

Town of Melbourne Beach

PARKS BOARD MEETING WEDNESDAY July 10, 2019 MASNY ROOM – 507 OCEAN AVENUE MINUTES

PUBLIC NOTICE

**The Parks Board conducted a meeting on
Wednesday, July 10, 2019 in the Masny Room
located at 507 Ocean Avenue to address the items below.**

Board Members:

Chair Jason Judge
Member Pat Zabinski
Member Jayne Waters
Member Andrew McKay
Member Ed Struttman

Staff Members:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro
Deputy Town Clerk Walton Ray

I. CALL TO ORDER –Chair Jason Judge called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Members:

Chair Jason Judge – Present

Member Pat Zabinski – Present

Member Jayne Waters – Present

Member Andrew McKay – Present

Member Ed Struttmann - Absent

Staff Present:

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro

Deputy Town Clerk Walton Ray

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Judge moved in favor of approving the minutes from June 12, 2019, with typographical corrections made as noted by Member Waters, who seconded the motion; the minutes were approved 4-0.

IV. SPECIAL EVENTS

No new special events were presented.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Skate Park in Melbourne Beach

- Discussion of the possibility of building a Skate Park in Melbourne Beach continued from the Parks Board meeting on June 12, 2019
- Member Waters raised the question of how participation at the potential Park would be regulated; would staffing of some sort be necessary. Member McKay noted that the Skate Park in Satellite Beach is not staffed
- Chairman Judge asked if the County would participate in developing the Park. Interim Town Manager Mascaro said that the project planning and all necessary funding is exclusively the responsibility of the Town; she has communicated with the Brevard County Director of Parks who has built two Skate Parks in different locations, to research the potential separate roles of the County and the Town. The role of the Interim Town Manager will be limited to serving as a liaison for communication between the Town and the County. The County will consider allowing use of County property through what is known as an “interlocal” agreement, but it is very important as we move ahead to provide the County with specific details as to how the Town will secure funding, including liability coverage, building details, etc., before the County would consider moving forward. Furthermore, the proposal cannot be presented to the Melbourne Beach Town Commission until and unless the County approves of the Skate Park plan in principal. The County is currently considering the over-all idea of the Skate Park through assessments by its County Attorney and Risk Manager, with the location based on an aerial photograph (provided by Chairman Judge) of the proposed location. Interim Town Manager Mascaro will communicate the conclusions reached by the County to the Parks Board when this information is received

- Interim Town Manager Mascaro asked the Parks Board to clearly define what the Board wanted to see for a Skate Park – both an over-all vision and details, including:
 1. Coverage of liability (the County will not cover liability – all liability falls on the Town of Melbourne Beach and a plan for limiting liability and funding liability insurance will need to be researched and detailed)
 2. Exact location of the Skate Park
 3. Proposed timeline for development of the Park, including first opening of the Park
 4. Physical, over-all size of the Park
 5. Fundraising for construction of the Park (neither the Town nor the County will be able to fund construction of the Park)
 6. What is the proposed level of difficulty/expertise for skaters in the Park (beginner/intermediate/advanced)?
 7. Will bicycles be allowed to use the Park?
 8. What will be the hours of operation for the Park?
 9. How will the use of helmets and knee/elbow pads be monitored?
 10. Permits for the Park will need to be secured prior to construction and must include detailed design plans

Interim Town Manager Mascaro reiterated that the County would only be providing use of the land and neither providing funding for the project nor accepting liability risks; all liability would be the responsibility of the Town of Melbourne Beach.

Interim Town Manager Mascara also reiterated that she cannot take a proposal for the Skate Park to the Town Commission without the above listed details and noted that the more these plans for the Park are documented, the better the Town Commission itself would be able to assess further steps. Member Waters acknowledged that the Parks Board would need to develop an entire plan for the project and present the plan to the Interim Town Manager.

