

**TOWN OF MALABAR – PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
04/17/13 MEETING MINUTES**

This meeting of the Malabar Town Council was held at Town Hall at 2725 Malabar Road. It was called to order by Chair Vickie Thomas at 7:30 pm. Prayer and pledge was lead by Chair Vickie Thomas.

A. CALL TO ORDER, PRAYER AND PLEDGE

B. ROLL CALL

Chair Vickie Thomas
Vice Chair Bernadette Knudson, excused for vacation
Bob Siegmann
Bill Sastram
Board Secretary Cindi Kelley

Also Present: Dick Korn, P&Z Board

C. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS/CHANGES

Addition of naming the soccer field at the Malabar Community Park in remembrance of Mayor Thomas Eschenberg; parking lot size at soccer field to be clarified.

D. PRESENTATIONS

E. CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approval of Minutes**
Regular Park and Recreation Meeting – 03/20/13
Exhibit: Agenda Report No.1
Recommendation: Motion to approve

Discussion:

MOTION: Siegmann/Sastram to approve the minutes from March 20, 2013 meeting as presented. VOTE: All Ayes

F. PUBLIC:

Dick Korn was present at the meeting last night and he brought up a few things that have been discussed at previous meetings that are still not complete. He made the comment to the Board that one of the reasons he resigned after being appointed to the P&Z Board is that he feels this Board is being ignored.

- The flag poles for Malabar Community Park – it was brought up by him last May; almost a year ago. He had a flag pole donated in honor of his son and Brian Vail donated a flag pole to the Town as well.
- The driveway at the 17 acres off of Weber Road – he stated that the motion that went to Council was worded incorrectly by stating the first 100 square feet as opposed to a 100 foot area for the bicyclists to park while riding their bikes in Malabar. This area, in his eyes and Bill Sastram's has not been cleaned out. The weeds are very tall and it wouldn't take much time to go in and take care of the area; it's not the way a Town should present itself to the public.
- Mr. Korn suggested to the Board that the soccer field at Malabar Community Park be named after Mayor Eschenberg with some history about him. After Mr. Korn left the meeting, Vickie Thomas stated that she had spoken with Mrs.

Eschenberg and was advised by her that she would rather have the 17 acres named after him as she uses this road daily; their family does not play soccer or visit the soccer field. Mrs. Eschenberg stated that she would appreciate whatever the Town does, but she felt the 17 acres was a better area. The Board, with one of the members on vacation, chose to table this until the May meeting to discuss and make a motion.

- Mr. Korn stated he visited Huggins Park to find that the park had been closed by the Town Administrator. He was very upset about this and asked the Board if they knew about this. The Board stated that they did not know this. However, Vickie Thomas stated that the Town Administrator had been doing inspections and keeping them abreast of them. If she thought it was necessary, then the park was closed for a good reason. Mr. Sastram stated that the Town needs to either fix the equipment or remove it; the park looks bad this way. I, Cindi Kelley, stated that the equipment in the park is in very bad disrepair and cannot be fixed; we received a call from the First Baptist Church as they were told by Mayor Beatty that the equipment could be donated to them. I stated that this information was given to the Town Administrator because all information I had led to the conclusion that the equipment was in no way able to be donated. It is the consensus of the Board to remove the playground equipment that is a safety issue. I also advised the Board that their hands are needed more than their eyes. If they see something that they feel needs addressed, perhaps they could volunteer as the Town is very short-staffed with now only four (4) staff members in Public Works.

Don Krieger was also present at the meeting. He owns property adjacent to the Disc Golf Park. During the Springfest event, he had people wonder from the park to his property. He is requesting that the Town walk the property and find the property markers. He is willing to put in secrete to mark the lines. He would also like the Town to fence the back of the park to keep trespassers from his property. Vickie Thomas asked if he had posted "No Trespassing" signs. He stated that he had not; he could but they will more than likely be removed and it could become costly. It has been happening since Ed Booth authorized the clearing for the park. He would just like to have the fencing around the park as it is done at all the other parks. Mr. Siegmann stated, with a valid concern, he would walk the park with Mr. Krieger within the next week or two to find the boundaries. Mr. Siegmann also would like to know how much a fence would cost. Mr. Krieger stated that is of no concern to him; Mr. Siegmann stated that it will be a concern to the Park Board and needs the information.

G. ACTION:

H. DISCUSSION:

I. OLD/NEW BUSINESS:
New Business:

Weber Road 17 acres – Korn recommended that this be named as the Weber Road Recreation Area but at the RTMC, McKnight stated that it should be named after Mayor Eschenberg. Korn stated that he did a lot for this Town. A lot of what he did involved youth. He would recommend that the Board suggest to Council to name the soccer field after Mayor Eschenberg; it is the most used youth activity field; The Tom Eschenberg Soccer Field @ Malabar Community Park.

