



# City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road  
Sanibel, FL 33957

## Meeting Minutes - Draft Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

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Thursday, May 15, 2025

9:00 AM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

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### 1. Call To Order

The meeting convened at 9:00 A.M.

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chiar Denick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 3. Roll Call

- a. Motion to excuse absent member(s):

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

Absent: 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

### 4. Consent Agenda

- a. Adoption of the March 20, 2025 meeting minutes
- b. Adoption of the April 24, 2025 meeting minutes

Vice Chair Walker moved, seconded by Chair Denick to adopt the March 20th and April 24th meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

- c. Change in June and July Meeting Dates
- i. Move from June 19th to June 26th

Director Miller spoke to the need to move the meeting dates for both June and July. She further spoke to options for having her alternate, Ms. Char Durrand lead the meeting. Committee members briefly discussed summer plans and travel in an attempt to reach consensus for moving the meeting date. Committee members inquired if not attending would count as an absense due to the agreed schedule changing. Ms. Miller confirmed that it would count as an absense and further detaield the act of excusing an absense and how it still counts as an absense in the eyes of Council.

The group came to consensus to return to this item at the end of the meeting.

## 5. Public Comment

None at this time.

## 6. Old Business

### a. 2024 Shared Use Path Master Plan - Priority List of Shared Use Path Enhancements for Discussion and Ranking

Director Miller spoke to the goal of today's meeting was to rank and prioritize the Shared Use Path intersection improvements listed on the ranking sheet provided in the agenda packet. Ms. Miller further explained the ranking sheet, noting the committee suggested improvements are listed on the back of the sheet and will be ranked and prioritized separately. The City's Planning Director, Paula McMicheal, City Engineer, Oisin Dolley and the City's Police Chief were all available for specific questions. Improvements listed on the ranking sheet 1-16 were included in the reports by the consultant, and improvements 1-7 are what has been suggested by the Committee. Ms. Miller noted desire to rank each set separately as they will be presented to Council in the same manner. Committee Members inquired about the re-lining and maintenance around visibility of the lines. Intersection improvements vs. enhancements; changes vs. new features. Mr. Dolley, the City's engineer, spoke to the FEMA repair project and their being some striping related to that in conjunction with speed signs. Mr. Dolley noted how the operating budget could cover small repairs, or the relining of a section, but that anything requiring a full re-paving or new lines would be considered part of the capital improvement project list.

Committee members moved from the re-paving and re-lining topic to inquire about incidents on the path, looking for particular details on the age of the persons using e-bikes. Ms. Miller noted that information could be gathered in future counts. Committee members further inquired about the removal of stop markings along driveways and certain areas of the path. Mr. Dolley responded in regards to it being a controversial topic, they were removed as part of the plan, but somewhat replaced by actual stop signs. Committee member discussions continued regarding visibility and vegetation trimming needed in particular areas to prevent blind curves. Discussion continued regarding process for approval, Ms. Miller noted this being a recommendation from the committee and Council being the ultimate approver for the enhancements or improvements. Ms. McMicheal further reiterated the process, noting this being a recommendation to Council. She spoke to the Sanibel Plan update and noted that was not slated to be updated this year as it was done just the year prior but that the recommendations would be presented as such to Council soon.

Committee members spoke out regarding the bus stop at the Chamber. There being several children that cross the street to get to the bus stop. Committee members further inquired about the timeline, from suggestion to implementation. Mr. Dolley

noted new cross walks might require a traffic study before implementation. Director Miller then provided the membership with the ranking sheets and requested each complete a sheet so that staff may compile the data.

After the first round, there was a tie for the 10th and 11th ranking, #6 Periwinkle and Meridian and #10 Middle Gulf at Par View, consensus was reached to rank #10 as the 10th ranking and the 11th ranking as #6

#### Intersection Ranking

1. #13 - Periwinkle Way at Bailey Road
2. #2 - Sanibel Captiva Road at Rabbit Road
3. #5 - Periwinkle Way at St. Micheals Church
4. #14 - Bailey Road at Sandcastle Court
5. #15 - Causeway Blvd at chamber of Commerce
6. #12 - Periwinkle Way at Roadside City Park
7. #9 - Middle Gulf at Cowry Court
8. #7 - Casa Ybel Road at Algiers Lane
9. #4 - Sanibel Captiva Road at Tarpon Bay and Palm Ridge Road
10. #10 - Middle Gulf at Par View Drive
11. #6 - Periwinkle Way at Meridian Drive
12. #3 - West Gulf at Rabbit Road
13. #16 - Periwinkle Way at Yachtsman Drive
14. #1 - Sanibel Captiva Road at Ding Darling Entrance
15. #8 - Middle Gulf Drive at Casa Ybel Road
16. #11 - East Gulf Drive at Nerita Street

#### Suggested Enhancements Ranking

1. #6 - 1740 Periwinkle Way (Sanibel Community Church)
2. #5 - Donax and Periwinkle
3. #4 - Dixie Beach and Periwinkle
4. #2 - Periwinkle and Tarpon Bay
5. #7 - SCCF Bailey Tract and Tarpon Bay Road
6. #1 - Casa Ybel and Periwinkle
7. #3 - West Gulf and Tarpon Bay

Ms. Miller noted Committee Member Sweet did submit his ranking, and were included in final committee totals.

