

Village of North Palm Beach

Recreation Advisory Board

Minutes from the August 11, 2020 Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Maria Cassidy called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

Maria Cassidy, Chair

Bob Bell

Tim Hulihan

Don Grill

Chris Cantwell, Vice Chair

Mia St. John

Paul Beach

Village Council Representative – None

Stephen Poh, Director of Parks and Recreation

Andy Lukasik, Village Manager

Russ Ruskay, Parks and Recreation

Emily O'Mahoney, GHO Partner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Don Grill made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Paul Beach. The motion passed 6-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Stephen updated the Board on current COVID-19 park restrictions. Currently, only playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas are still closed. Stephen informed the board that the Links 5K run this year will be virtual. The event will be called Links 5K The Ghost Run. We will start taking registrations and inform participants how to turn in their times and receive a medal.

Stephen informed the board that Public works removed the remote control car area at the Community Center. We also had a very successful Lakeside Park clean up on Saturday, August 8. We had over 20

participants helping us clean out the exotics in the berm as well as picking up trash in the park and on our beach.

PROJECTS UPDATE:

Russ Ruskay had a slide presentation about the upcoming dry storage project at Anchorage Park.

Russ also discussed the Needs Assessment with the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Stephen let the board know a resident had asked if we could open the pedestrian gate on the north side of Lakeside Park. We had closed and locked the gate because we were having an issue with motor vehicles entering the park. Stephen asked the board if they would agree to put a bollard there instead of closing the gate. This way patrons can access the park while running, walking, or with a stroller without having to walk around the gate. The board agreed that would be a good idea.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Stephen gave an update on the Advisory Board interviews, which has been pushed back to the September Council meeting.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- Mia St. John asked about how we got the message out about the Lakeside clean-up. Stephen said through the village social media pages and the village website.
- Maria Cassidy asked about the time limit we have on the grant for the dry storage project. Russ stated that we have until 2022.
- Chris Cantwell wants to maximize the space on the dry storage project so more people can be removed from the wait list. Chris stated that we are not addressing the wait list and we should have more over 30 foot spaces because any boat under 30 foot can still be placed in resident's yard if they have room.
- Tim Hulihan asked Emily why the oak trees were inside the dry storage area on the new plan. Tim believes the trees should stay in the park and we should fence around the trees to keep them in the park area for residents to enjoy. Chris commented that we should possibly look into moving the trees so we can get more parking spaces inside the storage area.
- Bob Bell and Tim agreed that we should ask the community first before removing trees for more parking spaces. Bob wants to take a trip with the rest of the board members to look at the oaks and see what kind of impact they would make removed. The rest of the board agreed. Russ said that he would set it up for everyone to meet.
- Paul Beach asked why the boat wash area inside the dry storage area was removed on the new plan. He would like to see it added about inside the lot.

- Tim asked if the decision was made about a wall or fence yet. Emily said no decision was made on that. Tim asked Emily if she received his email with pictures of the FPL fence that he sent her. Both Tim and Bob agreed that that fence would look good and give PD access to view inside the storage area.
- Don Grill asked if PD was concerned about accessing the dry storage area.
- Bob Bell also mentioned about cleaning up the north side buffer of the dry storage area to make it look more desirable.
- After Russ spoke about the needs assessment, Tim recommended that we use that money for the dry storage project or other capital projects instead of the needs assessment.
- Andy Lukasik discussed the areas that the needs assessment will help us address. He believes we need more input from our community in recreation areas.
- Mia agreed and she thinks we should move forward with the needs assessment. She believes that the needs assessment would serve the community on the whole rather than the few that again are lucky enough to have a boat, RV, trailer at Anchorage Park.
- Tim made a motion to use the money for the needs assessment for the dry storage area project and it was seconded by Chris Cantwell.
- Bob agrees with Mia with the needs assessment but during the uncertain times is this the best time to move forward with the needs assessment. He would like us to use the money for other capital projects instead of the needs assessment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Don Grill made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Ben Bell. Motion passed 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Minutes respectively submitted by Stephen Poh, Director of Parks and Recreation.