

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

Tal Siddique, District 3 – Chair  
Amanda Ballard, District 2 – First Vice Chair  
Vacant, District 1  
Mike Rahn, District 4  
Robert McCann, District 5  
George W. Kruse, At Large  
Jason Bearden, At Large



**MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

Charlie Bishop, County Administrator  
Pamela D'Agostino, County Attorney

Manatee County Administration Building  
Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers, First Floor  
1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton  
9:00 A.M. - May 5, 2026

**Board of County Commissioners  
Agenda and Notice of Public Meeting  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting**

This meeting can be viewed live on <https://www.mymanatee.org/services-and-amenities/service-listing/service-details/watch-live-county-meetings> and on Manatee Government Access (MGA) Spectrum Channel 644, Frontier Channel 30, and Comcast Channel 20 (within Manatee County).

Written comments can be submitted at <https://mymanatee.org/services-and-amenities/service-listing/service-details/submit-public-comment>. For non-quasi-judicial items only, the public can offer comments by phone by dialing 1-888-788-0099 or 1-877-853-5247. Enter Meeting ID Number: **891 9147 0755** (followed by #).

**Dial-in Instructions:**

- Dial one of the zoom numbers and enter the Meeting ID number: **891 9147 0755** (followed by #)
- There are no participant IDs, please press (#)
- You will be placed into the call on mute
- (\*) 9 to raise hand
- (\*) 6 to unmute

Walk-in comments are welcome during the meeting in the Honorable Patricia M. Glass Chambers at the Manatee County Administration Building located at 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, for individuals who did not sign-up to speak prior to the meeting. The request form displays upcoming meetings 24 hours before the meeting date and will close 10 minutes prior to the meeting start time. To sign in to speak prior to the meeting go to: [Public Speaker Sign-Up Form](#).

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. INVOCATION (The Commission does not endorse the religious beliefs of any speaker.)**

Invocation led by Reverend Brock Patterson, Longboat Island Chapel

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Generic Public Comments**

**E. AWARDS/PRESENTATIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

**Awards**

1. Presentation of the May Team Member of the Month Award

**Proclamations (Motion required to adopt proclamations)**

2. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Awareness Month
3. Emergency Medical Services Week
4. National Drug Court and Opioid and Stimulant Use Disorder Awareness Month
5. Small Business Week in Manatee County - No Presentation Scheduled

**F. REQUESTS BY COMMISSIONERS (Items to be pulled from Consent Agenda)**

Items removed from the Consent Agenda will be taken up for discussion and vote following the approval of the Consent Agenda.

**G. CITIZEN COMMENTS (Consent Agenda Items Only)**

Each person wishing to speak to Consent Agenda items will be limited to three (3) minutes per item; provided, however, that each person will be limited to speaking for a total of ten (10) minutes regardless of the number of items being discussed.

**H. CONSENT AGENDA**

**Clerk of Circuit Court**

6. Approval of the Clerk's Consent Agenda dated May 5, 2026

**Attorney**

7. Renewal of Boiler and Machinery, Crime, and Railroad General Liability Insurance Policies  
**DeCarlo**
8. Renewal of Excess Property and Terrorism Insurance Policies **DeCarlo**
9. Storage Tank Liability Insurance Policy **DeCarlo**

**Community and Veterans Services**

10. Approval of the FY 2025-2026 Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Projects, Makayla Lindecamp, Neighborhood Services Coordinator - Districts 1, 2, and 5 **N/A**
11. Execution of Amendment 002 to the State FY 25/26 Alzheimer's Disease Initiative (ADI) Agreement ADI-25/26-MAN with Senior Connection Center, Inc., and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-076, Tracie Adams, Community and Veterans Services Deputy Director - Countywide
12. Execution of Amendment 002 to the State FY 25/26 Community Care for the Elderly (CCE) Agreement CCE-25/26-MAN with Senior Connection Center, Inc., and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-077, Tracie Adams, Community and Veterans Services Deputy Director - Countywide

13. Execution of Amendment 002 to the State FY 25/26 Home Care for the Elderly (HCE) Agreement HCE-25/26-MAN with Senior Connection Center, Inc., Tracie Adams, CVS Deputy Director - Countywide

### **Financial Management**

14. Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-063; and Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-071 for Infrastructure Sales Tax, Claudia Campos, Interim Chief Financial Officer
15. Execution of Change Order No. 1 to Agreement No. 24-TA005049JH for Professional Design Services Desoto Bridge Watermain Replacement, Dafne Seeland, Project Manager – District 2
16. Execution of Change Order No. 2 to Agreement No. 24-TA005632LP for Rye Road at Fire Station 3 Emergency Signal, Derek Osullivan, Project Manager – District 5
17. Execution of Change Order No. 3 to Work Assignment No. 3 for Agreement No. 21-R077057DJ: PSD Emergency Medical Services Logistics Facility, Jeff Anthony, Project Manager – District 2
18. Execution of Change Order No. 5 to Agreement No. 21-TA003596CD for Professional Utility Engineering Design Services for Cortez Road and Manatee Avenue West Bridge Replacement Projects, Dafne Seeland, Project Manager - District 3
19. Execution of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum No. 1 to Agreement No. 25-TA005866JH for Blake Hospital Alternate Water Line, and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-075, Eddy Zappacosta, Project Manager - District 3