Mr. Korn advised the Board that Council is working on an ordinance addressing the selection/appointment of Board Members. He felt the Board should be made aware of this information. Mr. Krieger was in agreement with Mr. Korn's suggestion to request a copy of the ordinance prior to the first reading. He made the suggestion to the Board that they have someone from this Board at the RTCM so they can be kept abreast of what is happening in the town. The Board may want to do some brainstorming to come up with some names to have as Board Members since you are now down to four (4) members with no alternates. He gave the names of David Ruip, Rick Rickaukas and some other names of people who used to be on the Board. Thomas suggested that Korn send a list of names to Kelley and she could pass them on to the Board for review. Siegmann asked what the proposed changes for board selections from the audience. Korn stated that he doesn't know if that can be done at this time. Kelley will provide a copy of the ordinance that will be submitted to Council for first reading with the proposed changes to the Board selection(s).

In regards to the ordinance, Siegmann suggested that the Board make a recommendation to Council to view the sample prior to it becoming a first reading of the ordinance. Right now, it is in limbo. Krieger stated that he would hope that it would be sent to each board for review; Siegmann stated that it probably wouldn't be. Krieger stated he has read it five (5) times and feels that there will be a lot of problems; it could be handled with policy.

Upon Korn leaving the meeting, Thomas stated that she had spoken with Mrs. Eschenberg regarding naming the soccer field in honor of her husband. Mrs. Eschenberg stated to her that she will be happy with what the Town decides to do but their family doesn't play soccer and doesn't spend time there; she would prefer the 17 acres to be named after him. Thomas stated that with Knudson being excused from this meeting, she would like to table the naming of the 17 acre parcel/soccer field until the next meeting.

Old Business: Update on Sand Hill Trail Head Restroom Grant

Siegmann reported Fern Creek Park has some issues and he will take caring care of them within the next two weeks

Thomas stated that with two members being out this evening, she would like to table the items brought to their attention by Mr. Korn; it is not urgent business. MOTION: Siegmann/Sastram to table.

MOTION: Siegmann/Sastram to table discussion and recommendation to next month's meeting. VOTE: All Ayes.

Thomas stated, while Huggins Park was being discussed this evening, she has spoken to someone involved with the Boy Scouts who had an Eagle Scout project in the Titusville area for a bacci ball court that received a very generous grant. She hasn't checked into it yet; the reason they were given the grant is because it was made specifically to be handicapped accessible. So this may be something to look into; something we need to look into. Knudson has done a lot of research but this may be the way to get a grant for more funding for handicapped accessibility. She will be receiving some information about this from the Scouts and she will check into it.

Thomas stated that she wanted to report on something herself. After the Springfest, her husband and her were walking the preserve and they were picking up trash along the way. Considering that there were 200 people participating in the races, it was pretty well clean but some people were litter bugs and they took care of the trash. She reported that people were nailing stuff to the trees and tape was used to delineate the trails that was not removed.

Kelley stated that she would speak to that. The trails were marked by Brevard County EELs for the run. They could have been the ones who put the signs on the trees; they are the one who, most definitely, put the tape out and the little markers. So if you removed stuff, you removed stuff that was not property of the Town of Malabar. Next time, anyone walking those trails after that kind of run, except for what you know is trash, please leave the stuff there. It could be left there on purpose to go back and look at the layout for possible changes for the next event. Kelley reported that there were some minor issues with people being treated; nothing major, because of going through the trails. It was not on a paved area and they chose to run this course. Some people tripped on "nature". They were treated by the Fire Department staff. When you see the tape and that sort of stuff, please don't "willy nilly" take that as trash. Thomas stated that they didn't remove the tape. Kelley stated that it was Brevard County's doing; it is their property. The Town's responsibility was to sell the beer and the Fire Department to sell the sandwiches, get people registered and go home. It was a very long day for a lot of people. Franklin and Sherear were in the park from 9 am until 8 that night; Kelley had to leave at 4 pm for another engagement. It was a very long day. Speaking of the park and preparations for Springfest, Kelley advised the Board that the inspections on the parks were not completed by the Town Administrator. Staff did over and above to prepare the Malabar Community Park for Springfest. Town Administrator is going to try to do them monthly; if not monthly, they will be done every two (2) months for sure.

