CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Committee/Training Room 244 by Chair Boyd.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board followed by roll call.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Boyd welcomed new member Maureen Coble who provided brief background information about herself.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES: APRIL 21, 2016

Joan Morgan moved to approve the April 21, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Helen Marchese. The motion carried unanimously.

CITY AND COUNTY UPDATES

Sarasota County – Ed Exner

Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner provided the following County updates including: 1) the bi-annual inspection of heavy duty park maintenance equipment is complete; 2) the renovation of the dugouts at Dallas White Park is complete; 3) the renovations of the restrooms for the softball fields at Narramore Sports Complex is complete and the lighting at the softball and soccer fields has been replaced. A new prototype of soccer goal stabilization bars has been installed to replace the previous sandbags utilized to ensure the goals are kept in place and stabilized; 4) the front football field at the George Mullen Activity Center has been regraded and new sod installed; and 5) 2 baseball tournaments were hosted at Atwater Community Park and where a County baseball tournament is scheduled.

City Update – Sandy Pfundheller

Staff Liaison Sandy Pfundheller, Parks & Recreation Manager provided the following City program/event updates including: 1) the Community Yard Sale was held on April 23, 2016 with approximately 450 attendees; 2) the Environmental Park Connector Bridge Groundbreaking ceremony was held May 6, 2016 at the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park. A ribbon cutting/grand opening celebration will be scheduled on completion of the project; 3) a T-Rec Fun Day was held on May 16, 2016 at the George Mullen Activity Center with approximately 24 participants; 4) registration for the Firecracker 5K run are
now being accepted and can be submitted online at runsignup.com or in person at the Morgan Family Community Center. Vendor applications are also being accepted at this time for the Firecracker 5K run and Freedom Festival; 5) May, 2016 is free Jazzercise month. Jazzercise will be offered for free at the Morgan Family Community Center; 6) Fit Teen University will be held May 24, 2016 to educate youth 13 – 15 years of age on exercise room etiquette, use of exercise equipment, and fitness center procedures. Upon completion of the class, membership privileges will be extended without the necessity of an accompanying parent; 7) the Summer Camp Counselor orientation/training and “Counselor-In-Training” program begins on May 31, 2016; 8) summer camp registration is approximately three quarters full; 9) members were encouraged to offer volunteer efforts for the July 4, 2016 Firecracker 5K Run and Freedom Festival.

Andrew Sias arrived at 6:35 p.m.

Ms. Pfundheller introduced Jonathan Wheatley, the new Recreation Program Coordinator, and provided brief background information.

Ms. Pfundheller provided the following Capital Improvement Projects updates including: 1) Myakkahatchee Creek Land Acquisition is ongoing with 47 parcels remaining to be purchased. The parcels have been forwarded to the Sarasota County Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Program for consideration; 2) the Greenway Trail between Price Boulevard and Appomattox Boulevard is pending developer funding; 3) clearing of invasive plants at the Canine Club has begun along the creek. When the clearing is complete, a primitive trail from the Canine Club to Butler Park is being considered; 4) the 100% design documents for the multi-purpose fields at Butler Park are currently with the Purchasing Department for review; 5) the Parks & Recreation Master Plan was accepted as a work product by the City Commission on April 26, 2016; and 6) the youth and adult playground equipment installation at Highland Ridge Park is complete.

VI. REVIEW PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Ms. Pfundheller distributed copies of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) for review.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) Implementation Strategy; 2) Master Plan vision priorities; 3) Aquatic Facility feasibility study to determine direction for the North Port YMCA swimming pool; 4) Sarasota County support for a new water facility in North Port; 5) possibility of recommending a Joint Meeting with the North Port City Commission and the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners to discuss a new water facility in North Port; 6) methodology for Board recommendations to the City Commission; and 7) the City Commission previously allocated funds for the construction of a new aquatic facility which did not address funding for necessary staff and ongoing operation/maintenance issues.