- Chairman Judge noted the following:
 1. A credible estimate for the cost of the Skate Park would be \$30-\$35 per square foot and that, at an estimated total size of the Park of 5,000 – 6,000 square feet, the total cost would be in the range of \$100,000 - \$150,000. The Chairman mentioned that the possible location is behind the softball park at Flutie Field. The proposed level of difficulty/expertise for use of the Park would be considered beginner-to-intermediate and that the basic design would be a “half-pipe” form. The possible opening date goal could be as early as the end of the upcoming school year (Guest Mike Kalajian estimated a construction completion date of 2-3 months after start of construction). Member Waters later suggested the possibility of approaching families associated with Gemini Elementary school as a possible source of funding support; Interim Town Manager Mascaro noted that Gemini is currently focusing their fundraising efforts on their designated School Resource Officer and probably would not be the best option to pursue for funding of the Skate Park at present
 2. What about the possibility of adding lighting for the Skate Park? Board Member Waters asked how the lights would be controlled. Chairman Judge noted that the

- lighting could be connected to existing lighting at the softball field. Interim Town Manager Mascaro mentioned the use of timers on any potential lighting
3. The use of helmets and pads would be mandatory
 4. Chairman Judge and Members McKay and Waters noted that no bicycles would be allowed to use the Skate Park, or that if bicycles were allowed, they would only be allowed during specific hours with no mixture of skaters and bikers at the same time
- Chairman Judge requested that we access the experience of Satellite Beach staff as we move forward
 - Member McKay suggested that closing time for the Skate Park would coincide with the closing time of Flutie Field (if this is the location used)
 - Conversation turned to potential funding, with Chairman Judge mentioning the possibility of a Corporate Sponsor. The Chairman has existing relationships with construction companies such as “Team Pain” (a company specializing in similar construction projects) that might help reduce costs. He also mentioned possible support from the Tony Hawk Foundation (which funds similar projects) and suggested that a letter of support from Doug Flutie might be of help in securing Foundation support. Catalyst is also interested in possible development of the Park. Interim Town Manager Mascaro asked that details of any current funding interest in financial support for the project (such as the Tony Hawk Foundation) be forwarded to her; Chairman Judge said that he would follow through with the status on potential partners
 - Member Waters mentioned the possibility of a sign acknowledging that the Skate Park be named after a Corporate Sponsor; Interim Town Manager Mascaro agreed and noted that all signs would have to be in compliance with any existing sign building codes and would have to be approved by the County if on County property.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of adding a small dock at the 6th Avenue boat ramp

- Chairman Judge opened conversation about a possible boat ramp at the end of Sixth Avenue
- Interim Town Manager Mascaro mentioned that any plans for a boat ramp would have to pass assessment by the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). In the past, the Town Commission has declined to develop this location due to concerns about people parking boat trailers and cars on the side of the street in this neighborhood. She also noted the need to research possible new DEP regulations regarding docks
- Member Zabinski noted that the intent of the ramp is not for launching boats, but, rather, for shallow water use such as kayak launching (the water in this area is too shallow to launch boats safely). This proposed ramp is not suggested as a ramp that would be perpendicular to the shoreline, but as a ramp running *parallel* to the shore
- Chairman Judge will provide details of the proposed ramp to Interim Town Manager Mascaro for possible presentation to the Town Commission as early as the August meeting of the Town Commission. Interim Town Manager Mascaro noted that it would be best if the Parks Board organizers of the proposal attend the appropriate Town Commission Meeting in order to answer potential questions from the Commissioners

- Member Waters inquired as to how the project would be funded and whether local neighbors would object to the increased traffic on their street; Chairman Judge noted the likelihood of donations of materials of lumber and plastic to off-set over-all costs of the ramp; Interim Town Manager Mascaro mentioned the possibility of acknowledging such donations with a plaque in honor of the donor
- Interim Town Mascaro asked for a detailed plan including size and funding of the ramp so that she could bring up the proposal to the Town Commission for consideration. If the Commission wants to move forward, the Town does already own the property, but we would still have to follow Standard Operating Procedure in posting the proposal, permitting for construction, etc.

Possible expansion of the role of the Parks Board in the daily life of the Town

- Chairman Judge noted a general consensus among Members of the Board that the Parks Board take a more active role in the daily life of the Town, noting the success of previous events and the wide appreciation of such events by the residents of the Town. The Chairman mentioned, among a wide range of possible events developed by the Parks Committee, additional screenings of popular movies; Interim Town Commissioner Mascaro added that the Town does have access to a large-screen projection for such events and that the Town would encourage expansion of the role of the Parks Board in the daily life of the Town
- Discussion about possible Parks Board fundraisers for various projects ensued, including specific projects such as the Skate Park; Interim Town Manager Mascaro noted that any fees/funds raised would have to be donated to a charitable organization [an IRS-denoted 501 (c)(3) organization]
- Interim Town Manager Mascaro thanked the Parks Board for reaching beyond Founder's Day as the primary focus of the Board.

VII. REPORTS

No reports were given.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Judge asked if there was a motion to adjourn; member Waters made the motion, which was seconded and approved unanimously.