

PARKS, RECREATION & TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes: May 13, 2024

Present:		Staff:	
Eric White	District 2	Angela Harrold	Office of Parks & Trails, Director
David Clutts - Chairman	District 3	Bobby Bonilla	Parks and Water Resources Executive Director
Mike Matulia	District 4	Lindsaia Johansmeyer	Office of Parks & Trails, Associate Director
Randy Van Alstine	District 5		
Kirby Smith	Comm. Liaison	<u>Lake County Staff:</u>	
		Sean Beaudet	Grants Manager, Parks and Water Resources
Absent:		Citizen:	
Juan Mahfouz	District 1		

Chairman David Clutts called the May 13, 2024, meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. The meeting was properly advertised, and a quorum was present. After asking everyone if they had a chance to review the February 12, 2024, meeting minutes, with no changes to the minutes, Chairman Clutts called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was made by Mike Matulia and seconded by Eric White. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chairman Clutts addressed District 4 member and Vice Chairman Mike Matulia retiring from the Advisory Board. Chairman Clutts noted that there would be a need for a new Vice Chairman. Randy Van Alstine nominated Eric White for new Vice Chairman and was seconded by Mike Matulia. The motion was approved unanimously to appoint District 2 member Eric White as the new Vice Chairman.

Public Comments

None

Presentations

Mayor Mitchell Mack, Town of Astatula Opportunities for the Expansion of the Astatula Boat Ramp

Mitchell Mack, Mayor for the Town of Astatula, presented an opportunity to partner with Lake County to purchase a piece of property located next to the Astatula Boat Ramp. A new subdivision is being constructed next to the boat ramp and the developer offered it to the Town for purchase. Mayor Mack stated that the Town would like to partner with the County to purchase and revamp the area, making it more accessible. The appraised land value presented to the Advisory Board was \$210,000. He stated that if the additional property was purchased, improvements would include parking, restrooms, running water, and boardwalk.

Ms. Angela Harrold, Director of the Office of Parks and Trails added that it would be a benefit to the master plan and community, and Parks and Trails supports the request. A motion was made by Eric White and seconded by Randy Van Alstine to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners partnering with the Town of Astatula to purchase the property adjacent to Astatula Boat Ramp. The motion was approved unanimously.

City of Fruitland Park - Infrastructure Sales Tax funding allocation – Softball and T-Ball field improvements

Ms. Michelle Yoder, Recreation Director for the City of Fruitland Park, presented to the Advisory Board the proposed improvements for the next fiscal year at the Northwest Lake Park. She noted that improvements would include revamping the adult softball fields, T-Ball fields, and a public address (PA) system at the soccer field. Chairman Clutts stated that the park is a hit with the local area and well worth continuing to provide funding assistance. A motion was made by Randy Van Alstine and seconded by Eric White to approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Infrastructure Sales Tax Funding request in the amount of \$100,000 from the City of Fruitland Park for improvements to the Northwest Lake Park. The motion was approved unanimously.

City of Clermont - Infrastructure Sales Tax funding request – 6 pickleball courts at the city owned Lake Felter Park

Brain Forman, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Clermont presented a request to the Advisory Board to add six (6) pickleball courts at Lake Felter Park. He informed the Board on the city's court inventory, provided information on usage of the existing courts, plans, and the cost to convert them from tennis courts to pickleball courts. A motion was made by Mike Matulia and seconded by Eric White to approve the FY 2025 Infrastructure Sales Tax Funding request in the amount of \$100,000 from the City of Clermont. The motion was approved unanimously.

City of Groveland Update on South Lake Regional Park

Mike Walker, Director of Parks and Community Services, City of Groveland provided an update to the Advisory Board giving an overview of the park costs and phases in past years. He provided updates on the amount of fill dirt that had been removed to date. He noted that Phase 1 was now broken into smaller phases. Phase 1A consisted of drainage, interior and exterior road, asphalt, sewer and water connection, and parking lot. He provided pictures of fields, parking areas, and a kayak area. He noted that phase 1A was about 98% complete, and what will take place in the next Phase 1B.

Old Business

East Lake Community Meeting held on April 30, 2024

Angela Harrold, Director for the Office of Parks and Trails provided updates to the Advisory Board on the community meeting recently held at Sorrento Elementary. The meeting informed residents about the East Lake Sports and Community Complex upcoming Phase II land clearing, and Phase I resodding, and field closures, as well as the meeting advertisement.

New Business

Wekiva River Surplus Property - FDOT Public Purpose Property Transfer estimated in September 2024

Ms. Harrold informed the Advisory Board that the Wekiva Parkway Project had been completed and a letter of interest was sent to FDOT for request to transfer three surplus properties next to the Wekiva River. The property will be kept natural and will have a canoe/kayak entrance in the Wekiva River. If transferred it would be the only entry point to the river in Lake County. She informed that the project was in the early stages and entry fees had not been discussed, but it was something they could explore when the site plan was presented to the Lake County Board of County Commissioners.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program

Sean Beaudet, Grants Program Manager for the Parks and Water Resources Department provided the Advisory Board background information on the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) grant. He stated that staff was interested in applying for the grant for improvements at North Lake Regional Park. The grant funding would help update the existing playground and exercise equipment, refresh ADA compliant playground mulch, and ADA compliant sidewalks. He provided information on the projects estimated cost and how much the County needs to match. A motion was made by Mike Matulia and seconded by Eric White for a request to support staff to begin the application process for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program grant in the amount of \$150,000 to include the 25% County match. The motion was approved unanimously.

Legislative Project Updates (2023-2024):

The following projects were approved by the Lake County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) as legislative funding requests, approved by the Legislature during the 2023 Legislative Sessions, and signed into the 2024 State budget by the Governor:

- South Lake Trail - Boardwalk replacement and multi-use trail improvements
 - Grant amount: \$500,000
 - Funding agreement approved and sent to FDOT, currently in design and engineering.
- Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail and Trailhead - Site plan, playgrounds, pavilions, and ADA walkway.
 - Grant amount: \$400,000
 - Funding agreement approved and sent to FDOT, currently in design and engineering.

The following project was approved by the BCC as a legislative funding request, approved by the Legislature during the 2024 Legislative Sessions, and waiting for approval from the Governor:

- Golden Triangle Regional Park – East Campus – Construction of trailhead and related improvements
 - Grant amount: \$500,000
 - Approved during Legislative Session and going to the Governor. Groundbreaking ceremony was on April 25th, improvements to the parking lot sealcoating, playground, pickleball and basketball resurfacing, and entry sign.

The following project was approved by the BCC as a grant request made to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), through the National Scenic Byways Grant Program. The grant was submitted to the FHWA by the Green Mountain Scenic Byway Committee:

- Green Mountain Scenic Trail and Overlook - Second overlook tower
 - Grant amount: \$650,000
 - Design, engineering and permitting has been approved, 60% of plans and environmental assessments completed and submitted to FDOT.

Chairman Clutts asked if anyone had anything else that they would like to discuss for the good of the order. There were no questions. Chairman Clutts called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mike Matulia and seconded by Randy Van Alstine. The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Next Meeting

Date: August 12, 2024 **Time:** 3:30 pm

Place: Lake County Administration Building – Board Chambers, 315 W. Main Street Tavares FL 32778. Respectfully submitted by Anita Ellis, Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board Scribe