Springfest was a huge success. Kelley stated she heard no negative comments; everything heard was good and people even stated it was the best one yet. Staff had a debriefing meeting today to discuss the process of set-up, preparations, during the event and break-down. Some minor changes will be made to enhance next year's event. Kelley stated it was the most relaxed event thus far she's been involved with; felt no stress whatsoever. Thomas stated hats off to Kelley for putting it together. She thought it was so well organized; how everything meshed together like a well oiled machine. It was very impressive. Kelley stated she's been involved with it for nine years and each year is another learning experience. She had excellent assistance from all staff members and volunteers. Thomas stated that she sent out press releases and had

some good feedback; once we get pictures from Denine and the church member, she would like to send them out. She was told by a friend, that when there is a slow news day, it is very possible they will print out information regarding the event; has to be made really easy with write-up.

Thomas stated, regarding the naming of the park, she would like to add to this as she may not be at the next month's meeting. She may be out of town with her daughter. She spoke to Mrs. Eschenberg and was told that her family is thrilled at the idea of having some kind of tangible reminder of her husband. She was absolutely excited about the park on Weber Road being named in honor of our former Mayor. Thomas asked her if she would prefer the soccer field at Malabar Community Park. Mrs. Eschenberg stated that no one in her family plays soccer and they don't visit the park very often. She uses Weber Road every day and it would be nice to have the 17 acres named in honor of him. That is her opinion. Siegmann asked that Kelley make a note and he will bring this up at the next meeting.

Kelley reported that the grant was mailed prior to the deadline date; Thompson, Hann & Kohler did a great job putting the grant together. Council, at the RTCM of April 5th, adopted the resolution to support the grant application. Nothing has been heard as of yet, but as stated before, grants do take time to be reviewed and depending on how many are received and ranked. Kelley stated that when news came in, she would update the Board. Thomas stated that she added some photos to the grant; it is important that we make sure that they understand that this is not a park with picnicking in mind but that it is trails. She provided pictures to Thompson from Glen Brooke; it is important to show people in various stages of life, she believes that when the Town goes for grants we need to stress the needs of the handicapped people in our area. Kelley stated that Kemmler also provided pictures to Thompson and Hann; Kelley received an email from Hann stating he was able to use some of the pictures to enhance the application.

Siegmann asked if he could address new business with regards to the ordinance that Council is working on. He would like to make a motion regarding this to Council. The Board needs to be aware of the proposed changes to how board members are selected. The wording of the motion is very important to this Board. It doesn't matter how many people are here; his motion is:

MOTION: Siegmann/ to recommend to Town Council to request receipt a copy of the proposed ordinance to change board member selection prior to approval.

Thomas stated that she thought they would do that as a courtesy. Siegmann stated that they will not. Sastram asked if we could get it before it is approved. Siegmann asked Kelley to read the motion again. She did so and then asked if he wanted the Board to see it prior to it being adopted. Kelley stated to add "before first reading". Siegmann stated that is good.

AMENDED MOTION: Siegmann/Sastram to recommend to Town Council to request receipt of a copy of the proposed ordinance to change board membership selection prior to first reading. VOTE: All Ayes.

BOARD MEMBER/STAFF REPORTS:

Sastram stated he went around the parks and he has some concerns. Weber Road; 17 acres, if the stuff is taken away and weeks cut back, there would be enough room for the bicyclists to park their cars while riding. The Disc Golf Park has debris all over the place and needs to have it hauled away. Siegmann stated that we are now cleaning up for the Disc Golf people? Fern Creek Crossing Park has some branches hanging down and should be cut; Siegmann stated he will be addressing issues with this park

Huggins Park is now closed; we should fix the equipment or remove it. The Town shouldn't be presenting the park this way. Kelley mentioned that volunteers are needed to removed the equipment. Sastram stated it needs to be removed or repaired. Kelley advised the Board that we are down another staff member from Public Works; resignation of an employee who has moved out of stated. We don't need eyes looking at the parks as we have the Town Administrator doing the inspections of each park. We need volunteers, so if you see something, maybe you could get a group of people to volunteer.

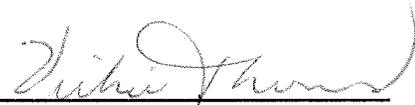
MOTION: Sastram/Siegmann to recommend to Council that the safety issue playground equipment be removed and that the park remain closed until the equipment is removed. VOTE: All Ayes.

With the Springfest event, individual park reports were not heard tonight. See above notes regarding parks visited by Sastram

- Cameron Preserve – Thomas
- Disc Golf Park – Knudson
- Fern Creek Crossing Park – Siegmann
- Huggins Park – Sastram
- Malabar Community Park – Thomas

K. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further discussion, general consensus. **MOTION: Siegmann/ Sastram to adjourn the meeting. VOTE: All Ayes.** This meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

By: 
Vickie Thomas, Chair

ATTEST: 
Cynthia Kelley, C.M.C.
Recording Secretary

Date Approved: 5/15/13