



Meeting Minutes - Draft
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 21, 2026

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

Absent: 1 - Committee Member Kyle Sweet

a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

Vice Chair Walker moved, seconded by Committee member Welch to excuse Committee member Sweet. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

4. Consent Agenda

a. Adoption of the January 15, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Committee member Quillen moved, seconded by Committee member Welch to adopt the January 15, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

b. Adoption of the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes

Committee member Welch moved, seconded by Committee member Quillen to adopt the March 26, 2026 meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

5. Public Comment

None at this time.

6. Old Business

a. Updates from May 5, 2026 City Council Meeting

i. Discussion on E-Bike Registration (Item 12. a.)

Director Miller provided an update on a draft e-bike registration program discussed in the May 5, 2026 City Council meeting. The initial draft proposed a \$10 annual fee exclusively for Class 2 and 3 e-bikes owned by residents and on-island workers. After council deliberation, there are plans to propose changes to a one-time registration at no cost. For Class 1 e-bikes, no changes, including the existing 16-year age limit.

A comment included in the agenda packet from Ashley Skinner, backed a lower age limit of 14, sharing her sons' dependence on e-bikes. She raised doubts about enforcing a registration system and indicated that unsafe riding stems mostly from uninformed tourists using rentals. The committee expressed appreciation for Skinner's input, with some open to reducing the age limit for Class 1 e-bikes. One member opposed class distinctions, noting that behavior is the issue, not bike type. Given enforcement doubts highlighted by the Police Chief, the committee discussed the policy's impact on tourists using Class 2 or 3 e-bikes. The possible routes are: keeping the current policy, awaiting state legislation, or implementing a registration program. Skinner's insights will be relayed to the Council.

b. Dog Park Survey

Director Miller presented a summary of the 2026 Dog Park Interest Survey, which was open for 60 days and received 1,185 responses.

Key findings included:

- 88.69% of respondents identified as Sanibel Residents, with approximately 55% identifying as full time residents
- Approximately 77% of those were dog owners
- 65% of respondents stated they would use an on-island dog park
- Primary citation for using an on-island park was convenience
- Respondents favored a Public/Private partnership model
- Approximately 48% indicated willingness to pay a membership or use fee
- Approximately 40% expressed strong opposition to removing any land from the environmentally sensitive lands or conservation district for this use

The committee engaged in a substantial discussion about how to interpret the data and what next steps to recommend to City Council. Several members noted the importance of drilling down further into the raw data specifically to

understand what percentage of full-time residents, who would be the eligible voters in any future referendum, expressed support for a dog park. Director Miller confirmed that a raw data export could be provided to committee members for further analysis.

Director Miller noted that at the June 18 meeting, Planning Director Paula McMichael will present a land use and zoning overview, which will help the committee better understand what properties on the island could realistically be considered for a dog park or other recreational facilities. Several members felt it would be prudent to wait for that presentation, review the survey data deeper, and re-engage the potential private donor before bringing a formal recommendation to Council. The committee agreed that the public-private partnership or fully private funding model appeared to be the appropriate direction, but consensus was to defer a formal motion until after the June meeting.

Chair Denick confirmed he would reach out to the Kingfisher Reality representative regarding private funding and land donation interest and would share findings with Director Miller for distribution to the committee prior to the next meeting. Director Miller confirmed the raw survey data export would be shared with designated committee members for independent analysis.

c. Sanibel Sports (Youth Sports) Status

Director Miller reported that Sanibel Sports, the nonprofit that had historically partnered with the city to offer youth flag football, soccer, and other recreational leagues, formally notified the city that it will not be continuing in that capacity due to insufficient parent volunteer support. The organization's president, Tim Drobnik, met with city staff and indicated he will maintain the nonprofit entity in case a new volunteer group wishes to assume operations in the future. Following this notification, staff reached out to several alternative providers, including Lee County Youth Soccer, Lee County Strikers, Lee County Lacrosse, and I-Nine Sports- a regional contractor that operates with Lee County and Collier County parks departments. I-Nine Sports visited the facilities but ultimately declined to move forward, citing insufficient youth participation to support their simultaneous multi-sport season business model. Their standard pricing of approximately \$139 per child for a seven-week season was also noted as somewhat higher than what island families have historically paid. City staff is now planning to take on direct operation of flag football and soccer programs, with modifications to seasonal timing to better align with mainstream sports calendars—flag football in the fall and soccer in the spring—and youth basketball continuing in the winter. Director Miller noted that a new Recreation Program Coordinator with a background in collegiate baseball is joining staff on Tuesday, which will provide needed capacity. The Sanibel Tropics Armature Athletic Union (AAU) Basketball

program, currently operating under a 70/30 revenue-sharing contract with the city, has parents who have expressed some interest in volunteering to support recreational leagues. Though their bandwidth to commit year-round is uncertain. The committee received this update and confirmed it would receive a continued update at the next meeting.

7. New Business

- a. June 18, 2026 Meeting - Presentation by Planning Director, Paula McMichael. Followed by discussion of opportunities for recreation facilities

The June 18, 2026 meeting will feature Planning Director Paula McMichael's presentation on land use and zoning, covering conservation district classifications, zoning of island areas, and implications for potential recreational development. This is particularly relevant to the dog park discussion and the Council's review of gaps in recreational amenities.

8. Reports

- a. Recreation Revenue
- b. Recreation Memberships
- c. Recreation Non-Resident Membership Sales FY25 vs. FY26

Director Miller reported that revenue for March and April was presented as attached. Overall revenue continues to trend at a ten-year high, with positive impacts from the recent increase to non-resident usage fees.

Director Miller noted upcoming events:

- Bike Safety Event on Tuesday, May 26, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Recreation Center, featuring Sanibel PD, Billy's Bikes, Sanibel Fire Rescue, Island Breeze Bike Rentals, and the Sanibel Bike Club
- The Annual Fourth of July event on July 4 from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Summer Camp starts on June 8th

And, concluded reporting that the Recreation Center also hosted the inaugural Trailways Camp for special needs campers.

9. Chairperson's Report

Chair Denick confirmed the next steps on the dog park survey: he will make contact the private funding representative, and Director Miller will distribute the raw survey data to designated committee members for analysis prior to the June 18th meeting.

10. Committee Member Reports

One committee member inquired whether the city's policy allowing middle schoolers aged 12 and older to access the Recreation Center independently after school could be modified for the fall to permit younger middle schoolers in sixth grade but not yet 12 years old with parental permission. Director Miller indicated openness to reviewing such a policy change.

A committee member reported that Island Seniors Inc. / Sanibel Islanders recently received city approval to open a senior center, to be located near a storefront a few doors from the Sanibel Deli. The center is anticipated to open by September.

11. Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday, June 18, 2026

12. Public Comment

None at this time.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.