### **Government Relations**

20. Acceptance of two (2) Funding Assistance Awards from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in the amount of \$15,000.00 for a total of \$30,000.00, Stephanie Garrison, Director of Government Relations - Districts 1 and 3

### **Natural Resources**

21. Adoption of Resolution R-26-047, adopting changes to the Natural Resources Department Fee Schedule, Charlie Hunsicker, Director of Natural Resources Department - Countywide

### **Property Management**

22. Acceptance and Recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from Dynamic Manufacturing Group LLC, for property located at 11845 31st Terrace East, Palmetto, Florida 34221, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 1
23. Acceptance and Recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from Oneco 51 Senior Apartments, LTD., for property located at 1315 301 Boulevard East, Bradenton, Florida 34203, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 2.

24. Acceptance and Recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from Oneco 51 Family Apartments, LTD., for property located at 1205 45th Drive East, Bradenton, Florida 34203, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 2
25. Acceptance and Recording of Permanent Utilities Easement from Oneco Development Holdings LLC, for property located at 12th Street Court East, Bradenton, Florida 34203, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 2
26. Acceptance and Recording of Special Warranty Deed from LF Manatee, LLC, for a portion of 5175 75th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34210, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager – District 4
27. Acceptance and Recording of Warranty Deed from Red Cast Lake Flores, LLC, for a portion of 4402 75th Street West, Bradenton, Florida 34210, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager – District 3
28. Execution and Recording of Easement to Florida Power and Light for the Washington Park Preserve Project, for property located at 3011 8th Avenue East, Palmetto, Florida 34221, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 2
29. Execution of a Commercial Right of Entry Agreement for the installation of a fiber optic data circuit with Charter Communications Operating, LLC, for the Manatee County Sheriff's Office Detention Facility, located at 2705 County Line Road, Palmetto, Florida 34206, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 1
30. Execution of a Non-Binding Letter of Agreement with the City of Bradenton for property located at 5502 33rd Avenue Drive West, Bradenton, Florida 34209, otherwise known as G.T. Bray Park, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 3 **Waterman**
31. Execution of Non-Residential Optional Supplemental Power Services Agreement and Execution of the Statement of Work with Florida Power & Light Company for 9000 Town Center Parkway, Eric Ausborn, Project Manager - District 5 **Hodges**
32. Execution of Site Access Agreement with the State of Florida, Department of Environmental Protection, concerning the Petroleum Restoration Program for the County Administration Building located at 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton Florida 34205, Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 3 **Monahan**
33. Execution, Recording, and Acceptance of Cross Drainage and Access Easement Agreement with East Manatee Fire Rescue District for property located in Myakka City, Florida 34251 – Peter Morrow, Property Acquisition Division Manager - District 1 **Monahan**

### **Public Works**

34. Execution of First Amendment and Reinstated Agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for Cow Pen Slough Watershed Management Plan (Q148), Kenneth Kohn, Sr. Project Engineer - Districts 1 and 5

35. Execution of First Amendment and Reinstated Agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for North Manatee County Watershed Management Plan (Q191), Kenneth Kohn, Sr. Project Engineer - Districts 1 and 2
36. Execution of First Amendment and Reinstated Agreement with the Southwest Florida Water Management District for the South Manatee County Watershed Management Plan (Q151), Kenneth Kohn, Sr. Project Engineer - Districts 2 and 5
37. Execution of Amendment #6 to Master Research Agreement C-23-023 Task Order No 1 with Florida Atlantic University, Kenneth Kohn, SR. Project Engineer - Countywide

### **Utilities**

38. Execution of Annual Joint Funding Agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey for FY 2026-2027, Patrick Shea, Utilities Director - District 1

## **I. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

## **J. CITIZEN COMMENTS (Consideration for Future Agenda Items - 30 Minute Time Limit)**

Each person will be limited to three (3) minutes. If the thirty (30) minute time period has been exhausted, the Board will entertain any remaining comments near the end of the meeting with the same three (3) minute per person time limitation.

## **K. ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA**

## **L. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS - LEGISLATIVE**

## **M. ADVERTISED PUBLIC HEARINGS - QUASI-JUDICIAL**

## **N. REGULAR**

### **Community and Veterans Services**

39. Adoption of Resolution R-26-051, approving the Mortgage Modification for Legacy Village I held with Community Assisted & Supported Living, Inc. (CASL), and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-XXX, Tracie Adams, Deputy Director of Community and Veterans Services - District 4
40. Appointment of member to the Affordable Housing Advisory Committee; and Adoption of Resolution R-26-052 appointing member to seat 11. Deborah Ash, Housing and Community Development Coordinator, Countywide.

