



City of Sanibel

800 Dunlop Road
Sanibel, FL 33957

Meeting Minutes - Draft Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 16, 2025

9:00 AM

MacKenzie Hall - 800 Dunlop Road

1. Call To Order

Director Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. for the purpose of running the election.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Director Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

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

Absent: 1 - Committee Member Bernard Arroyo

a. Motion to Excuse Absent Member(s):

Committee Member Welch moved, seconded by Committee Member Walker to excuse absent Member Arroyo. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Bernard Arroyo

4. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

a. Election of Chair

Director Miller detailed the process for electing the Chair and Vice Chair. She then called for nominations for the position of Chair.

Committee Member Walker nominated Committee Member Denick. There being no other nominations, Mr. Dennick accepted the nomination.

Mr. Denick was unanimously selected as Chair.

b. Election of Vice Chair

Chair Denick proceeded with the election of Vice Chair and called for any nominations.

Chair Denick nominated Committee Member Walker for the position of Vice Chair.

There being no further nominations, Ms. Walker accepted the nomination.

Committee Member Walker was unanimously selected as Vice Chair

5. Consent Agenda

- a. Adoption of the August 21, 2025, meeting minutes

Committee member Quillen moved, seconded by Vice Chair Walker, to adopt the August 21, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Bernard Arroyo

- b. Adoption of the September 18, 2025, meeting minutes

Committee member Quillen moved, seconded by Vice Chair Walker, to adopt the September 18, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Excused: 1 - Committeemember Bernard Arroyo

6. Public Comment

None at this time

7. Old Business

- a. Discussion on Future FY27-FY31 Capital Project Recommendations
- i. Matrix
 - ii. Supplemental Dog Park Information

Recreation Director, Andrea Miller, introduced the item and gave an overview of the areas of interest: the Recreation Center, the Ball Fields, and the Dog Park. Ms. Miller is looking for recommendations and prioritization of projects for the future. She detailed a few examples provided on the matrix attached to the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline, Ms. Miller noted having a vote of the priorities in November, but bringing it later to Council in early 2026.

Ms. Miller broke the areas down by section, first starting with Community Park, noting the shade structures replacement by FEMA had been completed. She recommended the group further discuss their ideas for the greenspace at Community Park and the timeline for replacing equipment that is beyond its repairable life.

Discussion broke out regarding the price of playground equipment, funding as well as cost sharing, and potentially looking for community input/donations. Ms. Miller provided that the Public Works Department holds the budget for these types of projects. Committee members inquired how the funding would be procured, how it is

budgeted to allocate funds to the project. Ms. Miller noted directing staff through the budgeting process for prioritized projects, and looking at ranking the individual project, per fiscal year. She provided the example, of the slide at the Recreation Center and how the committee discussed the replacement of the slide by 2027.

Discussion ensued regarding the dog park proposal, Ms. Miller gave a historic background on previous discussions related to the area, and previous uses it had been utilized for.

Focus was brought back to the Recreation Center where discussion started on the Skate Park area. Ms. Miller reminded the group of the sharing with the school board and the timing for use around school hours. Committee Members inquired about the spaces current use by the Recreation Center. Ms. Miller noted the afterschool children using it for sidewalk chalk art and occasional basketball. Committee members came to consensus to leave as it is for now due to the stated uses currently.

Committee members noted the multi-use courts being on the list twice, at Community Park and the Recreation Center. Ms. Miller noted the difference in cost for developing in either location, and the challenges associated with the cost sharing and hours of use available to the recreation center.

Committee Members inquired about the school's opinion on what the space is going to be used for. Ms. Miller noted the school's desire to have a flexible space for recess and PE (physical education) class.

Discussion moved to the ball fields and tot lot area. Ms. Miller noted this area falls under the same stipulations as the skate park as far as cost sharing and time of use after school hours. Members inquired about the batting cages, and the use of batting machines. Ms. Miller noted the leagues typically provide their own equipment for that type of play or practice.

Discussion moved to the Dog Park. Ms. Miller provided some background information related to the previous uses in that area, as well as the committee's previous discussions had regarding the park to update others who may not have been in attendance for those discussions.

Discussion ensued regarding the previous administrations rejection of the idea of a dog park on the island. The Committee inquired about looking at this again with the Natural Resources department and further commented on the benefits and the value it could bring to the island and residents. They spoke to starting points, looking at it as a revenue source, and studying environmental impacts.

Discussion continued regarding putting out a survey, looking at Community Park area

as a whole. Which prompted the question, has the space been used post Hurricane Ian. Ms. Miller noted its limited use if any since the storm. Committee Members also discussed the language used in the referendum almost detouring voters from choosing yes.

Ms. Miller noted the process for how the topic was brought forward previously, there being two separate processes happening at once, direction from committee to staff to conduct a feasibility study, and the land use/ where is the appropriate site.

Mrs. Miller further noted the need for referendum should the land be designated as environmentally sensitive land, to change that would require referendum.

Discussion ensued regarding surveying the public, to collect information on desires for a dog park and ask questions like: would you be willing to pay, make it a sliding scale, do you own a dog, and would you be willing to vote in referendum. Discussion continued in regards to when to publish the survey, and aligning it with the recommendations to Council.

Ms. Miller summarized that the Shared Use Path updates were pulled from the matrix to go to Council, as well as the gazebos along the path, as those are the responsibility of the Sanibel Bike Club. The dog park will also come off the matrix as its own stand alone project.

Committee members inquired about the capital funding, and where its 'housed.' Ms. Miller noted Beaches & Parks under the Public Works Department is where the funding for these areas is managed. However, that the ball fields and pool at the recreation center, fall under the Recreation Center.

Questions from Committee Members continued, how has the City prioritized projects like this in the past and repair vs. replace. Ms. Miller spoke to focus on maintenance for what the City already has, but as we move forward we would like to shift focus to future needs and new facilities, with emphasis on maintaining what we have.

8. Reports

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

Ms. Miller provided an update on all the attached reports. Committee Members

inquired about teaching Spanish to adults and thanked Ms. Miller for the opportunity she brought to the children. Committee Members also commented on how well the Martial Arts team is doing.

d. Status of Berry Dunn Recreation Comprehensive Assessment Recommendations

Ms. Miller gave a brief update on the attached matrix, noting 56 tasks have been completed, 12 in progress, and 4 in future projects.

She further provided an update on the Sanibel Plan and how the Planning Department will visit at the next meeting to discuss the Parks and Recreation elements of the plan.

9. Chairperson's Report

Chair noted the Proclamation for Parks and Recreation Week and that it was a nice gesture to the Community.

10. Committee Member Reports

Members thanked Director Miller for the work done so far. Committee Member Welch raised concerns about next year's meeting schedule and about spring break falling on a meeting week.

Director Miller noted bringing that item back at the next meeting.

11. Next Meeting Date

- a.** Thursday, November 20, 2025

12. Public Comment

None were in attendance at this time.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.