March 23, 2005, 5:30 p.m.
Administrative Complex Board Meeting Room

The March meeting of the Santa Rosa County Parks and Recreation Committee was held at the Administrative Complex beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 23, 2005. The following members were present representing the sports associations and host organizations: Dan Millham, Futbol Club of Santa Rosa, Inc., Santa Rosa Soccer Park; Albert Ward, Pace Athletic and Recreation Association, Pace Athletic and Recreational Park/Santa Rosa Sports Plex; and Larry Dixon, Navarre Youth Sports Association, Navarre Sports Complex/Navarre Football-Soccer Park/Holley Ball Field.

Absent were representatives from Tiger Point Recreational Park, East Milton Recreational Park, Chumuckla Community Center and Park, Fidelis Community Center and Park, Benny Russell Park, and Swenson Park.

Also present were County Administrator, Hunter Walker; the Administrative Services/Parks Operations Manager, Tammy Simmons; Pat D'Asaro with the Bagdad Village Preservation Association; and Kyle Holley with the Santa Rosa Educational Foundation.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Administrative Services Manager welcomed all. Minutes from the February 23, 2005, meeting was accepted as written.

The first item on the agenda for discussion was volunteer program and code of ethics. The draft policy that was submitted by Darrin Nicely was included in the agenda packet and discussion took place based on this document.

Santa Rosa County Parks and Recreation – Volunteer Policy

Program Outline:

1. - Ward suggested that the volunteers that are required to have background checks be coaches, assistant coaches, and board members only.

1.h. – A question was raised concerning this item: Does this refer to all paid staff; county, associations, lessee, etc? Staff was asked to get this clarified by Devann Cook

2. – Dan Millham suggested that the 33% required to perform background checks is way too low.

CRIMINAL OFFENSES WHICH WILL DISQUALIFY AN INDIVIDUAL TO SERVE AS A VOLUNTEER

Dixon requested that staff find out what the school system uses to disqualify employees.

Ward suggested this list only contain crimes against youth.

The charge listed as "theft – except petty" was questioned. Could this item refer to such things as stolen hubcaps?

Holley mentioned "Take Stock in Children" as a guideline that the committee would like to mirror. This suggestion was based on the program that is already utilized in the school system; therefore, the parents and children are already familiar with this program. Staff was directed to contact Jan Allen in Human Resources of the Santa Rosa County School Board to get a copy of this program.

Santa Rosa County Parks and Recreation – Code of Conduct

Holley mentioned a program being utilized in the Santa Rosa County School System currently titled "Character Counts, Six pillars of character" and recommended that this committee look at this document to consider. Staff was directed to contact Carol Calfee with the school board to get a copy of this document for the committee to consider.

Millham volunteered to work with the committee to create the code of ethics to be approved by the committee. Staff was directed to get Millham the contact information for each committee member. It was suggested that local background searches could possibly be obtained by retired law enforcement.

The items to be taken up at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2005, at 5:30 p.m., at the Santa Rosa County Administrative Complex Board meeting room, are discussion of which volunteers should be screened by the background checks and what offenses should be determined to be disqualifying from the volunteer program: how often the checks should be run per person and what percentage of the volunteer population should be screened each year; continued discussion on the draft plan for standardization of background checks.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.