## **O. REPORTS**

### **Property Management**

41. Trust for Public Land Conservation Finance Feasibility Study 2026 for Manatee County, Kara Koenig, Environmental Lands Program Section Manager - Countywide

## **P. COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Items for Discussion**

42. Naming of King Middle Park to Nick Bolletieri Park ***D'Agostino***
43. Termination of Agreement No. 23-TA004640JE for Federal Lobbying Services ***D'Agostino***
44. Tingley Library ***D'Agostino***

## **Q. CITIZEN COMMENTS (Continuation of Consideration for Future Agenda Items, if needed)**

## **R. COUNTY ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

## **S. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS**

## **T. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

## **U. ADJOURN**

The Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, does not discriminate on the basis of an individual's disability. Manatee County is committed to providing full access to facilities, programs, and services to all, as well as supporting the employment of qualified individuals with disabilities in its workforce in accordance with federal and state laws and regulations, including the Americans with Disabilities Acts of 1990 (ADA) and as amended ("ADAA"), and 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation for this meeting as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or assistance with accessing any of these documents, should contact Carmine DeMilio, ADA Compliance Coordinator, at (941) 748-4501, ext. 6016 or [carmine.demilio@mymanatee.org](mailto:carmine.demilio@mymanatee.org), at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled meeting. If you are deaf/hard of hearing and require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Florida Relay Service at 711.

The Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County and the Manatee County Port Authority may elect not to convene, if no business is scheduled; however, each reserves the right to take action on any matter during its meeting, including items not set forth within this agenda. The Chair of each governing body at his/her option may take business out of order if he/she determines that such a change in the schedule will expedite the business of the governing body.

All public comment on quasi-judicial agenda items is required to be under oath and must occur at a duly noticed public hearing. The Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda is not an advertised public hearing, and no comments on quasi-judicial agenda items are authorized during the Citizens' Comments portion of the agenda.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:** According to Florida Statutes, Section 286.0105, any person desiring to appeal any decision made by the Board of County Commissioners (or the other entities that are meeting) with respect to any matter considered at said public hearing/meeting will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purposes may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.



May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

**Subject**

Updates to Agenda - April 28, 2026

**Category**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Briefings**

None

**Contact and/or Presenter Information**

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

**Action Requested**

Updates incorporated appropriately

**Enabling/Regulating Authority**

N/A

**Applicable Advisory Board**

N/A

**Background Discussion**

Below are agenda updates (dated 4/28/26) for the meeting May 5, 2026:

**COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS**

Items for Discussion

Item 45, Onsite visit and report from the University of Florida concerning the Bishop Kennels

- This agenda item was added to the Agenda.

**Attorney Review**

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

**Instructions to Board Records**

N/A

**Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name**

N/A

**Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs – N/A**

## **GENERIC PUBLIC COMMENTS - COUNTRY CLUB EAST PARK**

**From:** Lindsay Markun <[lindsaymarkun@gmail.com](mailto:lindsaymarkun@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 6:07 PM

**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal.siddique@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal.siddique@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Charlie Bishop <[charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org](mailto:charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org)>; PublicWorks Maintenance <[publicworks.maintenance@mymanatee.org](mailto:publicworks.maintenance@mymanatee.org)>; Nicole Knapp <[nicole.knapp@mymanatee.org](mailto:nicole.knapp@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Stephanie Charles <[stephanie.charles@mymanatee.org](mailto:stephanie.charles@mymanatee.org)>; [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [chapman3k@manateeschools.net](mailto:chapman3k@manateeschools.net); [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net)

**Subject:** Closure of park next to Willis Elementary on May 1st

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the projected closure of the park adjacent to the Willis Elementary School campus, currently scheduled to begin on May 1st for the construction of new Little League fields.

While the development of youth sports facilities is a positive goal for our community, the timing of this specific closure poses significant logistical and safety risks. I am formally requesting that the county delay the start of construction until after the school year concludes on May 28, 2026.

The implementation of this closure with only four weeks of school remaining creates several critical issues:

- **Traffic Congestion:** The removal of the park as a dismissal and gathering point will immediately force a higher volume of traffic into the school's immediate vicinity. The sudden shift in traffic patterns during the final month of school will inevitably lead to gridlock on surrounding roads including The Masters Ave and Lorraine Rd.
- **Student Safety:** Forcing students and parents to abandon established walking and gathering routes in favor of unfinished "new pathways" creates unnecessary confusion. A end of year change to arrival and dismissal procedures increases the risk of accidents during the busiest times of the day.
- **Operational Strain:** Implementing and enforcing entirely new dismissal maps for a mere 20 days of instruction is an inefficient use of school and district resources.

By delaying construction by just four weeks, Manatee County can ensure that the transition occurs during the summer months when student foot traffic is non-existent. This would allow the school and the district ample time to finalize, test, and communicate new safety protocols without the pressure of an active school calendar.

I urge Manatee County to prioritize the safety of our students and the stability of our daily traffic flow by postponing this project until after school ends May 28th. Thank you for your time and for your consideration of the safety of the Willis Elementary community.

