



# City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

## Meeting Minutes - Final Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

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Thursday, November 20, 2025

9:00 AM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

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### 1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 9:01 AM.

### 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 Angi Semler Welch, Committee Member Kyle Sweet, Committee Member Bernard Arroyo, Committee Member Dorothy Plumb and Committee Member Ralph Quillen

- a. Motion to excuse absent member(s)

### 4. Consent Agenda

- a. Adoption of the October 16, 2025, meeting minutes

Vice Chair Walker moved, seconded by Committee member Quillen to adopt the October 16, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried.

### 5. Public Comment for Non-Agenda Items

None at this time.

### 7. New Business

#### Sanibel Plan Update

Planning Director, Paula McMicheal, gave a brief overview of the item and provided information regarding the update and what she is looking to garnish from the committee. Ms. McMicheal spoke to additional opportunities to weigh in on the update later in the process as well.

Committee members inquired about the master plan funding and how the recreation department was not included. Ms. McMicheal noted that this would be addressed with the consultant and that the Berry Dunn study would be attached in lieu of a separate assessment. She further noted that an assessment would be done by the

consultants and include input from the steering committees as well as Island seniors, as some sections need to be re-worked since the closing of the Center-4-Life.

Discussion continued regarding wheelchair-accessible beaches and which beach accesses have mobile mats. Committee members asked how to make suggestions, learn the plan's terminology, and understand what already exists related to the vision statement.

Discussion continued regarding special events and the formal assembly. Ms. Miller noted there is no expectation that the City take charge of all amenities or events. Private clubs, such as Island Seniors, were cited as examples of providing recreational amenities that are not directly tied to the City. Committee members expressed that these same services should be available to residents and visitors of all ages, which is where the recreation center comes in. Support such as specialized staffing and other adjustments would be required to achieve sustainability.

Ms. McMichael noted that the Transportation Master Plan is also being updated and that the committee is addressing topics including shared-use paths, carts, and e-bikes. Committee members discussed the Strauss Theater Lot, across from the Sanibel Community House. This property is a focal point of the island. Ms. Miller reminded the group that the subject property is not owned by the City.

Committee members inquired if there are any projects or plans for the property. Staff could only state that the property is not owned by the City. Discussion ensued regarding the plan's composition, its disjointedness, and its omission of items such as the recreation center. Ms. McMichael noted this is part of the consultant's job to make the document more readable and digestible. She further noted that the State requires the document to be updated. She concluded by thanking the Committee and noted that any additional feedback outside of the meeting could be directed to the Recreation Director or herself for inclusion.

## 6. Old Business

### a. Discussion on previously approved 2026 Meeting Schedule

A discussion ensued regarding whether to cancel or reschedule the March meeting due to conflicts with the School District's Spring Break.

**Vice Chair Walker moved, seconded by Committee Member Welch to reschedule the Thursday, March 16, 2026 meeting for Thursday, March 26, 2026. The motion carried.**

### b. Discussion on Future FY27-FY31 Capital Project Recommendations

Recreation Director, Andrea Miller spoke to process and asked the committee to

provide any feedback in order to draft the final document and present it at the January meeting for final approval; to later then present it to Council. Areas of consideration included Community Park, the Recreation Center, as well as the ball fields with the goal to provide a comprehensive plan to recommend to Council for the next few years.

Discussion ensued regarding consultation for community projects, process and procedure for providing them with information, the timelines for working with them as well as alternatives. Ms. Miller noted that Berry Dunn was the last study to be completed, however it did not include the community elements the group is discussing today.

Committee members discussed at length prioritizations for the consultants to consider. The tot lot, ball fields, community park, a potential dog park, the skate park, and the water features pool. Discussion continued in regards to donors and the newly implemented naming rights policy that could set the prioritization for how some projects are completed. The skate park was mentioned and Committee Members inquired about the status. Ms. Miller spoke to the idea of the multi-use courts, further reminding the group of the three-way cost sharing challenges and the best way to get to yes would be to present the project as a whole with all the relevant information in hand. Mr. Sweet spoke to the idea of the golf range area and looking for additional community support to bring down potential costs.

**c. Supplemental Dog Park Information**

Recreation Director Miller spoke to the summarized memorandum attached to the agenda packet. Including things like minimum dog park standards, large dog and small dog park, k-9 water stations, as well as potential membership fees or access fees. Ms. Miller further spoke to communications with the Lee County Recreation Director, which she noted the County's most recent project in Boca Grand where a 3 million dollar dog park was established. Discussion ensued in regards to the basic needs for a dog park, adding shade structures, the size of area needed, the parking challenges, and challenges related to the development on property in the environmental zones on Sanibel, which may require a referendum vote.

Discussion focused on the drafted questions, Ms. Miller noted learning from the previous approach to the topic. She spoke to recognizing the work needed to go into a project like this and expressed confidence that the membership would help steer and provide good input as far as ideas and talking with the public on the topic. A final draft of the survey will come out of the January meeting.

## **8. Reports**

- a. Recreation Revenue
- b. Recreation Memberships
- c. Recreation Program Updates

Ms. Miller gave a overview of the attached reports and spoke to the following:

- after-school wait list of 3
- new hires for season
- hosted a swim party
- the touch a truck event

She concluded her report by reminding the group about the tree lighting event on November 30, 2025 at Community Park.

## **9. Chairperson's Report**

Committee members thanked Denise Dillon for the Center's successful marketing efforts. Members also noted seeing positive impacts on the revenue report after the new pricing had been implemented.

## **10. Committee Member Reports**

None at this time.

## **11. Next Meeting Date**

Thursday, January 15, 2026

## **12. Public Comment**

None at this time.

## **13. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:46 AM.