



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Draft Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 26, 2025

9:00 AM

Sanibel Recreation Center - 3880 Sanibel Captiva Road

Rescheduled from June 19, 2025

1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 9:02 A.M.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Denick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

Present: 4 - Chairperson Christopher Denick, Vice Chair Wendy Walker, Committee Member Ralph Quillen and Committee Member Angi Semler Welch

Absent: 3 - Committee Member Kyle Sweet, Committee Member Bernard Arroyo and Committee Member Dorothy Plumb

a. Motion to Excuse Absent Member(s):

Committee member Welch moved, seconded by Committee member Quillen to excuse absent members: Sweet, Plumb, and Arroyo. The motion carried.

Absent: 3 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet, Committeemember Bernard Arroyo and Committeemember Dorothy Plumb

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the May 15th Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Walker moved, seconded by Committee member Welch to adopt the May 15th meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Absent: 3 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet, Committeemember Bernard Arroyo and Committeemember Dorothy Plumb

5. Public Comment

None in attendance at this time.

6. Old Business

a. Continued discussion, review and recommendation for Fiscal Year 2026 Sanibel Recreation Center Membership Rates

Director Miller introduced the item and spoke to the desire to keep resident rates rounded to the nearest dollar or half dollar, as well as the option to revisit rates in the future. Ms. Miller suggested to the Committee to leave residents rates as is, and raising residential rates. She spoke to special event fees adopted by Council recently and noted Council discussion on that topic brought about the idea of raising rates for non-residents by 50%. Detailing that this brought about the discussions and recommendations for this Committee.

Committee members spoke in favor of not raising residential rates and discussed the 50% increase for non-residents. Ms. Miller gave examples of pricing prior to the Barry Dunn Study, and the feedback received, sometimes positive, sometimes negative if a guest only utilizes one feature of the center. She gave the specific example: \$23 for a drop-in yoga class might be on market, but to swim in the lap pool may not be.

Discussion ensued regarding condominiums on the island recovering, opening amenities and other features that could take away from the Recreation Center. Members also spoke to the demand for the Recreation Center in season, including parking. This could curb some demand and prioritize the residents who pay tax for the center. Director Miller noted Sanibel condominium owners that have a deeded time share, are qualified for a residential pass.

Discussion ensued regarding the differences between monthly and annual fees, math from month to month vs. annual. Discussion continued regarding the family pass, being 8 months before it is frugal to buy the annual pass, the regular residential monthly vs. annual is 11 months before savings is seen on an annual pass. Committee members spoke in agreement with finding ways to incentivize the annual pass, to help dictate what the monthly pricing needs to be.

Committee members inquired about anticipated participation. Ms. Miller noted this is hard to predict, there being a lack of base line to make a decision on going forward, not back to normal yet to look at trends to make good decisions, past year is not going to be where we are or next year. Discussion was had regarding automatic renewals, Director Miller noted legal and process challenges, like storing members credit card information for the auto renewals, working on a form that would allow the automatic renewals as well as the benefits of the automatic renewals. Alternatively, she spoke to having reports that show members soon to expire and reaching out to them with a renewal reminder, however, expressed desire to get to the automatic renewals.

Committee members thanked the Director for the ease of discussion. Ms. Miller noted the Committee could revisit this in the near future if needed.

7. Reports

a. Reports

Director Miller provided a brief overview on the attached reports, She further reported working on a campaign for renters to purchase day passes and classes. Ms. Miller additionally reported on the Pool Slide and Summer Projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the 2025-2026 school year for Sanibel Sports, Director Miller spoke to managing the program for insurance purposes with donations to run the rest. She further reported on the background check process being switched to a closer facility.

8. Chairperson's Report

Nothing to report at this time.

9. Committee Member Reports

Discussion ensued regarding the turf at the ball fields, Ms. Miller provided Committee Member Sweet's report and thanked him for being a valuable asset to the team for his knowledge on turf. The School requiring the fields to be open by August 11th , for the start of the school year. However, all three fields are closed currently, stripped down old grass, placed paspalum grass (a more salt tolerant species of turf) on all three fields. Now being the most critical time window for the most growth and repair to the field.

Discussion ensued regarding Communtiy Park having ants, not being level for recreational play and there being limited space for feild sports play. Ms. Miller inquired if this would be a project the the Committee would like to see funding for. Chair Denick directed Ms. Miller to conduct a study and look for what is needed to better the field.

Brief discussion was held regading instructors paying for their own insurance in order to be an instructor at the Recreation Center, Ms. Miller noted this is a pretty typical industry standard for most health clubs and fitness gyms.

a. Report from Committee Member Sweet (SUPPLEMENT 1)

10. Next Meeting Date

a. July 17, 2025

11. Public Comment

None at this time.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 A.M.