

City of Marco Island Florida

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



Meeting Minutes - Final

Monday, February 9, 2026

1:00 PM

Parks Master Plan & Capital Infrastructure Bond Workshop

Community Meeting Room

City Council

*Chair: Darrin Palumbo
Vice-Chair: Rene Champagne*

*City Council: Erik Brechnitz, Tamara Goehler,
Stephen Gray, Deb Henry,
Bonita Schwan*

*Interim City Manager: Casey Lucius
City Attorney: Alan L. Gabriel
City Clerk: Joan Taylor*

1. Call to Order

Chair Palumbo called the Workshop to order at 1:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Councilor Brechnitz, Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

(Note: Councilor Brechnitz participated remotely via Zoom teleconference connection and was present at Roll Call)

Also Present

*Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager
Joan Taylor, City Clerk
Theresa Swanson, Deputy City Clerk
David Tolces, Assistant City Manager
John Wallace, Police Captain
Chris Byrne, Fire Chief
Carol McDermott, Finance Director
Justin Martin, Public Works Director
Jose Duran, Information Technology Director
Joe Parrilli, Fleet & Facilities Manager
Samantha Malloy, Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager
Michael Larson, Video/Broadcast Technician
Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist
Citizens and Visitors*

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Chair Palumbo.

Motion To Allow for Remote Participation by Councilor Brechnitz

MOTION by Councilor Gray, seconded by Councilor Schwan, to allow Councilor Brechnitz to participate in all matters coming before the Council at this Workshop. MOTION CARRIED BY THE FOLLOWING VOICE VOTE:

Yes: 6 - Vice-Chair Champagne, Councilor Goehler, Councilor Gray, Councilor Henry, Councilor Schwan and Chair Palumbo

4. Business

[ID 26-5116](#) Parks Master Plan & Capital Infrastructure Bond Workshop, Casey Lucius, Interim City Manager

Attachments: [Parks & Recreation Master Plan Final Summary](#)
[Memo - Parks Master Plan Top 5 Improvements](#)
[Funding Options for Parks Capital](#)
[Transportation Bond Borrowing Levels](#)
[Bond Referendum - Critical Events Schedule](#)

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius briefly outlined the objective of the Workshop, and she reviewed the

property tax millage impact tool that the Council requested be developed for this Workshop at its January 20, 2026 Meeting (see the 1/20/26 Minutes of Agenda Item 15b).

The Councilor engaged in a discussion to determine the direction to provide the City Staff in "sizing" the amount of a potential "Transportation" infrastructure bond to place before the voters on the August 18, 2026 primary election ballot.

A majority of the Council, when polled by Chair Palumbo, supported a "Transportation" infrastructure bond at the lower end of a \$20 - \$60 million continuum (note: approximately \$24.5 million). Utilizing this direction, the City Staff was requested to bring forward its recommendation of specific transportation-related infrastructure projects that could be funded under this amount for decision at a March, 2026 meeting of the City Council.

Additionally, Interim City Manager Casey Lucius advised the Council that:

1) the City had approximately \$150,000 remaining in spending cap availability at the completion of the 2026 Fiscal Year City budget development process;

2) a review of the City's First Quarter 2026 financials by City Finance Director Carol McDermott was on the Agenda for the Council's February 17, 2026 meeting, and;

3) a future discussion of potential City revenue alternatives for Council consideration was on the Council's Future Agenda.

Council moved onto discussing the next topic of Parks projects. Interim City Manager Casey Lucius reviewed several potential funding sources for Parks projects.

The Council agreed to review the previously-approved \$2.0 million project fund from the tabled Smokehouse Creek Bridge (aka West Winterberry Bridge) replacement project for potential reallocation toward one or more high-priority Parks & Recreation capital improvement projects.

City of Marco Island Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli, and Parks, Culture & Recreation Manager Samantha Malloy reviewed five (5) high-priority Parks & Recreation capital improvement projects for the Council's consideration.

[Editorial Note: the presentation of those projects may be found on the City's website at www.cityofmarcoisland.com > Menu > Our Government > Agendas and Minutes > City Council > 2/9/26 > Meeting Details > J Parrilli - Parks Capital Improvement Projects Presentation 020926]

Council Chair Darrin Palumbo solicited and obtained Council consensus to direct the City Staff to apply all \$2.0 million of the tabled bridge replacement project toward the replacement of both children's playgrounds at Mackle Park. The City Staff was further directed to: 1) initiate a public bidding process; 2) identify a recommended vendor undertake the work within the financial parameters established, and; 3) return to the Council at a future date to approve the implementation and vendor selection plan.

The next three high-priority Parks & Recreation capital improvement projects: 1) re-sodding the athletic fields at Mackle and Winterberry Parks, and the Farmers Market display grounds at Veterans Community Park; 2) new fencing and resurfacing of the Mackle Park Tot Lot, and; 3) new and enhanced lighting of the Mackle Park athletic field, were positively received by the members of the Council, but no funding sources were identified to support advancing those projects.