Sincerely,  
Lindsay Markun  
[LindsayMarkun@gmail.com](mailto:LindsayMarkun@gmail.com)  
954-598-3629

**From:** Nicole Delaney <[nonorato@gmail.com](mailto:nonorato@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 10:40 PM  
**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal.siddique@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal.siddique@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Charlie Bishop <[charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org](mailto:charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org)>; PublicWorks Maintenance <[publicworks.maintenance@mymanatee.org](mailto:publicworks.maintenance@mymanatee.org)>; Nicole Knapp <[nicole.knapp@mymanatee.org](mailto:nicole.knapp@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Stephanie Charles <[stephanie.charles@mymanatee.org](mailto:stephanie.charles@mymanatee.org)>; [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [chapman3k@manateeschools.net](mailto:chapman3k@manateeschools.net); [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net)  
**Subject:** Closure of Country Club East Park

Dear Commissioners,

I'm reaching out to share my concerns about the planned closure of the park next to Willis Elementary, which is currently set to begin May 1st for the construction of new Little League fields.

I fully support investing in youth sports and improving our community spaces, but the timing of this closure raises some real concerns. With only a few weeks left in the school year, I'm asking that the county consider pushing the start of construction back until after school ends on May 28, 2026.

Closing the park with just four weeks remaining creates a few immediate challenges:

Traffic is going to become an issue. That park currently serves as a key pickup and gathering area, and removing it will push even more cars directly into the school zone. Roads like The Masters Ave and Lorraine Rd are already busy, and this sudden change will likely cause major congestion during dismissal.

Safety is another concern. Families and students have established routines for walking and pickup, and changing those right at the end of the school year—especially with new or unfinished pathways—can create confusion and increase the risk of accidents during the busiest times of day.

There's also the strain on the school itself. Rolling out entirely new dismissal procedures for just a few weeks doesn't seem like the best use of time or resources for staff or the district.

Delaying the project by a few weeks would allow this transition to happen over the summer when students aren't on campus. That gives everyone time to properly plan, communicate, and implement any changes safely and effectively.

I'm asking that the county take a closer look at the timing and consider postponing construction until after May 28th, with student safety and traffic flow in mind.

Thank you for your time and consideration.  
Nicole Delaney

*Please excuse typos... Sent from a tiny keyboard!*

**From:** Jennifer Beirau <[jenlynn1213@gmail.com](mailto:jenlynn1213@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 11:27 PM

**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal.siddique@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal.siddique@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Charlie Bishop <[charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org](mailto:charlie.bishop@mymanatee.org)>; PublicWorks Maintenance <[publicworks.maintenance@mymanatee.org](mailto:publicworks.maintenance@mymanatee.org)>; Nicole Knapp <[nicole.knapp@mymanatee.org](mailto:nicole.knapp@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[Molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:Molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Stephanie Charles <[stephanie.charles@mymanatee.org](mailto:stephanie.charles@mymanatee.org)>; Tatem, Richard <[tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net)>; [chapman3k@manateeschools.net](mailto:chapman3k@manateeschools.net); [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net)

**Subject:** Request to Delay Country Club East Park Closure

Good evening,

I am a parent of two Willis Elementary students. Our Principal has informed us that per Manatee County the Country Club East Park, one of our school's daily dismissal options, is scheduled to close May 1, 2026 for construction of the ball fields.

I am requesting an immediate delay of this closure until the end of the school year.

Closing the park now will force all park-pickup families into car rider lines, adding significant vehicle traffic to The Masters Ave in both directions. This creates a real safety concern with no time for the school to plan an alternative.

The project has already waited, 28 more days is a reasonable ask. Please allow our students to finish the school year with the current dismissal process in place, and give administration the summer to develop a safe, workable solution.

We are also about to begin PM3 FAST testing, a milestone staff and students have worked toward all year. I'd ask that we keep their focus on finishing strong rather than diverting time to developing and implementing new dismissal procedures this late in the school year.

Thank you!  
Jennifer Beirau

**From:** Carolyn Bowerman <[cbowerman28@gmail.com](mailto:cbowerman28@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 1:06 PM  
**To:** Robert McCann <[Drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:Drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>  
**Cc:** Tal Siddique <[Tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:Tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[George.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:George.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[Jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:Jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[Mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:Mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[Amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:Amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[Molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:Molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net); [breslin2@manateeschools.net](mailto:breslin2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [Kennedy2c@mymanateeschools.net](mailto:Kennedy2c@mymanateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net)  
**Subject:** URGENT: Lack of transparency and safety concerns regarding Country Club Park closure

Dear Manatee County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to you as an incredibly frustrated and concerned parent of three students at Willis Elementary. The recent handling of the new baseball field construction project has been characterized by a stunning lack of transparency and a total disregard for the families who call this community home.

At Willis, we have built a tight-knit community, much of which centers on our access to the county park after school. This park is not just a playground; it is where our children exercise and bond before heading home for dinner. By mandating a **May 1st park closure**—with only three weeks of school remaining—you are unilaterally dismantling a vital part of our children's daily wellness and routine.

More importantly, you are creating a massive logistical and legal crisis for parents:

- **Blocking Access to Education:** Families in Country Club East, The Lake Club, and the Isles are not zoned for buses. By eliminating our children's ability to walk home, the county is essentially blocking access to public education. You cannot realistically expect parents to leave work at 2:45 PM every day because "drive-up" is now the only option.
- **Violation of Parental Rights:** Under **Florida Statute 1014**, parents have the right to determine how their children are picked up. By removing both busing and walking options, Manatee County is creating an "unreasonable barrier" to that right.

