

## Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

Date: August 7, 2025  
Time: 4:00 pm  
Location: UF/IFAS Extension Alachua County  
22712 West Newberry Road  
Newberry, FL 32669

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm

Members Present: Sarah Brunning, Jane Luzar (Vice Chair), Stephen Rodriguez, Steven Scott (Chair), Adrian Carter.

Members Absent: Allen Kurian

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

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

### 3. Approval of Minutes

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

### 4. Youth Committee Representative (Update)

No updates, however, the youth representative that the committee is seeking is someone between the age of 16-21, that can speak on behalf of young adult.

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

Mr. Jason gave an update on the budget meeting that was held, He mentioned that a sum of \$80,000 was asked for the help with the projects that are in place such as Jonesville, however the final budget is not yet concluded.

Mentioned was made about getting approval for the professional grader spray unit "Liquid", which were temporary approved.

There are a few projects that are in the works with the A&E (Such as Westend and Copland).

There is a possibility that the World Masters Event will be coming back in 2027.

Camp at Cuscowilla was a success, we had over 494 registrations, there were 75 campers per week. We had a trial run of smaller kids for the first two weeks of camp which went really well. We also had teen camp which was also successful. Overall camp was a success this year.

On September 23rd Jamie will be going to the board with her review and projects updates.

The temporary Fire house is almost complete as well in Micanopy.

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

8-8-25

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.

This project is substantially complete with only a few punch list items remaining. GRU has

completed installation of the additional site lighting. Remedial work on stormwater Basin 3 has

been completed and only minor adjustments to the landscaping work remains. We expect to close

this project out soon and within the 5% contingency 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 Construction of the new spring-side restrooms is well underway. Bids for the foundation & sitework were received on 4/2 with the low bid of \$380K, plus a 5% contingency, resulting in a total contract amount of \$399K. The department issued its recommendation to accept on 4/8, Board approval was given on 5/27, and Notice to Proceed was issued to the contractor on 6/9/25.

o Comments & requests by the SRWMD have been addressed, and our plans for boat launch improvements have been approved. Consultants are 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 & Montechoa Parks - New playgrounds, additional parking, pavilion(s), better accessibility, landscaping, site lighting, and additional amenities as appropriate. We are currently working our way through the A&E and permitting processes. A pre-app meeting (DRC) for the Montechoa Park schematic design was held on 3/26, and a second round of community engagement has been scheduled for mid-August. After some coordination with Public Works regarding proposed sidewalks along NE 27th Avenue, we're hopeful the Copeland Park schematic design won't be far behind.

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

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

Construction documents are nearly complete for 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 pickleball courts located between the southernmost baseball field and the soccer pavilion. A utility easement through this area was recently discovered requiring additional survey work and revisions to the layout. Once the A&E and permitting processes are complete, bidding & construction phases will occur.

- 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. We updated the Board on 5/27 and gained their approval to 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 Park - Development of a new pocket park on 2.2 acres just north of Archer.

Plans for this project were submitted for DRC review in early June. Staff comments were received and addressed, and plans were recently resubmitted for approval. Construction documents are

essentially complete, and we anticipate getting this project out for bids immediately after DRC approval.

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

Cellon Oak lightning protection system

Equestrian Center metal panels

Cuscowilla solar lightin

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

Next meeting will be held @ Poe Spring Pavilion October 9th, 2025

@ 4:00pm

**8. Public Comment**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.