

**CITY OF PENSACOLA
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
1st Floor City Hall, 222 W. Main St.
Pensacola, FL 32502**

August 16, 2018 8:00 am

PRESENT: Paul Epstein (Chairperson), David Forte, Rand Hicks, David Mayo, Maranda Sword, and Ed Wonders

ABSENT: Whitney Voeltz

CITY STAFF: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director); Kim Carmody (Recreation Superintendent); Cheryl Fox (Athletics Superintendent); Bill Kimball (Parks Superintendent); Heidi Thorsen (Director's Assistant); and Keith Wilkins (City Administrator)

CITIZENS: Cadillac Banks (Gulf Coast Summerfest Jazz Edition); Michael Bodenhausen (YMCA); John Bullock (Port Royal resident); Dottie Dubuisson; Cheryl Etheridge Kelley (Port Royal Property Manager); Jay Fraiser (Port Royal Owner's Association Attorney); Sheri Myers (City Council Member)

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Epstein. He mentioned that there are a couple of members who are no longer serving on the Parks and Recreation Board -- Barrett Breedlove who moved back to Texas, and Kimberly Sullivan who moved for a couple of years to Washington D.C. with her husband. An oral roll call was taken.
2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Board member Mayo made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 21, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by member Wonders. The minutes were approved.
3. **NEW BUSINESS.**

City Park Noise Ordinance.

A copy of City Noise Ordinance was included in the Agenda Packet. Chairperson Epstein mentioned that the Noise Ordinance is created by Council and is enforced by the permitting process of Parks and Recreation. He recognized Jay Frasier.

 - Mr. Frasier mentioned that Port Royal is east of the Blue Wahoos Stadium. When there are events out there, it creates an echo chamber which the resident's do not feel has been considered. They are opposed to granting any variance of the noise ordinance. They are not concerned over any one event, but the number of events has increased through the years. Sometimes the events start setting up at 3:30 am and other events go past midnight. They would like for the Board to make the following recommendations to City Council: 1. Have an environmental impact study to understand the noise levels. 2. Have the Sherriff's department enforce the ordinances that are there.
 - Chairperson Epstein mentioned that the Board understands the Association's concerns. As City residents they are happy that there is increased usage of the parks, but they do need to be managed. The Board cannot make any recommendations about the enforcement by the City Police Department.

- Member Forte asked about the waiver for special events. Director Cooper mentioned Parks and Recreation is charged with doing more events. There is a delicate balance. If the ordinance is the issue, then the issue needs to be taken to Council member Cannada-Wynn, whose district this park falls in. As for the impact study, that would fall under a different department. Parks and Recreation doesn't actually enforce anything, we call PPD to do it. If we know an event will run late, we ask everyone to be considerate. We have forwarded some concerns regarding noise and lights at the stadium to the management of the Blue Wahoos for their consideration.
- The ordinance does not limit what we do with events at the Maritime Park. We go through an internal variance process whereby Director Cooper will consider and sign off or not on things outside of the noise ordinance, if he feels that they applied. Most events stay within the ordinance requirements. The Blue Wahoos are different, and don't follow within the guidelines of Special Events because they are covered by a lease.
- The noise ordinance is listed in the special event application.
- Ms. Dubuisson mentioned that there are benefits and drawbacks to living downtown.
- Mr. Banks mentioned that the Amphitheater/Blue Wahoos Stadium is an entertainment complex. Several thousand people attend each event that is held there. Some Port Royal residents enjoy the concerts from their balcony. There is nothing to stop sound when it's outside. The sound levels of his events have not changed through the years.
- Chairperson Epstein encouraged citizens to bring it to City Council if this is really an issue.
- Council member Myers encouraged them to speak with her about this issue. She spoke in opposition of fireworks, especially over bodies of water. She would like an environmental impact study conducted regarding heavy metals in the water due to fireworks. She mentioned that the CMP is in the CRA [Community Redevelopment Agency] district, and these issues should be brought before the CRA Board.
- Mr. Fraiser mentioned that the Port Royal residents would like to have open dialogue as to when the events start/end and noise levels that accompany those events.
- Chairperson Epstein brought the following motion [as amended]:
 - The Parks and Recreation Board appreciates and understands the concerns of the Port Royal Owners Association regarding the increase in noise during events at the Community Maritime Park and would recommend that Council, the Mayor, Administration, and CRA, give this issue their full attention.
- Member Hicks moved that the motion be accepted as presented. It was seconded by member Mayo. Member Forte mentioned that he would like any variances besides Blue Wahoos to go through Council for approval. Chairperson Epstein mentioned that when Council discusses this, if they so choose, they can make this requirement. The motion passed.

5. OLD BUSINESS.

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) update.

- BAC chairperson Mayo mentioned that the BAC was to submit to the TPO [Transportation Planning Organization] 10 bicycle facility projects to create a network of safe stress-free connections. If the TPO doesn't accept the projects, the City can still undertake them. The connectivity of these projects fits into the goal of the BAC, to become a Bicycle Friendly Community. They were submitted to the TPO on Aug. 10. The next thing to accomplish is the Complete Streets initiative.