During today's PTO meeting (April 22), several deeply concerning details came to light that suggest a "cloak and dagger" approach to this project. We have questions regarding a potential conflict of interest involving project management and the Little League board, as well as the suspicious rushing of this timeline following the passing of Commissioner Carol Felt.

**While the parents of Willis Elementary are not looking for a fight with Manatee County, we will absolutely take one on to protect the best interests of our**

**children.** We would far prefer a collaborative solution that respects our community's safety and rights, but we will not sit idly by while our children's education and well-being are treated as an afterthought.

Our second-grade building sits directly adjacent to the construction site. These seven-year-olds are about to undergo high-stakes state testing that determines their future educational path. **Will they be forced to test while heavy machinery demolishes land next to their windows?**

If the county truly cared about its citizens, it would not mandate a massive transportation overhaul during the final month of school. **There is no reason this project cannot be pushed to June 1, 2026.**

We demand that the Board of Commissioners:

- Delay the park closure and construction until **June 1st**.
- Provide a clear, safe walking path for students for the duration of the build.
- Meet with the concerned parents of Willis Elementary to provide clear answers.

Our children are the community's most valuable asset. It is time they are treated as a priority rather than an inconvenience to a construction schedule.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Bowerman Concerned Parent & Manatee County Resident

**From:** Eleni Gagnon <[eleni@theabscompany.com](mailto:eleni@theabscompany.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 2:49 PM

**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

**Cc:** [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net); Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** Willis Elementary - May 1st: Country Club East Park Closure

**\*\*Sorry realized a few members were left off accidentally!\*\***

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing as both a parent at Willis Elementary and a local resident to ask that the county push back the park closure — currently scheduled for May 1st — until after the school year ends on May 28, 2026. I'd also ask that the walker system be fully restored and operational before students return in August.

I'm genuinely excited about the new Little League fields and all for investing in youth sports. Starting construction with four weeks of school left is going to cause some real headaches.

- The park is where a lot of families gather and pick up their kids. Take it out of the equation, and all that traffic gets funneled straight into the school zone. The Masters Ave and Lorraine Rd are already packed at dismissal — this would make it worse, fast.
- There's a safety piece too. Families have their walking routes and pickup routines dialed in, and changing everything in the final weeks — especially around active construction — is a recipe for confusion and near-misses at the worst time of day.
- Asking the school to roll out brand-new dismissal procedures for just a few weeks feels like a lot of effort for very little payoff.

With our recent PTO meeting, It's also worth noting that certain county departments have been invited to meetings at the school to discuss exactly these issues — and have failed to show up. That's part of why I'm writing directly. Decisions of this size shouldn't be made without the people most affected at the table.

Pushing the start to after May 28th changes everything. The summer gives crews, the county, and the school the space to plan this properly — and it gives families time to adjust. It also means we can head into August with a walker system that's fully back up

and running. That's not a detail to figure out later; it's the deadline the whole timeline should be built around.

I'd appreciate a written response confirming whether the county will reconsider the May 1st start date, and I'd welcome the chance to meet — along with other parents and school staff — to walk through these concerns in person.

Thank you for your time,

Eleni

Eleni Gagnon  
Director of Finance | **The Abs Company**

**P:** 866-219-5335 x 107 (Toll Free)

**E:** [Eleni@theabscompany.com](mailto:Eleni@theabscompany.com) **W:** [www.theabscompany.com](http://www.theabscompany.com)

**From:** Ashley Lluberes <[ashleylluberes@gmail.com](mailto:ashleylluberes@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 3:58 PM

**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net); [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net)

**Subject:** Country Club East/ Willis Elementary Park Closure Concerns

Dear Manatee County Board of Commissioners,

I write on behalf of concerned parents of students at Willis Elementary regarding the planned closure of the adjacent public park and construction of baseball fields beginning May 1, 2026. This plan raises significant legal, safety, and procedural concerns that warrant immediate review.

First, eliminating a pedestrian route without a formal hazardous walking conditions determination appears inconsistent with Florida Statute 1006.23, which requires a documented evaluation and joint inspection before deeming a route unsafe. Restricting access absent this process raises compliance concerns.

Second, if the route is deemed unsafe, the obligation to provide transportation is triggered under Florida Statutes 1006.21 and 1002.20. As currently understood, the plan removes both walking access and practical transportation options, creating a barrier to school access for affected families.

Third, closing a public park without clear communication regarding scope, duration, or future access raises concerns about transparency and public trust.

Fourth, the plan will likely worsen already significant dismissal traffic by shifting students from walking to car pickup, creating additional safety risks.

Fifth, the proximity of construction to active classrooms—particularly during the final weeks of school and state testing—raises concerns related to noise, distraction, and student safety.

Overall, these actions reflect a lack of coordinated planning across infrastructure, safety, and school operations.

