



City of Naples

City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

Community Services Advisory Board Meeting – October 21, 2025 – 2:30 p.m.

It is noted for the record that all documentation electronically appended hereto is also contained in the file for this meeting with the City Clerk's Office.

1) Call To Order

Chair Muracco called the meeting to order and presided.

2) Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Christina Muracco, Chair

Laura Oscher

Cassie Barone, Vice Chair

Nathaniel Smith

Board Members Absent:

Brian Smith

Staff Members Present:

Heather Shields, Urban Forest Manager

Chad Merritt, Community Services Director

David Michel, Park Manager

Aaron Hopkins, Community Services Deputy Dir

Alec Boccaccio, Recreation Supervisor

Jason Collins, Recreation Superintendent

Kelly Lee, Recreation Supervisor

Brianna Love, Recreation Coordinator

Stephanie McMillion, Administrative Coordinator

Other Present:

Martin Kurtz

3) Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Muracco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Announcements and Presentations

4.A) City of Naples – Recreation Division – Halloween Hustle 5K Recap

Recreation Coordinator Brianna Love and Recreation Supervisor Kelly Lee provided a brief overview of the Halloween Hustle 5K held at Baker Park, noting that the event drew strong community participation and was a great success. Recreation Supervisor Lee reported that a total of 360 runners registered, with 312 participating on race day, and the event generated \$12,778.34 in registration revenue and \$5,000 in sponsor and vendor revenue. After accounting for \$8,840.38 in expenses for race materials such as shirts, water, supplies, timing, and medals, the event achieved a net revenue of \$8,937.96. She added that the success of the Halloween Hustle 5K highlighted the professionalism and dedication of City recreation staff in managing facilities and providing high quality community programming. She noted that staff were already planning a March 5K event of similar scale to continue offering engaging and healthy opportunities for the Naples community.

[Agenda Memorandum Halloween Hustle 5K - Presentation](#)

4.B) New Employee Welcome

Recreation Supervisor Alec Boccaccio welcomed Justin Ugarte as the new Recreation Coordinator at Cambier Park/Norris Center.

[New Employee Welcome](#)

5) Public Comment

None.

6) Changes to The Agenda

None.

7) Approval of Meeting Minutes

7.A) Approval of the August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by N. Smith to APPROVE the August 19, 2025 Meeting minutes; seconded by Barone and carried 4-0 (Barone-yes, Muracco-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes).

[August 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

7.B) Approval of the September 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by N. Smith to APPROVE the September 23, 2025 Meeting minutes; seconded by Barone and carried 4-0 (Barone-yes, Muracco-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes).

[September 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes](#)

8) Regular Agenda

8.A) 2026 Community Services Advisory Board Meeting Schedule

Community Services Department, Director Chad Merritt reviewed the proposed 2026 Board meeting schedule.

MOTION by Barone to APPROVE the 2026 meeting schedule; seconded by Oscher and unanimously carried, all Members present and voting (Barone-yes, Muracco-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes).

[2026 CSAB Meeting Schedule - Proposed](#)

8.B) Urban Forest Status Update – October 21, 2025

Urban Forest Manager Heather Shields provided an overview of the Urban Forest Tree Inventory and Management Program. She noted that the inventory was updated this summer to reflect current conditions and included data on species, location, and condition. She reported that ArborPro, Inc. was awarded the contract in January 2025, with fieldwork completed in August 2025, documenting 20,323 trees citywide. Urban Forest Manager Shields stated that staff noted that the City's Urban Forest provides approximately \$6.5 million in annual environmental benefits and an overall value of \$162.5 million. She stated that the Designated Street Tree Program, Tree Fill-In and Replacement Program, and Chapter 38 Tree Protection continue to guide the City's efforts to maintain a healthy and resilient Urban Forest.

[Agenda Memorandum Presentation - Urban Forest Status Update](#)

8.C) Discussion and Support to Accept the Proposed Design for the Naples Girls Softball Scoreboard to be Located at the Cambier Park Softball Field

Community Services Director Chad Merritt stated that the Naples Girls Softball secured \$20,000 in donated funds to cover the purchase and installation of a new scoreboard, which will become a permanent fixture at the park.

MOTION by Oscher to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the Cambier Park Softball Scoreboard Design; seconded by N. Smith and carried 4-0 (Barone-yes, Muracco-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith--absent, N. Smith-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum Naples Girls Softball Scoreboard Design - Revised](#)

8.D) Discussion and Support to Renew Youth Sports Agreements with Greater Naples Little League, Inc. Baseball, Naples Gators, Inc. Football, and Naples Girls Softball for a Three-Year Term with two one-year extensions; and Update the Agreement Terms.

Recreation Superintendent Jason Collins provided a brief overview of the proposed Youth Sports Agreements for Greater Naples Little League, Naples Gators, and Naples Girls Softball. He stated that staff recommend entering into a new three-year agreement with two optional one-year extensions, maintaining a \$3.00 per participant/per week fee and adding a maintenance and lighting fee beginning at \$5.00 per participant/per season, both increasing slightly with extensions. Staff also recommended that Naples Girls Softball satisfy its outstanding balance of \$60,120.00 by the end of the three-year term before any extensions are granted. He stated that the Board's recommendation will be forwarded to City Council for consideration by Resolution.

