

## Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

Date: May 8, 2025  
Time: 4:00 pm  
Location: Cuscowilla Nature & Retreat Center Lodge  
210 SE 134 Avenue, Micanopy, FL 32667

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:01pm.

Members Present: Sarah Bruning, Allen Kurian, Jane Luzar (Vice Chair),  
Stephen Rodriguez, Steven Scott (Chair)

Members Absent: Adriana Carter

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Stephen Rodriguez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Jane Luzar second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

Stephen Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Sarah Brunnig second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

### 4. Discuss adding a Youth Representative

An email was read in regard to the age and what the youth representative should be, after which an discuss and brainstorm was done as to how we can recruit such candidate.

### 5. Parks & Open Space Director Update - Jason Maurer

Jamie Bass uses apart of Jason Maurer slot to do her presentation about Cuscowilla and the programs that are being run. Mentions were made about Pass projects and upcoming projects. She mentioned the different types of programs that have been implemented by her. Programs such as home school actives, Field Trips as well as, after school Park Play Pals where she hops from different parks every other month to accommodate different section of the community. Mentioned was also made about summer camp and upcoming new programs.

Jason Maurer gave updates as to the different structure of changes with prices of the different parks that are in the works.

The Budgets for the parks were talked about, as to what was approved and what was not approved were discussed for the upcoming fiscal year.

Repairs for Jonesville was approved first round.

He had mention that we are seeking a professional spray unit in order to alleviate the number of staff needed for a specific task.

Westend Community engagement meeting was recap.

## **6. Park Projects Update - Ed Williams**

### ROSCO Park Projects Update

- Veterans Memorial Park - New inclusive playground, Gold Star Families Memorial, a secondary asphalt entry drive & parking lot, accessible sidewalks, and associated stormwater and utility infrastructure. Improvements also include installation of additional site lighting, landscaping, and temporary irrigation using reclaimed water.

GRU installed the additional site lighting in January. The general contractor is finishing remedial work in one of the stormwater basins and some landscape-related punch list items. We finally reached agreement on change orders and expect to close out this project within the next 30 days and within the 5% contingency included in the contract & budget.

- MK Rawlings Park/Kate Barnes Ramp - Replacement of the existing boarding dock, addition of a courtesy dock on the south side of the channel, paved accessible parking, and accessible sidewalks.

Consultants are working to finalize/detail the plans showing the courtesy dock slated for the south side of the channel as a subsequent phase, due to SJRWMD concerns, and include specifications for the new boarding dock. We hope to have the project out for bids within the next 4-6 weeks.

- Poe Springs - Two projects underway here, the first being replacing the existing spring-side restrooms and the second being improvements to the boat launch that include replacement of the boarding dock, and accessible kayak launch, paved accessible parking, and accessible sidewalks.

- o Restrooms - Bids were received on 4/2 with the low bid of \$380K, plus a 5% contingency, resulting in a total contract amount of \$399K. The contract is on the

Board's 5/27 agenda for approval. Construction is expected to begin shortly thereafter.

- o Boat Launch - This project is also very close to being ready for bidding. Consultants are just working to finalize details & specifications for the new boarding dock and accessible kayak launch. We expect to have this project out for bids within the next 4-6 weeks.

- Copeland & Monteocha Parks - New playgrounds, additional parking, pavilion(s), better accessibility, landscaping, site lighting, and additional amenities as appropriate.

- o Monteocha - We've settled on a schematic design for improvements and will be scheduling a second community engagement meeting in the coming weeks. After that and once the A&E and permitting processes are complete, bidding & construction phases will occur.

- \* FRDAP grant was applied for on 10/14 for \$200K for improvements to Monteocha Park.

- o Copeland - We hope to have the schematic design for this project ready for review in the coming weeks. After that and once the A&E and permitting processes are complete, bidding & construction phases will occur.

- Jonesville Park - Construction of a new soccer stadium, additional parking, better accessibility, and new pickleball courts.

Purchase order for A&E was issued on 6/4. Survey has been completed as well as design of the building containing press box, bleachers, locker/restrooms for officials, and storage. We're currently working to finalize the schematic design for the site with 6 pickleball courts located between the southernmost baseball field and the soccer pavilion. Geotech testing & reports were recently ordered. Once the A&E and permitting processes are complete, bidding & construction phases will occur.

- \* In addition, purchase order for sinkhole remediation was issued on 11/20, and that work has been completed.

- West End Park - Fast-track demolition, clean up, and improvements in preparation for the upcoming World Masters Athletics (WMAi25) event. Includes a 2K cross country course, an internationally certified area for javelin, discus, and hammer throw, additional parking, and associated utility infrastructure.

The County closed on this property on 6/14/24, and with the assistance of Parks & Public Works staff cleaning & demolition operations began immediately

thereafter. All of the existing buildings were demolished and associated septic tanks were decommissioned. The event field (old driving range) was re-graded, throwing facilities were built (i.e., discus, javelin & hammer throw), irrigation and well/pump restoration were completed, and new electrical services were built well-side & up front. The WMAi25 event, during the last week of March, went off without a hitch.

Community engagement meetings related to development as a community park were held on 8/13/24 and again on 4/29/25. Thanks to Mr. Scott & Dr. Luzar for their help with the April meeting. We plan to provide an update to the Board on 5/27 and solicit their approval to both hire consultants to help us develop a schematic master plan for the park that can be implemented in phases and to explore public/private partnership opportunities for the golf-related amenities.

· Pinesville Park (St. Peter) - Development of a new pocket park on 2.2. acres just north of Archer.

Purchase order for A&E was issued on 12/5/24. Survey work has been completed, and we've settled on schematic designs for park & playground. A second community engagement meeting was held on 3/26 with positive response. Construction docs are around 90% complete, and we anticipate having this project out for bids within the next 4-6 weeks.

Note: Completion of the underlined projects will make us substantially complete with the Risk assessment.

**7. Discuss Day/Time/Location of Future Meetings**

Next meeting will be held @ AG Auditorium August 7, 2025 @4:00pm

**8. Public Comment**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm