

**COLLIER TOWNSHIP PARKS & RECREATION BOARD
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2021 MEETING**

- I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Roll call

Present: Mary Popeck, Sue Harford (remotely), Anna Ewing, Dr. Jeff Witman, Alicia Guarnaccio; Josh Werner, Director/Parks & Recreation

Absent: Matt Shipton, Kyle Robinson

Guests: Dan Styche/Township Commissioner; Lori Ferguson

- II. Minutes of the October 18, 2021 meeting were previously approved via email to/from the Board members.

- III. Public Comment/Acknowledgement of Guest:

Lori Ferguson gave a brief background of her special interests and would like to be considered for the position of alternate Board member. She believes her participation in and experience with multiple charities would be a great asset to the Board.

Dan Styche advised that the Township Appreciation Night is tentatively scheduled for December 9, 2021.

- IV. Committee reports:

Josh Werner – Light-Up Night will take place on December 3, 2021, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This year’s activities will include a horse and buggy ride, arrival of Santa on a fire truck, distribution of gift bags to the kids, and entertainment by a local choir. The theme will be “Christmas Around the World.” Christmas trees will be decorated by various individuals/groups at a cost of \$20 each; and, hopefully, those trees will be on display throughout the horse and buggy trail. Anyone who is available to volunteer for this event should contact Josh via email. The boy scouts and girl scouts will also provide volunteers.

- V. Friends Report by Dan Styche:

Friends of Collier Parks & Recreation will be sponsoring a raffle for a Yeti cooler package as soon as the correct tip boards are received. (Incorrect order received via Amazon.) Tickets will be sold for \$10 each, and each buyer will receive two numbers.

Lynn Heckman resigned her position with Friends. Dan nominated Sadie Sterner Restivo to fill the vacant Board position. Her nomination was approved.

VI. Parks & Recreation Department Report by Josh Werner:

A. Programs – New to the list of programs is a free volleyball instructional class, which was limited to the first thirty participants to sign up. Currently the class is full, and there are five people on the waiting list. The free introductory classes will be held in January and February. In March, regular classes will begin. Some changes to the Pickleball program in January/February were suggested for review by the Commissioners, including raising the participant age from 15 to 18 years of age. A general overview of some of the other programs was also provided by Josh.

B. Front Desk – Josh continues to struggle to fill the evening and Saturday schedules. Unfortunately, another employee tendered a resignation letter.

C. Advertisement – Josh will remove this section from any future agendas as the advertisement is always consistent with previously provided information.

D. Projects – Although work on the base of the sign to be erected at the Community Center was previously started, no additional work has been completed. The work at Hilltop Park has progressed, but three consecutive warm days are needed to pour the foundation. Some consideration is being given to removing the old playground equipment at Kelly Park and installing it at Presto Park.

VII. Old Business

A. Budget – The 2022 budget has not yet been finalized, pending a meeting between Josh and Kyle Thauvette.

B. Membership – Dan Styche advised that anyone who had a membership in 2019-2020 will be given a 25% reduction in their 2022 membership. This is in addition to the other compensation previously given to the members who were unable to use the facilities due to the pandemic.

C. Webb Park Pickleball/Tennis Courts – Dan Styche advised that completion of this project was put on hold due to the weather conditions and also due to the fact that the contractor doubled his price.

D. Restrooms and Water Supply Line/Panhandle Trail – A meeting with the county manager is scheduled to take place to discuss any available funding for this project.

E. Skvarka Park Update – Jeff Witman, who is a certified playground safety inspector, provided an update on the improvements/repairs that were made and/or need to be made at this park. A tripping hazard at this park has been taken care of, and the swings have been secured. There is no easy fix for the basketball courts due to the run-off problem created by the above-lying ball field. Also, there are significant issues with the playground area in general.

VIII. New Business

A. Bridge/Pathway connecting the Meadow Path to Nevillewood – Consideration is being given to constructing either a bridge over the pond at the end of the Meadow Path or a pathway around the pond. This project will also be discussed with the county manager to determine the availability of any funding.

B. Programs/Events to be offered in January/February – Typically these months are downtime. Josh is looking for any suggestions for programs/events which could be offered during these two months.

C. Rental Policy – Josh asked for Board-member input on the current rental policy, particularly rentals which are given free of charge to certain organizations during prime-time weekend rental hours. There is also a problem with the condition in which the party/banquet rooms are left and the extension of time taken above and beyond the requested hours. Both of these problems result in a financial expense to the Department for custodial and staffing expenditures.

IX. Board Member Comments

Other than the comments set forth herein, there were no additional comments.

X. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

XI. The next meeting of the Board will take place at the Community Center on January 17, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.