We respectfully request that the Board:

- Delay park closure and construction until June 1, 2026
- Confirm whether a hazardous walking conditions determination has been completed and initiate one if not

- Ensure compliant transportation provisions if pedestrian access is restricted
- Provide a clear plan for park access during and after construction
- Implement traffic and pedestrian safety measures prior to any closure
- Engage directly with affected families

We hope to resolve these concerns collaboratively.

Respectfully,  
Ashley Lluberes

**From:** Shawnie McLaughlin <[shawnie@wisorsoftware.com](mailto:shawnie@wisorsoftware.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 5:37 PM

**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

**Subject:** How are our children supposed to walk home with Country Club East Park Closure

Yesterday Willis Elementary School parents received an email saying starting May 1st Country Club East Park will be closed to Willis Elementary School Children. Is this true? This would impact 200 + kids using the walker program (this number was provided by our principle today). Many parents are just hearing about this for the first time. A newspaper was at the park today interviewing parents who were completely surprised.

We had a PTO meeting with the principle today and she has no direction about this project. If the park will be open, what is the time line? What about hazardous materials being projected into the air while our kids are in school? How are our kids supposed to get home if there is no place for them to walk home?

The communication from the county to us parents has been beyond unprofessional. We would like a representative to come to the school, hear parents concerns and provide more information.

At the very least the county should have considered this and there should be a method for walkers to safely walk home and you should address our concerns about dust and construction debris being omitted by our children while they are in school. I really hope you all thought about this as you've made alot of children extremely sad they are losing their park.

Thank you,

Shawnie McLaughlin  
Parent of 2 children who are walkers at Willis Elementary School

**From:** Jason M. Weinandy, Esq. <[jmweinandy@gmail.com](mailto:jmweinandy@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:01 PM

**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net); [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net)

**Subject:** Urgent Concerns: Loss of Safe Walking Access for Students at Willis Elementary

Dear Members of the Manatee County Board of Commissioners,  
I am writing regarding the already-approved plan to convert the park adjacent to Willis Elementary into baseball fields. While I understand the decision has been made, I want to clearly communicate the very real and immediate impact this will have on students and families—specifically the loss of safe walking access after school.

#### **Loss of Walker Access for Students**

Today, many children safely walk from school to the adjacent park as part of their daily routine. This provides a structured, safe, and supervised transition between school and home. With the park being converted into organized baseball fields, that informal but critical access point disappears. Children will no longer have a safe, nearby place to go, effectively eliminating the ability for many students to be designated as “walkers.”

#### **Forcing Increased Car Pickups**

As a direct result, families will have no practical choice but to pick up their children by car. This is not a minor inconvenience—it fundamentally shifts how dismissal operates for a large portion of the school population. Parents who previously relied on walking arrangements will now be forced into the car line system.

#### **Compounding Traffic and Safety Issues**

This change will significantly increase the number of vehicles at dismissal. School pick-up lines are already strained, and adding more cars will create longer delays, more congestion, and heightened safety risks for students, staff, and drivers. What was once a manageable system will become overcrowded and inefficient.

#### **Impact on Families and Daily Life**

For working families, this change creates real logistical challenges. Parents may need to adjust work schedules, arrange additional childcare, or face longer daily delays just to accommodate a required pickup. What was once a simple and safe routine becomes a daily burden.

#### **Student Independence and Well-Being**

Allowing children to walk to a nearby park promotes independence, physical activity, and social interaction. Removing that option limits those benefits and replaces them with increased time spent waiting in car lines. This is a step backward for student well-being.

Given that the decision has already been made, I strongly urge the Board to address this unintended consequence proactively. At a minimum, there should be a clear plan to

preserve safe pedestrian access for students or provide an alternative designated walking area that maintains the current level of safety and convenience.

This is not simply about park usage—it is about how children safely transition from school each day and how families manage their routines. I respectfully ask that this issue be revisited with urgency and that solutions be considered before these impacts are felt by the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Weinandy

Attorney at Law

From: Melissa Weinandy <[mweyhmueller@yahoo.com](mailto:mweyhmueller@yahoo.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:17 PM  
To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>  
Cc: [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net)  
Subject: Please Delay the Willis Elementary Park Closure Until After May 28th

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a parent at Willis Elementary and a local resident to ask the county to delay the park closure -- scheduled for May 1st -- until after the school year ends on May 28, 2026.

Starting construction with four weeks of school left will push traffic straight into an already-congested school zone, disrupt established pickup and walking routes, and force the school to roll out new dismissal procedures for just a few weeks.

Waiting until summer gives everyone time to plan this properly. Just as important: the walker system must be fully restored before school starts in August. That is non-negotiable -- a significant number of our kids rely on it to get to and from campus safely.

Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

Sent from my iPhone

From: Cesar Lluberres <[cesarlluberres@gmail.com](mailto:cesarlluberres@gmail.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:21 PM

To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

Cc: [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net)

Subject: Please Delay the Willis Elementary Park Closure Until After May 28th

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a parent at Willis Elementary and a local resident to ask the county to delay the park closure -- scheduled for May 1st -- until after the school year ends on May 28, 2026.

Starting construction with four weeks of school left will push traffic straight into an already-congested school zone, disrupt established pickup and walking routes, and force the school to roll out new dismissal procedures for just a few weeks.

Waiting until summer gives everyone time to plan this properly. Just as important: the walker system must be fully restored before school starts in August. That is non-negotiable -- a significant number of our kids rely on it to get to and from campus safely.

Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

Cesar Lluberres

From: [saragapin@yahoo.com](mailto:saragapin@yahoo.com) <[saragapin@yahoo.com](mailto:saragapin@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:41 PM

To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

Cc: [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net)

Subject: Please Delay the Willis Elementary Park Closure Until After May 28th

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a parent at Willis Elementary and a local resident to ask the county to delay the park closure -- scheduled for May 1st -- until after the school year ends on May 28, 2026.

Starting construction with four weeks of school left will push traffic straight into an already-congested school zone, disrupt established pickup and walking routes, and force the school to roll out new dismissal procedures for just a few weeks.

Waiting until summer gives everyone time to plan this properly. Just as important: the walker system must be fully restored before school starts in August. That is non-negotiable -- a significant number of our kids rely on it to get to and from campus safely.

Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,  
Sara Gapin

Sent from my iPhone

From: Sharon Hopkins <[sharonvhopkins@me.com](mailto:sharonvhopkins@me.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:45 PM

To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

Cc: [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net)

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Waiting until summer gives everyone time to plan this properly. Just as important: the walker system must be fully restored before school starts in August. That is non-negotiable -- a significant number of our kids rely on it to get to and from campus safely.

Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

From: Tracy Holman <[scrpqgirl23@aol.com](mailto:scrpqgirl23@aol.com)>  
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 8:52 PM  
To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>  
Cc: [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net)  
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Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

Tracy Holman  
(941) 350-8776

**From:** Tina Ning <[tinafning@gmail.com](mailto:tinafning@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 9:39 PM  
**To:** Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>  
**Cc:** Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>; Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net); [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net)  
**Subject:** Willis Elementary Dismissal Changes: Urgent Concerns from Affected Families

Dear Manatee County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned parent of two students at Willis Elementary regarding the planned closure of the county park on May 1 for the baseball field construction project. The current timeline and communication around this decision raise significant concerns for families in our community.

The park plays an important role in our children's daily routine. It provides a safe, accessible space for physical activity and social interaction immediately after school. Closing it with only a few weeks remaining in the school year creates an abrupt and unnecessary disruption to that routine.

More critically, the closure creates immediate transportation challenges. Families in Country Club East, The Lake Club, and the Isles are not eligible for bus service and rely on the ability for their children to walk home. Removing this option leaves parents with no practical alternative but daily car pickup, which is not feasible for many working families. This effectively creates a barrier to consistent access to school.

Additionally, under Florida Statute 1014, parents have the right to determine how their children are transported. Eliminating both walking and busing options places an unreasonable limitation on that right.

Concerns were also raised during the April 22 PTO meeting about the lack of clear communication surrounding this project, including questions about project oversight and the timing of recent decisions. These concerns would benefit from direct clarification.

There are also immediate academic considerations. Second-grade classrooms are located adjacent to the construction site, and students are entering a period of state testing. The potential impact of noise and disruption on young students during this time should be carefully considered.

Given these factors, the current timeline does not appear to reflect the practical needs of students and families. A short delay would significantly reduce the impact without compromising the project overall.

I respectfully request that the Board:

- Delay the park closure and start of construction until June 1, 2026.
- Maintain or establish a safe walking route for students during the project.
- Provide clear, transparent communication and meet with Willis Elementary families to address these concerns.

This situation can be resolved in a way that supports both the project goals and the well-being of students. I urge the Board to take these concerns into account and adjust the plan accordingly.

Sincerely,  
Tina Ning

From: Erin Clougherty <[clougherty.erin@icloud.com](mailto:clougherty.erin@icloud.com)>

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 9:25 PM

To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

Cc: [BreslinL2@manateeschools.net](mailto:BreslinL2@manateeschools.net); [feltonh2@manateeschools.net](mailto:feltonh2@manateeschools.net); [sprayc5@manateeschools.net](mailto:sprayc5@manateeschools.net); [kennedy2c@manateeschools.net](mailto:kennedy2c@manateeschools.net); [choatew2@manateeschools.net](mailto:choatew2@manateeschools.net); [tatemr@manateeschools.net](mailto:tatemr@manateeschools.net); [carsonj2@manateeschools.net](mailto:carsonj2@manateeschools.net)

Subject: Please Delay the Willis Elementary Park Closure Until After May 28th

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as a parent at Willis Elementary and a local resident to ask the county to delay the park closure -- scheduled for May 1st -- until after the school year ends on May 28, 2026.

Starting construction with four weeks of school left will push traffic straight into an already-congested school zone, disrupt established pickup and walking routes, and force the school to roll out new dismissal procedures for just a few weeks.

Waiting until summer gives everyone time to plan this properly. Just as important: the walker system must be fully restored before school starts in August. That is non-negotiable -- a significant number of our kids rely on it to get to and from campus safely.

Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

Erin Wurtz

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Sam McHugh <[sketchum.rose@gmail.com](mailto:sketchum.rose@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 9:58 PM

**To:** Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

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Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

Sam McHugh

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** Sahar Pamela Shirzadi <[saharpamela@gmail.com](mailto:saharpamela@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 22, 2026 10:01 PM

**To:** Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

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**Subject:** Request for Construction Delay Near Willis Elementary

Dear Manatee County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing as a concerned parent of two students who currently attend Willis Elementary regarding the recently announced and sooner-than-expected construction of Little League fields adjacent to the school campus.

While we expected these fields to be constructed at some point in the near future, we are deeply concerned about the timing of the construction and its immediate impact on the students, staff, and families of Willis Elementary. We respectfully request that construction be delayed until after May 28th once the school year has concluded.

Our primary concern centers on the disruption to the children's learning environment. Active construction brings significant noise, dust, and debris, all of which can negatively affect students' ability to focus and learn. Additionally, air quality concerns during this time are especially troubling, as young children are more sensitive to airborne particles and environmental changes.

At a PTO meeting today, it was shared that commissioners have been invited to attend several meetings with Willis staff and parents but have declined those invitations. This is concerning, as open communication is critical in situations that directly impact students and families. We strongly believe that moving forward, it would be beneficial for all parties involved and affected to come together for a collaborative discussion. Hearing directly from school staff, parents, and community members would provide a more complete understanding of the real-time impact from all perspectives and help foster a more thoughtful and balanced approach.

We believe that delaying construction by a few short weeks is a reasonable and thoughtful compromise that prioritizes the safety, health, and educational experience of the children currently attending Willis Elementary, while still allowing the project to move forward in the near future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. We would greatly appreciate any opportunity to further discuss these concerns and explore solutions that best serve both the students and the broader community throughout this project.

Sincerely,  
Pam Shirzadi  
Parent of Willis Elementary Students

From: Andrea Kosmalski <[a.kosmalski0323@gmail.com](mailto:a.kosmalski0323@gmail.com)>

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 7:40 AM

To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

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Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,

Andrea Kosmalski

From: Sarah Verasco <[sarahverasco@gmail.com](mailto:sarahverasco@gmail.com)>

Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 7:44 AM

To: Molly White <[molly.white@mymanatee.org](mailto:molly.white@mymanatee.org)>; Robert McCann <[drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org](mailto:drbob.mccann@mymanatee.org)>; Tal Siddique <[tal@mymanatee.org](mailto:tal@mymanatee.org)>; George Kruse <[george.kruse@mymanatee.org](mailto:george.kruse@mymanatee.org)>; Jason Bearden <[jason.bearden@mymanatee.org](mailto:jason.bearden@mymanatee.org)>; Mike Rahn <[mike.rahn@mymanatee.org](mailto:mike.rahn@mymanatee.org)>; Amanda Ballard <[amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org](mailto:amanda.ballard@mymanatee.org)>

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Please reconsider the May 1st start date.

Thank you,  
Sarah Verasco

Sent from my iPhone



## May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

### **Subject**

Updates to Agenda - May 1, 2026

### **Category**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Briefings**

None

### **Contact and/or Presenter Information**

Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

### **Action Requested**

Updates incorporated appropriately

### **Enabling/Regulating Authority – N/A**

### **Applicable Advisory Board – N/A**

### **Background Discussion**

Below are agenda updates (dated 5/1/26) for the meeting of May 5, 2026:

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Generic Public Comments

- This agenda item was updated with an additional generic comment.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### Financial Management

Item 19, Execution of Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Addendum No. 1 to Agreement No. 25-TA005866JH for Blake Hospital Alternate Water Line, and Adoption of Budget Amendment Resolution B-26-075, Eddy Zappacosta, Project Manager - District 3

- This agenda item was updated with a revised Action Requested to include accepting and dating the Public Construction Bond (in strikethrough/underline format).

### **COMMISSIONER AGENDA ITEMS**

#### Items for Discussion

Item 46, Suncoast Prosper

- This agenda item was updated with a revised Cover Sheet and Agreement and additional attachments.

**Attorney Review**

Not Reviewed (No apparent legal issues)

**Instructions to Board Records**

N/A

**Cost and Funds Source Account Number and Name**

N/A

**Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs**

N/A



May 5, 2026 - Regular Meeting

**Subject**

Updates to Agenda - May 1, 2026

**Category**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Briefings**

None

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Bobbi Roy, Agenda Division Supervisor, ext 6878

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**Amount and Frequency of Recurring Costs**

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# Public Comment

Submitted On: May 1, 2026, 11:43AM EDT

Manatee County Government

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>First Name:</b> William <b>Last Name:</b> Lewis
<b>Email</b>	billewis78@gmail.com
<b>Which meeting is this public comment for? (Please select date of meeting)</b>	May 05, 2026
<b>Topic/Agenda Item</b>	Environmental Lands
<b>Comment</b>	Please do all you can to increase funding for environmental lands acquisition. We are at a critical juncture to protect all we can before it is gone. Once a natural area is cleared it takes up to several hundred years for it to be fully restored.