(CHAIR PALUMBO CALLED A BRIEF RECESS BEGINNING AT 2:53 P.M. IT IS NOTED FOR THE RECORD THAT ALL COUNCILORS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE WORKSHOP RECONVENED AT

2:59 P.M.)

The Marco Island Racquet Center (5th identified Priority):

City of Marco Island Fleet & Facilities Manager Joe Parrilli presented potential court conversions, resurfacing improvements, and enhanced sound mitigation opportunities that could be implemented at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

Chair Palumbo asked several members of the community to share their prepared remarks on this topic. (Other speakers also came forward during Public Comment (see Agenda Item 5 below).

Assistant City Attorney David Tolces reminded the Council and all present that the City of Marco would not be under any obligation to act on any proposal, recommendation, or investigative findings brought forward by an individual or citizen-led group.

5. Public Comment

Mr. Darin Spindler (Royal Marco Way), member of the City of Marco Island Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, shared a visual presentation outlining the results of his collaborative investigation with Ms. Carla Cadwell (Marco Island Racquet Center neighborhood resident) and Mr. Tim Annett (Marco Island resident and pickleball enthusiast), into technologies and techniques employed at other Southwest Florida pickleball facilities to effectively mitigate or contain the sounds emanating from pickleball paddles during active daily play.

[Editorial Note: Mr. Spindler's presentation may be found on the City's website at www.cityofmarcoisland.com > Menu > Our Government > Agendas and Minutes > City Council > 2/9/26 > Meeting Details > D Spindler - Racquet Center Noise Mitigation Proposals 020926]

Ms. Carla Cadwell (Marco Villas Dr.) shared her perspective on the collaborative investigation with Messrs. Spindler and Annett, and she offered observations from her participation in the investigation at other Southwest Florida pickleball facilities.

Mr. Tim Annett (Ludlow Rd.) provided insight into his initiative to personally fund a 30 day study by a recognized pickleball sound mitigation engineer to identify recommendations to reduce the impact of pickleball-playing noise based on varying number of courts at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

Mr. Rich Blonna (San Marco Rd.) reiterated his request, delivered during Public Comment at the Council's January 12, 2026 City Council Priorities Workshop, that the Council consider creating an inland waterway access point at Castaways Park, and installing a floating dock at Veterans Community Park, so that citizens can enjoy non-motorized, non-commercial, paddle craft access to the City's internal canal system.

Additionally, as a resident living near the Marco Island YMCA pickleball facility, Mr. Blonna encouraged the Council to consider an Island-wide zoning and land use redefinition for all recreational facilities offering pickleball play to allow for consistent application of solutions currently being discussed for the Marco Island Racquet Center. He also proposed that the Council consider declaring a moratorium on the installation of new pickleball courts until City-wide rules on the use of quiet paddles and new noise mitigation standards have been determined.

Mr. David Boggs (Delbrook Way) requested that the City pursue the installation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at all signaled intersections on the Island.

Mr. Ralph Rohena (Begonia Ct.) recommended that the City investigate the application of grass protective

mesh to enhance the durability of any newly-installed grass in high foot traffic areas at Mackle, Winterberry, and Veterans Community Parks.

Ms. Dolores Siegel (Gumbo Limbo Ln.), Chair of the Marco Island Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, and member of the Marco Island Community Parks Foundation Board, raised for consideration the potential role of the Community Parks Foundation in helping to fund improvements at the Marco Island Racquet Center.

Additional Direction and Next Steps

Following additional Council discussion and the receipt of Public Comment on potential improvements at the Marco Island Racquet Center, the Council discussed several near and intermediate term actions that could be undertaken to improve the conditions at and around that facility.

Interim City Manager Casey Lucius summarized the City's "action items" as follows:

- 1) the City Staff will prepare and bring forward a proposal, for review and decision at the Council's March 2, 2026 meeting, to demolish the existing racquetball building at the Marco Island Racquet Center;
- 2) the City Staff will investigate the cost and timetable to install enhanced noise absorption barriers around the Marco Island Racquet Center;
- 3) the City Staff will investigate the cost and timetable for installing temporary fencing that will eliminate access to the pickleball stadium court (and other openly available courts) after normal operating hours at the Marco Island Racquet Center;
- 4) Further investigation and recommendations by the City Staff on time of lighting and leaf blower use, swale parking, the membership fee model, and other related activity management actions at the Marco Island Racquet Center will be placed on the Council's Future Agenda.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, Chair Palumbo adjourned the Workshop at 4:33 P.M.

Darrin Palumbo, Council Chair

ATTEST:

Joan Taylor, City Clerk

PREPARED BY:

Jim Kornas, Recording Specialist