

City of Marco Island Florida

*51 Bald Eagle Drive
Marco Island, Florida
cityofmarcoisland.com*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, August 21, 2025

3:30 PM

Community Room

Marco Island Community Parks Foundation, Inc.

Chair: Erik Brechnitz

Vice-Chair: TBD

Treasurer: TBD

Secretary: Joan Taylor

*Directors: Rene Champagne, David Cox,
Mike Ilitch, Jr., Jim Richards, Dolores Siegel*

(1) CALL TO ORDER

Chair Brechnitz called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

(2) ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Director Champagne, Director Cox, Director Richards, Director Siegel, Secretary Taylor, and Chair Brechnitz

Absent 1 - Director Ilitch Jr.

Also Present

CITY STAFF

Michael McNees, City Manager

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

Sharon Dangles, Acting Finance Director

Daniel J. Smith, Community Affairs Director

Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager (arrived at 3:50 P.M.)

Martin Luna, Video/Broadcast Technician

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist

CITY COUNCILORS

Stephen Gray

Tamara Goehler

Deb Henry

Bonita Schwan

Motion To Allow for Remote Participation by Director Cox

MOTION by Director Champagne, seconded by Director Siegel, to allow Director Cox to participate in, and vote upon, all matters coming before the Foundation Board at this meeting. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Director Champagne, Director Cox, Director Richards, Director Siegel and Chair Brechnitz

(3) APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[ID 25-4628](#) Approval of the Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021

Attachments: [November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

MOTION by Director Siegel, seconded by Director Cox, that the Foundation Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Director Champagne, Director Cox, Director Richards, Director Siegel and Chair Brechnitz

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

a. [ID 25-4627](#) Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chair Person

Attachments: [Articles of Incorporation](#)
[Nomination Election Process \(1\)](#)

MOTION by Director Siegel, seconded by Director Champagne, nominating current Chair Erik Brechnitz to continue as Chair of the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Director Champagne, Director Cox, Director Richards, Director Siegel and Chair Brechnitz

Chair Brechnitz noted that any candidate for Vice-Chair of the Foundation should be expected to assume the position of Chair when the Foundation Board next votes to elect Officers.

MOTION by Director Siegel, seconded by Director Richards, nominating Director Champagne to serve as Vice-Chair of the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Director Champagne, Director Cox, Director Richards, Director Siegel and Chair Brechnitz

[Editorial Note: No other candidates were nominated for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair]

(4) STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

None.

(5) OLD BUSINESS

None.

(6) NEW BUSINESS

b. [ID 25-4630](#) Amendment of Articles of Incorporation - Article 7.11 Financial Disclosure

Chair Brechnitz briefly outlined the conditions that were in effect when the Articles of Incorporation for the Foundation were ratified, and he invited Director comment on whether Article 7.11 of the Foundation's Articles of Incorporation should be amended to eliminate the filing of a Florida Financial Disclosure Statement by prospective Directors.

No members of the public came forward to offer comment.

MOTION by Director Cox, seconded by Director Richards, that Article 7.11 of the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation Articles of Incorporation be amended to eliminate the requirement that Directors file the same Florida Financial Disclosure Statement (i.e. Form 1) required of municipal officers, be Approved. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING DIRECTOR VOTE:

Yes: 5 - Director Champagne, Director Cox, Director Richards, Director Siegel and Chair Brechnitz

c. [ID 25-4631](#) Discussion - Review of the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation, Inc. Budget

Attachments: [Financials as of Sept 30 2025](#)

Chair Brechnitz confirmed the status of the Foundation's agreement to date with its primary donor family, and he advised Director Siegel, as Chair of the Marco Island Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee (PRAC), that any new PRAC proposals for application of the donor funds can be brought forward to the Foundation Board for its consideration.

Director Richards initiated a discussion with the Directors on the Foundation's structure, mission, and efficiency in organizing activities, raising funds, and improving the infrastructure and operation of the City parks, particularly at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

City Manager Mike McNees, Community Affairs Director Daniel Smith, and Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager Samantha Malloy all provided insight for the Foundation Board's consideration.

d. [ID 25-4632](#) Discussion - Donation to Racquet Center - Chair Erik Brechnitz

Attorney Zach Lombardo of Woodward, Pires & Lombardo, P.A., as representative of Marco Island Racquet Center member Tim Annett and other pickleball players who utilize that facility, shared his client's interest in leading a fundraising activity to improve that facility, provided that: 1) the Foundation would be willing to be the custodian for donated funds under the proposed fundraising effort, and; 2) that certain understandings and agreements with the Foundation and the City of Marco Island could be accommodated.

The following members of the public came forward to offer comment:

- 1) Mr. John Aguis (S. Heathwood Dr.)*
- 2) Mr. Brian Lynch (Marco Villas Dr.)*
- 3) Mr. John Martini (Nassau Ct.)*

Next Steps:

Attorney Lombardo volunteered, on behalf of his clients, to undertake additional research to better estimate the capital, additional operating expenses, and financial break-even calculation associated with the execution and ongoing maintenance of improved/expanded pickleball facilities at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

Attorney Lombardo also volunteered to bring the results of his client's research to the Marco Island City Council for review and endorsement to proceed before returning to the Foundation Board to discuss its potential role as custodian for any future fundraising amounts on behalf of his clients.

e. [ID 25-4633](#) Discussion - Fundraising Services - Chair Erik Brechnitz

Attachments: [Report](#)
[Advertising Marketing Proposal \(2021\)](#)

Chair Brechnitz raised, for the Foundation Board's consideration, the potential benefit of hiring a professional fundraising resource to assist the Board in establishing an endowment to fund future capital projects and to generate an on-going source of income to maintain existing Foundation assets.

The Board briefly discussed the merits of professional fundraising efforts relative to recent examples of fundraising success by energized interest groups, with an expectation of continued discussion at a future meeting of the Foundation Board.

(7) DIRECTOR COMMUNICATIONS

Secretary Joan Taylor reminded the Board of its requirement to meet monthly as noted under Article 7.3 of

its Articles of Incorporation, and the Directors confirmed a third Wednesday of the month meeting schedule with a starting time of 1:30 P.M. for its future meetings.

Director Dolores Siegel noted that an existing vacancy exists on the Foundation Board.

Chair Brechnitz confirmed the desire of the current Directors to continue to serve in their current capacity on the Board. He advised the Directors that a Resolution approving their re-appointment would be forthcoming to the Marco Island City Council for approval.

[Editorial Note: Resolution 25-40 - Approving the Reappointment of Directors Serving on the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation, Inc. was approved by unanimous vote at the September 8, 2025 Marco Island City Council Meeting]

(8) PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Deb Henry (Tulip Ct.), in representing the Marco Island Noontime Rotary, advised the Foundation Board of its discussions with the City of Marco Island to "adopt" Founders Park (on the southeast corner of North Collier Boulevard and North Barfield Drive) for future enhancement projects and donations in collaboration with the Foundation and/or the City of Marco Island upon the conclusion of the City's traffic improvement project at that intersection.

(9) ADJOURN

There being no further business before the Board, Chair Brechnitz adjourned the meeting at 4:58 P.M.

Erik Brechnitz, Foundation Board Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, Board Secretary

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, City of Marco Island Recording Specialist