



September 29, 2017

RE: Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. (SANCA) Quarterly Update
(Quarter 1, Fiscal Year 2017-2018)

Dear County Commissioners and Staff,

In accordance with the License and Operating Agreement between Sarasota County and Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates, Inc. BC Contact No. 2014-280, attached is the annual schedule of events with estimated attendance as of September 29, 2017 as required in Section 1.12.4. This report details the events occurring throughout the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Below is a general update on the park and SANCA operations:

1. Events and Training

It was a fantastic year at Nathan Benderson Park! At the conclusion of the fourth quarter, we hosted just under fifty events and welcomed teams to train on the waters of NBP, Fort Hamer, Blackburn Point, and Bay Preserve eighty times this year (over 2,500 athletes). Thirty-seven of these teams came from around the world to train prior to the World Rowing Championships.

This year, the 2016 USRowing Youth National Championships, FSRA Sculling and Sweep Championships, and the Sarasota Invitational Regatta were the highlights of the larger regattas that took place at NBP. These brought a high volume of youth and adults from throughout Florida and the United States to the Sarasota-Bradenton area. In addition to regattas, we hosted numerous local events from walks, runs, and bike rides, like Pedal for Pups, the Promise Walk for Preeclampsia, and the Superhero 5k, to festivals like Beer, Boats, and Bacon, My Hometown Fest, and Sip the Sunshine. Sarasota County's Chalk the Park event was a big hit with the community along with SANCA's very own Family Movie Nights and our first annual Fireworks Festival!

Of course, the major event of the year was the 2017 World Rowing Championships. This nine-day event has been years in the making. At the time of this report, we are just wrapping up the final days of the championships. Years of hard work and planning have paid off as we saw nearly 10,000 people converge on Regatta Island for Opening Ceremonies. Each day has brought new life to the venue and has provided unique opportunities to witness the international camaraderie amongst each team. The SANCA team is honored to be a part of this amazing event that has put the Sarasota-Bradenton area on the world's stage.

The 2017-2018 season is gearing up to be another great year of events at NBP. With over fifty events in the works (including NCAA Championships and the World Rowing Masters Regatta), new event requests coming in consistently, and



the Finish Tower bookings beginning to take off, this year is sure to be a huge success.

2. SANCA Staff Updates

SANCA welcomed Stephen V. Rodriguez as the new president and CEO in August of this year. Stephen comes to us from the Florida Sports Foundation with a healthy background of sports and event management and a fresh approach to the future of Nathan Benderson Park. A review of the SANCA staffing pattern will be completed and a determination will be made regarding any need for reorganization.

3. Programming, Rentals, and Camps

The programs at NBP continue to garner new participants. Our new Coached Rowing program has taken off and provides experienced adults with the ability to row in a group setting on a regular basis. Consideration is being given to upcoming holiday camps and we will be working toward providing a full-day camp next summer. The Program Department continues to look at new opportunities to provide the community with exciting new ways to improve health and wellness.

4. Capital Update

The Benderson Family Finish Tower has been completed and is being utilized as planned for regattas and events.

Funding is being sought to move forward with a Boat House/Event Center to be erected on Regatta Island.

The DEO's \$2.5M grant projects have been completed as needed for the 2017 World Rowing Championships including the following as detailed in the 2016-2017 Q4 report:

Honore Entrance - Invasive trees have been removed along Athletes Drive from the Honore entrance. A new fence was installed once the trees were removed. At the entrance, new landscaping has been put in place, along with new irrigation lines.

Pontoons - New launch and recovery and award docks have been installed on the south end and west side of Regatta Island. The launch and recovery docks are anchored to new concrete abutments. The addition of these docks provides the necessary space for larger events and regattas to have ample access to put boats in the water.



Para Start Dock - The para start dock purchase gives the park the ability to stage races at any length without extensive hours of labor. The new dock locks into place at any area along the 2,000-meter race course creating flexibility of the length of races for para racing and high school distances. A portion of the docks, when locked into place, can be submerged allowing the boats to get into position.

Finish Tower Parking - The parking area in front of the newly constructed Finish Tower offers paved parking spaces in a lighted parking lot. Each of the poles for lighting will also include a speaker system to provide a uniform sound level for attendees at each event.

Wave Attenuator Bridge - This bridge completes and connects the wave attenuator to land at the south end of the park and enable boats to easily pass underneath from the warm-up area to the race course. The bridge also provides access for judges, race officials, and media to access the wave attenuator from the south end during regattas.

Automated Timing System with Bubble Line and Start Light System - The automated starting system includes integrated timing and a bow holding alignment system for international rowing and kayak competitions. It combines the international method of starting with race timing, split timing, and finish line indicator which enhances the athlete and spectator experience.

Starter's Pavilion - The Starter's Pavilion is located at the beginning of the race course and will provide a covered area for race officials. When not in use for races, the pavilion will be available for small groups and family outings.

A/V Cabling and Electrical Lighting - Lines have been run though newly installed conduit along Regatta Island providing continuous cabling and electrical lines for Wi-Fi services, as well as enhanced electrical capabilities.

This has been an amazing year at Nathan Benderson Park. We continue to draw in new events that bring prestige to the Sarasota-Bradenton area, as well as increase the sense of community by working with local non-profits to host wonderful events that support so many worthy causes. We are looking forward to the upcoming year and all of the excitement it is expected to bring. As always, the SANCA team is proud to be a part of this world class facility and honored to have the opportunity to manage Nathan Benderson Park.

Sincerely,

Stephen V. Rodriguez
President/CEO, SANCA