**Committee Member Welch moved, seconded by Vice Chair Walker to approve the ranking by the committee as presented by Director Miller. The motion carried.**

**Excused:** 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

#### **b. 2024 Shared Use Path Count Report and Presentation**

Director Miller spoke to the information included in the council agenda packet from their May 6th meeting and gave an overview of the discussion from the meeting. She reported that Council spoke to increase of Shared Use Path usage compared to data, but still not at the same level of usage pre-pandemic. She spoke to potentially contributing factors such as the early easter this year and the ongoing recovery efforts island wide.

Committee members inquired about the appendix on page 11, the term 'other e-devices.' Director Miller noted these could be other devices found on the path such as e-scooters, e-trikes or other electronic bike not classified.

## 7. New Business

### a. Review of Sanibel Recreation Center Membership Rates

Director Miller detailed intentions to provide the committee with information on rates related to fees for memberships to come back for later discussion. Ms. Miller noted compiling a spreadsheet, attached in the agenda packet, showing rates over the time the Center has been open, just shy of 20 years. She then spoke to the Barry Dunn study which suggested looking at various membership types, streamlining and simplifying the methodology of resident vs. non-resident. Ms. Miller noted an important detail stating that the Recreation Center is a shared cost, meaning it's a three-way split for some maintenance between the City of Sanibel, the School District and Lee County Board of County Commissioners as part of their Recreation Department. Because of this, residents living in unincorporated Lee County are allowed to utilize the facilities.

Director Miller got into the data and spoke about the 10-punch pass card, how there were very little purchased but implemented as part of the Barry Dunn study suggestion. She further detailed the challenges associated with the monthly pass and the 10-punch pass, and the monthly vs. annual pass price. Ms. Miller noted how the card was not a cost-saving but a convenience from having to stop at the desk each time someone wanted to visit. Whereas the monthly pass varies only slightly from that of the annual pass.

Discussion ensued regarding the numbers from 2019 vs. 2025 noting that revenue is down substantially. Director Miller spoke to the decrease in annual pass sales, the loss of annual pass sales to monthly pass sales and compiling all the data to come up with a new price for the passes to garnish as much profit for the center and benefits to the user. Committee members inquired how the discounts were applied, what the formula may have been to determine discounts, was it percentage, or just dollar amount off per item. Director Miller spoke to the discounts, but was unsure of the formula or if one was applied. She further spoke to how some amounts were rounded

to the nearest dollar or 5 dollars.

Ms. Miller continued reporting on the study changes from Barry Dunn and noted in the past the day passes were 23 dollars and today are selling for 12 dollars. Committee members discussed removing the family monthly pass to increase the daily pass purchase. Alternatively, Committee members discussed why the daily pass would be more due to the burden on front desk staffing. Seeing opportunities in both the resident and non-resident passes, what might be palatable for an increase. Discussion ensued regarding raising rates for non-residents. The possible shrinking demand for the Recreation Center as more condo amenities come online, as well as hotels. Discussion continued regarding the capitol expenditures left on the loan for the Recreation Center. Ms. Miller noted that information would have to come from finance.

Discussion continued in looking at the big picture, FEMA paid for the new roof, gym flooring, and HVAC Coolers. Committee members weighed the costs of the center and those who may have paid for costly repairs over time being a member. Members spoke to looking at rates of other centers, Ms. Miller agreed but added that Sanibel is unique with the cost sharing and the shared space with the school. Ms. Miller noted looking into health club rates but mentioned they may not be comparable with the amenities provided. The topic of auto renewals was brought up and Ms. Miller noted current memberships do not auto renew, looking to change that for next fiscal year and auto renew memberships already in the system. Committee members agreed to auto renew. Committee members came to consensus to restructure the non-resident monthly pass to incentivize the annual memberships; over all increase to all non-resident passes and potentially setting up CPI (Consumer Price Index) increases annually to keep up with inflation.

Director Miller posed the question to the committee about the amount of monthly passes one would want to consider buying before switching to the annual pass. She further noted this item would come back before the committee next month to finalize. Ms. Miller spoke to process and the need to have the June and July meetings in order to determine the new costs and to have printed materials and the website updated before the start of the new fiscal year.

**c. Change in June and July Meeting Dates**

**i. Move from June 19th to June 26th**

Director Miller and Members noted the importance of holding the meetings to stay on track with submitting recommendations to Council.

**Vice Chair Walker moved, seconded by Chair Denick to move the June 19th meeting to June 26th and keeping the July meeting as scheduled. The motion carried.**

**Excused:** 1 - Committeemember Kyle Sweet

## 8. Reports

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

Director Miller gave a brief overview of the attached reports in the agenda packet. Noting the increase in revenue year over year due to membership fees. Continuing to monitor fitness classes to evaluate for off season measures. She concluded her reporting on the Gulf Coast News story on life guards, and how to recruit non-traditionally by appealing to retirees to give back to the community.

## 9. Next Meeting Date

- a. Thursday, June \_\_\_, 2025

## 10. Public Comment

Mich Koppleman - spoke to seeing automated lights that warn when pedestrians or cyclists are near in a neighboring community. Would like to see implemented on Sanibel.

Committee members affirmed that the suggestion was made by the Committee to Council for the additional warning lights.

## 11. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:43 A.M.