Community Services Deputy Director Aaron Hopkins replied to Vice Chair Barone, stating that tennis operates independently as it is considered an enterprise program. It was further noted that, aside from the three youth sports agreements presented, there are no other formal agreements in place. He added that activities such as adult leagues and baseball at Fleischmann Park currently operate under rental fee arrangements only and do not have signed contractual agreements. He further added that the Naples Girls Softball primarily uses Cambier Park, Fleischmann Park, and Collier County facilities, with 14 percent of participants residing in the City. Deputy Director Hopkins noted that the organization operates under a 25-year agreement that began in 1999 for Cambier Park renovations and has an outstanding balance of \$60,120.00. He noted that Naples Gators Football uses the Fleischmann Park football field, has 5 percent City residents, and all fees are paid in full. Greater Naples Little League mainly uses the Fleischmann Park baseball fields, with 47percent City residents, and all fees are paid in full.

Vice Chair Barone asked whether these agreements would have any impact on other City uses of the fields, particularly in instances where the fields have been damaged or required maintenance. Director Merritt explained that this topic had previously been discussed during several City Council meetings and was specifically related to the use of the softball field, noting that special events have since been redirected, with only one remaining event permitted to take place. Director Merritt added that a stipulation has been added requiring that if any damage occurs to the field during that event which prevents play by the following Wednesday, the event will no longer be permitted moving forward.

In response to Vice Chair Barone, Deputy Director Hopkins added that the leagues have their own contracts with the City and handle their own registrations. He explained that if the football, baseball, or softball organizations choose to charge City residents a lower fee and non City residents would need to be approved by City Council, as it would require a formal adjustment to the existing fee policy.

Public Comment: Martin Kurtz, President of Naples Girls Softball, told the Board that he supports both the player and maintenance fees, saying the \$60,000 over three years is fair. He explained that adding this cost to registration fees would make them too high, so the organization plans to raise money through community fundraising once the agreement is approved. Mr. Kurtz said they could commit \$5,000 each year from registration income toward the balance and prefer to keep that separate from the main agreement. He mentioned that they have help from another nonprofit and hope to honor championship teams with banners as part of their fundraising efforts. Mr. Kurtz said the group is committed to making good faith payments but does not want to rely only on registration fees since that would be too expensive without sponsorship or other support.

MOTION by N. Smith to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the Renew Youth Sports Agreements with Greater Naples Little League, Inc.; seconded by Oscher and carried 4-0 (Barone-yes, Muracco-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-absent, N. Smith-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)

[Presentation Youth Sports Agreements](#)

[Greater Naples Little League, Inc. 1-7-2019](#)

[Naples Gators, Inc. 1-8-2019](#)

[Naples Girls Softball - Cambier Park Resolution and Agreement 6-2-1999](#)

[Naples Girls Softball - Cambier Park Bleacher Resolution and Agreement 10-17-2001](#)

8.E) City of Naples – Community Services Department – FY26 Adopted Budget Overview

Community Services Director Merritt gave an overview of the Fiscal Year 2026 Adopted Budget for the Community Services Department. He explained that the department includes four divisions; Administration, Facilities Maintenance, Parks and Parkways, and Recreation, as well as the Naples City Dock and the Arthur L. Allen Tennis Center. Director Merritt stated that the General Fund Budget is \$14,586,573, which includes funding for the Naples Dog Park improvements, new holiday lighting, an internship program, and maintenance at the Naples Preserve. He noted that the Beach Fund, City Dock Fund, and Tennis Fund include increases for

operating costs, training, and facility upgrades. He concluded that the Baker Park Fund continues to support park enhancements and community programs.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)

[Community Services Department - Adopted Budget For Fiscal Year 2025-2026](#)

8.F) Director and Staff Report

Community Services Deputy Director Aaron Hopkins gave the Director's Report and shared updates from all areas of the Community Services Department. He reviewed highlights and current projects in Administration, Facilities Maintenance, Parkways, Recreation, the Arthur L. Allen Tennis Center, and the Naples City Dock. Deputy Director Hopkins said the report also included updates on the Naples Pier and Public Beach Access Reconstruction projects, recent special events and participation numbers, and ongoing maintenance and improvement work throughout City parks and facilities.

Community Services Director Merritt shared that the City has officially received the United States Army Corps of Engineer (USACE) permit and thanked Collier County for their partnership and approval of the use of the Jolly Bridge site for the pilings portion of the construction project. He said the City values working closely with the County and continues to look for ways to make the most of public spaces. He also praised the staff working on the Naples Pier restoration, explaining that the project is now waiting for final approval from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which depends on the USACE. Once approved, the project will move forward and visible progress will begin, representing a major step for the City. Director Merritt added that construction has already been completed on 16 of the 30 beach access points.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)

[Director and Staff Report - October 2025](#)

9) Member Communications

None.

10) Adjourn

4:36 p.m.

Approved : 11/18/2025