



## RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD September 11, 2024 - Meeting Minutes

### Call to Order/Roll Call

Brad Long, Vice Chair called the meeting to order and took the roll.

Members Present: Long, Vice Chair, Marithza Ross, Bill Bowen, Marty McEachean, and Casey Van Rysdam.

Members Absent: Lauren Watkins, Chair

Also Present: Commissioner Christian Whitehurst and David Simpkins, St. Johns County School District Liaison

Recreation Staff Present: Ryan Kane, Director, Jamie Baccari, Assistant Director, Carrie Miska, Business Manager, Diane Gorski, Project Specialist

Long spoke to the historic relevance of 9/11 and reminded everyone that it had been 23 years since the terror attacks. He spoke to the grief and sadness we all feel for the families of those who lost a loved one and also to the survivors.

### Approval of the Minutes

Vice Chair called for approval of the August 14, 2024 meeting minutes and received a motion from Bowen that was seconded by McEachean. Motion passed 6/0.

### Public Comments

Vice Chair called for Public Comments for non-agenda items only and explained that each speaker would be given 3 minutes.

Chuck Wharton, Fountain of Youth, St. Augustine resident, asked for an update of the Disc Golf project. He said that additional disc golf courses were needed within the community. Kane provided an update that included announcing that the design phase had been completed and that the plans will be printed allowing the public an opportunity to review the proposed course. Discussion followed.

Justin Miller, St. Augustine South resident, shared his opposition to the Shore Drive Trail project.

### Reports

**Christian Whitehurst, County Commission Liaison**, mentioned that the funding for the Field of Dreams (FOD) ADA restrooms was included in the Bond application that would be up for approval by the Board of County Commissioners. He provided background on the FOD and shared his support for and appreciation of everyone in the community and staff who worked to make the FOD a reality. He said that he valued the work that staff completed that resulted in getting the FOD funding added to the bonding packet. There was a consensus of the RAB to offer a letter of support for the upcoming Bonding request.

**David Simpkins, St. Johns County School District Liaison**, announced that football season was underway and that the rainy weather was wreaking havoc on the schedule. He said that continuous rain was creating challenges district wide.

**Brad Long, Vice Chair**, reflected on his 5<sup>th</sup> year as a member of the RAB. He mentioned that the Park Foundation was finalizing the Canright House project. He announced that the foundation had chosen a new Director and in the process of making the offer. Discussion relating to the foundation, staffing and funding followed.

Van Rysdam shared his concerns with the potential shortfall in funding for Phase II of the Sports Funding Category III Rec & Leisure Sport Marketing Grant.

There was a consensus of the RAB to approve the January meeting date to 1/15/2025 to accommodate Phase II TDT Cat III result reporting. The meeting will take place in the Kingfisher Conference Room.

## Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Applications

There was a motion by Van Rysdam that was seconded by Bowen to recommend approval of the applications from Crescent Beach Baptist Church, Ponte Vedra Presbyterian Church, and Seaside Church for Easter Sunday Sunrise Services by the Board of County Commissioners. A brief discussion followed. The motion passed 6/0.

## Staff Reports

Ryan Kane, Director shared the following:

- 1) The Ocean & Fishing Pier is open only for sightseeing until further notice due to work by the US Army Corps of Engineers on shoreline restoration. Fishing access is unavailable. The last 100' of the Pier are closed due eval results by structural engineer. Next steps requesting \$3 Million for repairs at Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the BCC meeting
- 2) FY25 Budget – 1<sup>st</sup> reading approved 5/0 with 2<sup>nd</sup> (final ) reading scheduled for 9/17/24
- 3) 4 Parks updates – Bond request for regional parks will be requested on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at the BCC meeting

Jamie Baccari, Assistant Director shared the following:

- 1) Summer Camp was a huge success and the staff was exceptional
- 2) The Family Color Run 5k will be held on Saturday., September 28 at 9 a.m. at the St. Johns County Fairgrounds
- 3) The Hastings Trunk or Treat, Saturday, October 28, 2023 at Al Wilke Park

## RAB Member Reports

McEachean announced the West Augustine groundbreaking ceremony on September 13, 2024 at the site of its much-needed Health and Wellness Center.

McEachean motioned to adjourn and a second by Bowen to adjourn. Motion passed 6/0.