Ms. Pfundheller shared with members that an aquatics facility was not identified as a current priority by the City Commission. Members were encouraged to read the Vision portion of the Master Plan and become familiar with the recommendations proposed for the 10-year plan.

Public comment was held from 7:34 p.m. to 7:37 p.m.

*Joan Morgan moved to approve a letter from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board be written and addressed to the North Port City Commission to recommend a Joint Meeting with the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners to discuss the funding for the development and maintenance of an aquatic facility in North Port; seconded by Andrew Sias. The motion carried unanimously.*
Maureen Coble moved for Joan Morgan to draft a letter to be provided to Staff Liaison Pfundheller for Parks & Recreation Advisory Board review and input prior to submission to the City Commission; seconded by Andrew Sias. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. DISCUSSION OF ACTION ITEMS FOR 2016 GOALS

a. Health and Wellness Initiatives

Ms. Pfundheller reported that she contacted General Services Director Carmichael regarding hosting a Community Health and Wellness Fair. Director Carmichael showed an interest and was encouraging regarding the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board developing a Community Wellness Fair. It was noted that this would be an Advisory Board project with the Parks & Recreation Division of General Services supporting the event.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) a “bubble run: as an alternative to a “paint run” to ensure public streets are not compromised and discolored; 2) “Slide the City” consisting of a 1,000 ft. waterslide was discussed as a possible event for North Port; 3) the methodology for hosting and recruiting participants for a Community Health and Wellness Fair; 4) appropriate date; time and location for a Community Health and Wellness Fair; and 5) possible commercial partners for hosting a Community Health and Wellness Fair.

b. Grant Opportunities

This item was previously discussed.

c. Other Ideas

Other suggestions and ideas were provided regarding possible planned events including: 1) organizing a "Jazz on the Green" event or other music event on the City Hall Front Green with musicians participating in the event at no cost; 2) contacting the North Port High School music department regarding participating in a music event held on the City Hall Front Green; and 3) holding a bicycle race and contacting the "Coastal Cruisers Bike Club" to partner with scheduling a local bicycle race promoting bicycle safety.

VIII. PLAYFUL CITY USA

Ms. Pfundheller reported that the City of North Port was awarded the Playful City USA distinction for the 7th consecutive year. The Parks & Recreation video submitted as part of the Playful City USA application has been shared on You Tube.

Members were encouraged to promote playability and access to play in North Port.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Pfundheller distributed copies of the North Port Parks & Recreation Summer/Fall 2016 Activities & Events Guide.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.
XII. **AROUND THE PRAB TABLE**

Chair Boyd expressed encouragement for the work the Board is doing and the letter to be submitted to the City Commission regarding the recommendation of a Joint Meeting with Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners regarding a new aquatic facility in North Port.

Helen Marchese expressed gratitude to Staff Liaison Pfundheller and Parks & Recreation staff for the work and dedication shown to ensure the Parks & Recreation Division maintains a high level of service for the community.

Maureen Coble noted that she is looking forward to working with the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board in realizing their roles; goals and responsibilities.

Joan Morgan thanked the Board and staff for their dedication and work.

Andrew Sias noted that, after addressing health issues, he was glad to be back as a productive member of the Board.

XIII. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING. NEXT MEETING: JUNE 16, 2015 @6:30 P.M.**

Agenda items for the June 16, 2016 scheduled meeting will include: 1) Community Health and Wellness Fair Date and Location Discussion; 2) Review of letter to the City Commission regarding a Joint Meeting with Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners; 3) “Slide the City” research (Sandy Pfundheller); and 4) Firecracker 5K Run and Freedom Festival volunteer efforts and Board involvement.

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Joan Morgan moved to adjourn the May 19, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting; seconded by Maureen Coble. The motion carried unanimously.*

The May 19, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

[VICTOR BOYD, CHAIR]

Minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this 16th day of May, 2016.