



City of Naples

City Council Chamber
735 Eighth Street South
Naples, Florida 34102

Community Services Advisory Board Meeting – March 17, 2026 – 2:33 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

Cassie Barone, Vice Chair, left at 3:17 p.m.

Laura Oscher

Nathaniel Smith

Suzanne Klym, Alternate Member

Brian Smith

Staff Members Present:

Chad Merritt, Community Services Director

Jason Collins, Recreation Superintendent

Cecilia Urbina, Senior Admin Specialist

Aaron Hopkins, Community Services Deputy Director

Heather Shields, Urban Forest Manager

Stephanie McMillion, Administrative Coordinator

Cesar Jimenez, Assistant Aquatic Supervisor

3) Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Chair Barone led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4) Announcements

Jason Collins, Recreation Superintendent, acknowledged Cecilia Urbina's promotion to Senior Administrative Specialist and welcomed new hire Cesar Jimenez, Assistant Aquatic Supervisor.

4.A) 2026 City of Naples Easter Egg Hunt

Community Services Deputy Director Aaron Hopkins informed the Board that the annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Fleischmann Park. The event will include free admission and complimentary photos with the Easter Bunny.

[2026 City of Naples Easter Egg Hunt](#) 

5) Public Comment

None.

6) Changes to the Agenda

None.

7) Approval of Meeting Minutes

7.A) Approval of January 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

MOTION by Barone to APPROVE the January 27, 2026, meeting minutes; seconded by N. Smith and carried 5-0 (Barone-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-yes, N. Smith-yes, Muracco-yes).

[January 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes](#) 

8) Regular Agenda

8.A) Approval of the Amended City of Naples Designated Street Tree Program.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt introduced Urban Forest Manager Heather Shields who provided a brief overview of the Designed Street Tree Program. She explained that Seagate Drive was previously planted with Cuban Laurel trees; however, this species is no longer used due to the significant damage and high failure rate following Hurricane Wilma. After the storm, a general decision was made to replace them with Live Oak trees.

In coordination with the Seagate Homeowners Association, it was determined that Live Oaks were not the preferred choice, and an alternative species was requested. As a result, the Shady Lady Black Olive was selected as the replacement tree.

After reviewing the changes within the Designated Street Tree Program, Vice Chair Barone said the name of the Eagle Oak Homeowners' Association had been previously changed to Sun Terrace Neighborhood. Community Services Director Chad Merritt confirmed that the supporting documents reflect the proposed changes and that the Board would need to include a revision to reflect the updated name. He noted that, if approved, the item would be forwarded to City Council with the Board's recommendation, including a notation to revise the language by changing Eagle Oak to Sun Terrace.

MOTION by Barone to RECOMMEND APPROVAL of the proposed changes to the City of Naples Designated Street Tree Program changes, subject to changing Eagle Oak to Sun Terrace; seconded by Oscher and carried 5-0 (Barone-yes, Muracco-yes, Oscher-yes, B. Smith-yes, N. Smith-yes).

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [City of Naples Designated Street Tree Program](#) 

It is noted for the record that Vice Chair Barrone left at 3:17 p.m., during the discussion of Item 8.B below.

8.B) Director and Staff Report.

Community Services Director Chad Merritt gave an overview of the Naples City Dock underground Fuel Tank Replacement Project, stating that the project is to replace the underground fuel tanks at the Naples City Dock and is working with Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. to handle the design, permits, and construction. He noted that the City received a \$250,000 donation from the Nommensen Family to help improve the playground at Lowdermill Park, which funds will match city funds already included in the Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Budget.

Community Services Deputy Director Aaron Hopkins informed the Board of several highlights, noting that registration had opened for the 2026 Summer Camp Program, and that Spring Into Sunset 5K had sold out with 400 runners and would take place on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at Baker Park. Deputy Director Hopkins further reported that the Recreation Division has launched a new internship program and provided an update on the Cambier Park Playground Project, stating that five proposals were reviewed and three companies were selected to move forward. He noted that the selected companies will present to the Evaluation Committee on April 7, 2026, and would then present to the Community Services Advisory Board on April 21, 2026, for final review.

In response to Member N. Smith, Director Merritt explained that additional help is needed during the summer months. He explained that each year, staff recruit counselors and program staff, often from local high schools and colleges, noting the need during the summer for individuals interested in the profession.

[Agenda Memorandum](#)  [Director and Staff Report](#) 

9) Member Communications

None.

10) Adjourn

3:29 p.m.

Approved: 4/21/2026.