roll call was taken by meeting moderator. Manitia Moultrie and Lindsay Cross have been reappointed to the Advisory Board for 2021.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 16, 2020 meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved with no corrections.

III. Citizens to be Heard

- Commercial Use of County Parks – Mr. Dennis Long brought up concerns about a business operating out of Chesnut park, business formerly known as Bootcamp Rocks. He feels that this business hinders citizen’s ability to enjoy the park due to excessive noise. Mr. Long is asking that the Advisory Board recommend to the Parks and Conservation Resources department that commercial use permits be terminated unless the vendors are connected to a special event. At minimum he would like for them to be suspended through the rest of the current pandemic. He would also suggest that if Parks and Conservation Resources will continue to allow commercial use permits that they increase the fee for the vendors.
- Commercial use permits were created out of a necessity because of businesses that were operating boot camp style operations within the parks. It was created to keep track of these operations and to allow the requirement of insurance for these operations in order to limit the County’s liability.

IV. Old Business

- Walsingham Park Mountain Bike Trail Proposal – S.W.A.M.P
S.W.A.M.P gave a second presentation on their proposed mountain biking and multi-use trail at Walsingham park. Some concerns were raised about the proposed trail area being the habitat for nesting gopher tortoises. S.W.A.M.P has provided an alternative route proposal. The Park Advisory Board voted 3 to 2 recommending that S.W.A.M.P proceed with Phase I of construction on the trail. S.W.A.M.P has agreed to receive comment from Walsingham Parks users before proceeding with the build of their trail and to provide Board members with a tour of the area.
- Integrated Vegetation Management Working Group Update
The integrated vegetation management working group met with City managers on July 10th to present their findings. Deliverables will be made available to the area sustainability coordinators as well as Park Advisory Board members for feedback. The document created by the working group is intended to be used for guidance but is not intended to regulate the decision of other agencies.

V. New Business

- Bay Pointe Golf Course Acquisition
The County, through the Stormwater program, acquired the Bay Pointe Golf Course, located South of 102nd in Largo. The property was included on the acquisition list. The County is currently looking at future designs for the property. It is currently being used by citizens for walking trails.
- Pinewood Cultural Park Masterplan, Phase 1
Pinewood cultural park Masterplan phase 1 is beginning. A request has been made to look at an overall masterplan to compile previous masterplans and fill in some of the gaps. Drafts of this plan will be made available for the Advisory Board for comment.

VI. Parks and Conservation Resources Director's Report

- Wall Springs Park Coastal Additions I and II Opening

Wall Springs park coastal additions I and II had a soft opening to the public on August 1st. Some finishing touches are being made to the landscape by staff. An official opening is tentatively being scheduled to take place in the fall. The Board will be involved with the grand opening when it occurs.

- Refurbishment of Rifles and Mortars at Fort De Soto Battery Laidley

The professional refurbishment of the rifles and mortars at Fort De Soto has been completed. They have been returned to their original color. PCR will be improving the interpretive program at the Fort associated with Battery Laidley to improve the educational experience.

- FY21 Budget Request

PCR is in good shape for FY21. PCR has submitted three decision packages in the budget this year. One item was to increase one of the part time staff to full time at Weedon Island. One item was to hire a GI analyst to support the Asset Management program. This request has been approved. One request was to convert a temporary employee to a full-time employee. The COVID impact on the budget has mostly impacted the CIP projects.

VII. Other Business

- No conflict of interest for a Park Advisory Board member to also be a part of one of the Friend's groups.
- Photos being taken of Outback Key to make decisions about this area in the future. The state will need to be involved in decisions about this area. PCR will pursue a management agreement. There will hopefully be something in place before next bird nesting season.
- The next meeting tentatively scheduled for October 15th.

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