

SEMINOLE COUNTY

PARKS & PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE July 22, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present: Bryce Gibson, Mark Brandenburg, Pasha Baker, Robert Bowden, Tom Boyko, Nancy Dunn, Ashlee Woodard, Emily Hanna, L.A. Key, J. Reid Hilliard

Members Absent: Ed Ghiglieri, Jim Buck, Jason Sutton, Rocky Harrelson

Staff Present: Richard Durr, Leisure Services Director
Michael Wirsing, Parks & Recreation Division Manager
William Pandos, Greenways and Natural Lands Division Manager
Sherry Williams, Program Manager
Corey Warner, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order: Mark Brandenburg at 6:30PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of January 23rd and February 26th Meeting Minutes: Bryce Gibson made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. This motion was seconded by Ashlee Woodard and approved unanimously.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on parks, trails and natural lands facilities, programs and staffing
 - Rick Durr discussed all of the different stages that Seminole County Leisure Services went through starting with the Local State of Emergency declared on March 2, 2020 up through the first youth sports tournament at Boombah Sports Complex on June 25, 2020.
 - During this time period the Seminole County Parks, Trails, and Natural Lands remained open while implementing safe social distancing measures.
 - The Seminole County trails and wilderness areas saw a large increase in traffic.
 - Less traffic in the staffed parks opened up room for many projects to be completed.
- Follow up on Parks/Natural Lands Referendum Initiative
 - The Board of County Commissioners voted to discontinue pursuit of a referendum this year partially due to COVID-19 hardships.
- FY 20/21 Budget Preparation
 - COVID-19 has had very little impact on the operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 for Leisure Services. The general fund revenues and tourism fund were impacted heavily by COVID-19.
 - All of the proposed capital projects are moving forward as planned.
 - We can expect to see the effects of COVID-19 in the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Budget and beyond.
- Update on current parks/natural lands projects
 - Many of the projects that were proposed for this fiscal year have been completed.
 - Some of our projects have hit the design phase, such as Rolling Hills.
 - The Trails Master Plan will be presented at the next PPAC meeting and a virtual platform will be established for public input.
 - Leisure Services was recently approached by Community Services regarding potential projects that could be accomplished in the next couple of months since there was some

remaining funding from the Community Development Block Grant. The following four locations were able to use the funding for improvements:

- Roseland Park
- Midway Park
- Jamestown Park
- Lake Mills Park
- Leisure Services was asked to submit proposed CARES Act Projects. This list is under review.
- The Board is going to consider a Memorandum of Understanding with Perfect Game. Perfect Game is a premier youth tournament organizer. They would like to call the Boombah Sports Complex their south eastern home.
- Seminole County is looking at rezoning its Natural Lands to get rid of the underlying zonings that they may have. This would make them Public Lands, allowing the land to be used in the public's best interest.
- Leisure Services Community Impact Report
 - Distributed to members.
- Natural Lands Annual Report for Fiscal year 18/19
 - The Natural Lands Annual Report will be included with the minutes.

Other Business:

- Trails projects and the Transportation Penny Sales Tax
 - Monthly Coordination meetings are taking place between Leisure Services, Public Works and Planning and Development to facilitate projects.
 - Current projects include:
 - The "Missing Link" project on the Cross Seminole Trail has begun, and will last about 6 months.
 - The Howell Creek Railroad Trestle repairs will resume in August.
 - There is a feasibility study in progress for potential overpasses on the Seminole Wekiva Trail over SR 434 and SR 436.
 - Ramps will be added to the Cross Seminole Trail Bridge at General Hutchison. These ramps will provide access to the trail from 17/92.
 - The 'Central Seminole Trail' will connect 434 to the Cross Seminole Trail. Public Works is conducting a feasibility study to find the preferred.
 - The Parks and Preservation Advisory Committee will consider submitting comments.

Public Comment

- Kimberly Buchheit, Kathryn Mennella, David Bear, and Katrina Shadix spoke on the protection of Seminole County's Natural Lands.
 - Kimberly Buchheit stated that a simple land use change won't be enough to protect our Natural Lands.
 - Kathryn Mennella agreed, and stated that in addition to the land use change Seminole County needs to look at a charter amendment, a charter amendment modeled after the Disposition of Florida Conservation Lands in the Florida Constitution, or to put a conservation easement on the lands.
 - David Bear spoke in support of these three options.
 - Kimberly Buchheit, Kathryn Mennella and David Bear said that a charter amendment would be the strongest of the three options.
 - Katrina Shadix spoke in support of the other three speakers.

Adjourn – Mark Brandenburg adjourned the meeting at 8:23PM.