

## **Part 4. Public Records Request Policy**

### **4.0 PURPOSE.**<sup>153</sup>

Barefoot Bay Recreation District ("BBRD") is committed to the tenets set forth in Chapter 119, Florida Statutes, governing access to public records, also known as Florida's Public Records Act.

The purpose of this Policy is to provide guidelines and procedures for BBRD staff to assure compliance and uniformity with regard to handling of requests for inspection and copies of public records not exempted by state law.

To the extent that any term is not specifically defined herein, the definitions pursuant to Sec. 119.011, F.S. shall apply to any request for public records submitted to BBRD.

### **4.1 PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST PROCEDURE.**

#### ***A. Intake of Request.***

1. Parties requesting to inspect and/or receive copies of public records maintained by BBRD ("Requesting Parties") shall be directed to submit their requests to the BBRD Clerk who shall serve as the BBRD Records Custodian.
2. Upon receipt of a public records request, the BBRD Clerk shall coordinate the response.
3. Each request shall be reviewed carefully by the BBRD Clerk to determine the estimated length of time required to gather the records. All requests shall be satisfied as expeditiously as possible considering the nature and volume of the request.
4. Public records will be made available within a "reasonable period of time" and "under reasonable conditions." Although there is no statutory definition of this time period, a "reasonable period of time" and "reasonable conditions" shall take into account the number of documents sought; the number of locations where the documents are stored; whether the records are maintained electronically or as hard copies; whether the documents must be examined for confidential information or redacted; and whether substantial research will be required to identify, obtain and copy the records requested.
5. The BBRD Clerk must review the documents to determine if exempt/confidential information or material is included in the documents requested. Exempt/confidential information as provided pursuant to the Florida Constitution or Chapter 119, F.S., must be redacted prior to review by, or distribution to, the requesting party.
6. Unless otherwise provided by law, BBRD is not required to create new records in response to a request for information, nor is BBRD required to reformat its records in a particular electronic format, if requested by the requesting party. BBRD will provide a copy of the record in the medium requested, if BBRD maintains the record in that medium. BBRD may also elect to provide a copy of a public record in the requested medium, if not routinely used in BBRD, and charge a reasonable fee in accordance with section 119.07(4), Florida Statutes and as provided herein.

#### ***B. Notification and Response.***

1. When a response to a records request has been completed, the requesting party shall be notified of the availability of the copied records, if any, and the location where the documents will be made available. Notification shall be made by telephone and/or email, if the email address of the requesting party is known. Any email notification sent by the BBRD Clerk shall be stored in an electronic file pertaining to the public records request. If a telephone notification is the only notification provided, the BBRD Clerk shall make an email record of the date and time of the telephonic notification and store the email in an electronic file set up for the public records request.

2. The BBRD Clerk shall collect the required fee as outlined in Paragraph 4.3 of this policy prior to providing requested copies of public records to a requesting party. Upon payment and delivery of such records, the BBRD clerk shall deliver a written receipt for the amount paid. The receipt shall provide a short description of the documents being provided and shall specify the number of hard copy pages, DVD's, CD's, VHS, or audio tapes delivered to the requesting person.
3. In instances where electronic records are requested/provided, a copy of the email with the responsive documents shall be maintained by the BBRD Clerk as evidence of compliance with the request. Any BBRD employee sending a responsive email with documents attached shall copy the BBRD Clerk with the responsive email.
4. The BBRD Clerk or is required to maintain an agency copy of a response to a public records request for a period of one year after the response has been received by the requesting party. General Records Schedule GS I-SL, Item 23, requires a minimum of one year retention for public information requests and responses. In this way, BBRD will have proof of compliance and the ability to re-inspect the response, if questioned.

#### ***C. Public Record Inspections.***

1. Inspections of Public Records may take place at any time throughout the workday, generally Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, except holidays.
2. BBRD must have an employee present to monitor all scheduled records inspections.
3. The BBRD Clerk is responsible for providing safeguards to protect original public records during any scheduled inspection.

#### **4.2 REQUESTS FOR VOLUMINOUS RECORDS REQUIRING EXTENSIVE STAFF TIME/EXTENSIVE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES.**

For the purposes of this policy, a "voluminous" request, which requires "extensive" use of clerical or supervisory assistance/information technology resources by BBRD staff for response, is deemed to exist if BBRD staff will be required to expend more than thirty (30) minutes researching, reviewing, gathering, redacting, or copying the requested records.

1. If the nature or volume of public records requested to be inspected or copied pursuant to this policy is such as to require extensive use of information technology resources or extensive clerical or supervisory assistance by BBRD staff, BBRD may charge the actual cost incurred for duplication as provided in Paragraph 4.3 of this policy, as well as a special reasonable service charge based on the cost incurred for extensive use of information technology resources or the labor cost attributable to the clerical and supervisory assistance required to provide the response to the request.
2. In the case of requests for voluminous as described above, the BBRD Clerk should provide the requesting party with a written response providing the following information after coordinating a projected response time and cost with the applicable BBRD staff members who will assist in the preparing the response:
  - A. an estimate of the staff time required to respond to the request;
  - B. the projected cost that will be charged to comply with the request;
  - C. a request for a deposit in the amount of 50% of the projected cost, before BBRD staff will begin preparing the response;
  - D. an offer to allow the requesting party the alternative of inspecting any nonexempt or non-confidential records requested and identifying which specific records, if any, the requesting party would like to have copied.
3. A deposit in the amount of 50% of the estimated charge shall be required before undertaking a response to a request for voluminous public records. All charges shall be invoiced and collected