



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Draft Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 21, 2025

9:00 AM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 9:01 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Denick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Chairperson Christopher Denick, Vice Chair Wendy Walker, Committee Member Ralph Quillen, Committee Member Angi Semler Welch, Committee Member Kyle Sweet, Committee Member Bernard Arroyo and Committee Member Dorothy Plumb

a. Motion to Excuse Absent Member(s):

All Committee Members were in attendance.

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the July 17, 2025, meeting minutes

Discussion ensued regarding the attendance listed in the attached minutes. Deputy City Clerk Hicks confirmed attendance from the previous meeting and stated corrections would be made.

Committee Member Welch moved, seconded by Committee member Quillen, to adopt the July 17, 2025, meeting minutes with corrections to the attendance roll. The motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

6. Old Business

a. August 19th City Council Meeting - Status of Membership Rate Recommendation

Director Miller introduced the item and reminded the group of the unincorporated Lee County stipulations for membership purchases. Ms. Miller spoke about the passage of the Recreation Rates update by City Council and further noted that rate rack cards and other information would now be updated and effective come October 1st.

b. August 19th City Council Meeting Informational Item - Shared Use Path (Extensions & Enhancements) Recommendations

Director Miller updated the Committee regarding Council's input for the ranking, noting that Council rolled the extension rankings to their next meeting, as well as being directed by the City Manager to rank their top 5 improvements to be later reviewed by staff for funding opportunities and cost estimates. Ms. Miller provided the following ranking from the Council for the improvements to the path.

1. Casa Yebel to Main Street (Matching the committee's recommendation)
2. Wildlife Dive to Sanibel-Captiva Road
3. Rabbit Road, West Gulf Drive to Sanibel Captiva Road (New Connection, more visible)
4. Rabbit Road to Dingman Drive
5. Lighthouse Beach entrance to the Lighthouse Beach Fishing Pier

Ms. Miller detailed the next steps, which Council will vote on the final ranking. She additionally added the appreciation stated by Council for the Committee's work on the topic.

c. Ballfield Sod Restoration Project Update (Committee Member Sweet)

Committee members inquired about the estimates for the square footage needing to be replaced and whether the budget exists to have the plugs installed. Mr. Sweet estimated about 7,500 square feet. Director Miller noted the project would first go through the contractor, JSM, for repairs to the work done previously. She further reminded the group of the cost-sharing for the project with the school board and the county. Ms. Miller further discussed the sports starting in this area and the cycle she plans to have the fields open.

Discussion continued regarding cost sharing. Ms. Miller noted the agreement already in place and how all parties are on board with the successful completion of the project, with the goal of garnering reimbursements from FEMA.

d. Community Park Discussion (Committee Member Quillen)

i. Update from Director Miller - net replacement and ant treatments

Director Miller provided a brief report from Public Works, replaced the sand volleyball net, and applied treatments for ants in the area. Ms. Miller spoke to the vendor information attached in the agenda packet provided by Committee Member Quillen and added that a quote had been requested.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns for the effects of storm damage to the new courts.

7. New Business

a. Discussion on Future Capital Project Recommendations

i. Community Park

1. Sand Volleyball, Shuffleboard, Pavilion areas
2. Playground & Shade Structure
3. Green Space

ii. Recreation Center

1. Previous Water Slide Area
2. Previous Skate Park Area

iii. Ballfields

1. Previous Tot Lot Area

Ms. Miller spoke to the 2026 budget and how the Recreation Department is working on prioritizing projects to be funded for next year. She provided focus on three areas: Community Park, Recreation Center, and the Ball Fields. She spoke in specific detail about projects that could be outlined for each and how she is looking for the committee to determine the priority to later bring to Council and approve the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding getting information from the public and community to better understand the value of the proposed features in the form of a survey. The potential to open a survey to determine the value to the public and the priority order. Ms. Miller spoke to the survey used in 2024 regarding the skate park with the limited but helpful information that came from the survey. Committee members inquired about the usage and what the rental status is for some of the features.

Discussion continued regarding Community Park, the ability to do projects there easily due to this being a city-owned property. Committee members inquired about the rental uses at the park, for example, the pavilion. Ms. Miller spoke to there being some interest over the years, but looking to make it more appealing to rentals.

The Recreation Center parking lot became a brief discussion. Ms. Miller noted that the property the Center parking lot resides in belongs to the School District, and that looking into it in previous years, determined that the land was not buildable or expandable. She further noted the 2 memorandums of understanding in place to allow public parking in the Recreation Center lot.

Discussion moved to the waterslide and its possible replacement options, including donations for shade structures or a slash pad. Additional discussion was had regarding the beach park amenities and whether those could be considered. Ms. Miller noted public works involvement with the beach facilities and the vending machines for beach equipment and toys.

Committee Members inquired about the gazebos along the shared use path, Ms. Miller noted the unique partnerships with the bike club and private donations on a per gazebo basis, further noting she would start the conversations with the entities involved to see about repairs or replacements. The Committee ultimately came to consensus to bring this topic back at the next meeting to further discuss and vote on priority order.

8. Reports

a. Recreation Revenue

Director Miller gave an overview of the reports attached to the agenda packet. Noting that she is eager to see the impacts to the revenue charts after the membership fees have been implemented.

b. Recreation Memberships

Ms. Miller provided information regarding the increase in 70/30 contracts, meaning more classes are available. Committee discussion ensued regarding the hours of the recreation center and if hours would be expanded to pre-covid hours. Ms. Miller noted the challenges associated like staffing and the life guard shortage for expanding hours at the pool.

c. Recreation Program Update

9. Next Meeting Date

a. Thursday, September 18, 2025

10. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

11. Adjournment

With there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:13 A.M.