

**City of Pensacola****Parks and Recreation Board****Unapproved Meeting Minutes**

September 19, 2019

8:00 am

Whibbs Conference Room

Members Present: Paul Epstein (Chairperson), Antonio Bruni, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, David Forte (in at 8:10, left at 8:45), Gabriela Garza, Rand Hicks, Maranda Sword

Members Absent: David Del Gallo, and Leah Harrison

City Staff Present: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Lawrence Powell (City Neighborhoods Administrator), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director), and Michael Ziarnek (Transportation planner – Complete Streets)

Others Present: Betty Douglas, and Krista Hobgood

CALL TO ORDER – 8:01 am

ROLL CALL – An oral roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Sword made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2019 meeting. Member Bruni seconded. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS (None)

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- The budget for the new fiscal year was passed by Council last night.
- The Bayview Community Center construction is underway, hopefully we will be opening by August 2020 or possibly July.
- The Bayview Senior Center renovations are moving faster than expected. We are hoping to be opening before December.
- The playground at Legion Field is being installed today. It will take a couple of weeks to remove the old one and install the new one, then hopefully add a splash pad, T-Ball field, and rebuild the press box.
- We are working with the folks from Magee Field. We have a nice design concept, now looking for funding for the project. It will probably cost around \$800,000.00. Hopefully we will be able to do this project in phases.
- We have had a ribbon cutting at Morris Court. He thanked member Hicks for attending.
- Superintendent Carmody is working with Housing on getting a federal grant for redoing the playground at Kiwanis Park.
- Tierra Verde Park will be getting a new playground soon.

- Several different groups showed up to Woodland Heights for their performing arts night. We are working on getting some feedback and hoping to get children involved.
- The YMCA programs at Vickrey are going really well. We have had one phone-in complaint that has been resolved.
- We are working on getting a demo plan for the old YMCA building at Hitzman Park. We are waiting on permitting, and then we will get bids for the job. The plan is to begin demolishing the building as soon as soccer is complete (Nov. 15). Member Escobar-Ryan suggested getting some information out concerning the plans to keep the public informed. Once the design is complete, the City will put up a sign that will include a website with the plans. The soccer parents have been updated, but the Neighborhood Association has not sent out an update yet.

OLD BUSINESS

Julian Olsen naming update

Chairperson Epstein mentioned that Director Cooper emailed a list of naming options to the Board that were put together by him and Mrs. Douglas. Mrs. Douglas ordered the list as follows:

1. Naming the Bayview Resource Center in honor of Mr. Olsen
2. Having a Julian Olsen Way (a road close to Bayview Park named after him)
3. "The Julian Olsen Event Center" within the Bayview Center
4. A nice bronze plaque inside the building recognizing his legacy and commitment to the Bayview Park and Center.

The Board has previously decided that the name of the Bayview Resource Center will always remain the Bayview Resource Center, so the first option will not be used. Chairperson Epstein asked if there might be other suggestions in addition to the remaining three. Member Hicks suggested having a bronze bust and plaque at the top of the hill in conjunction with naming the walkway/bike path "Julian Olsen Way", or naming the Amphitheater after Mr. Olsen. Mrs. Douglas really liked his first idea. Further, member Hicks believes that the plaque should include the fact that Mr. Olsen was instrumental in the careers of people such as Cobb, Vickrey, Fricker, Hitzman, etc. Member Hicks asked that Chairperson Epstein be present when the language for the plaque is drafted.

Discussion followed in regards to which paved path or street should be named "Julian Olsen Way". Member Hicks believes it should be the walkway/bike path so that people can stop and reflect on his contributions, and read the plaque, instead of just driving by on the way into the Park. Other members believe that the road from 20th Ave. that goes between the Senior Center and the Dog Park should receive the honor of being called "Julian Olsen Way". The entrance is between Lee and Blount streets. (A Google map is included in the last page of the Minutes showing the proposed location.)

Discussion followed as to where to put the bust and plaque. Some members seem to agree it should be close to the walkway/bike path so that people who walk the park can stop and read the plaque. Director Cooper mentioned that he would be sure it is in the

right location, he will check with Mrs. Douglas, member Hicks, and the Board prior to installation.

Member Forte made the following motion: "That we name that stretch that is north of Lee that connects to the parking lot, as 'Julian Olsen Way', and add a bust and plaque recognizing him for his service, in a prominent location." Member Escobar-Ryan seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Director Cooper verified with Streets that that street currently does not have a name. Information is not readily available to figure out where the bust should be placed.

The motion as agreed upon is as follows:

That we make the north entrance to the Centers "Julian Olsen Way", and place a plaque and bust in a prominent location.

All of the members present except for Member Hicks agreed with the motion. The motion passed 6:1.

Park Restrooms

Director Cooper put together a list of restrooms (mainly in regional parks) including their condition, and when they are cleaned. Henry Wyer Park is the only neighborhood park that has a restroom. Most of the restrooms on the list are usually opened and closed when the Centers are opened (9-5), or regular business hours.

We are working on putting the restroom information on our website. One of the Board members suggested also including whether or not the restrooms are ADA accessible, and if they have diaper changing stations.

Some discussion followed regarding replacing the bathrooms at Hitzman with port-o-lets until the new soccer fields are complete. It was mentioned that the restrooms look better now than they have in the past five years. Ms. Hobgood mentioned that she prefers the current restrooms instead of port-o-lets.

New restrooms will be included when the upgrades are made to Magee Field. Periodic updates on Magee Field will be provided as the project progresses.

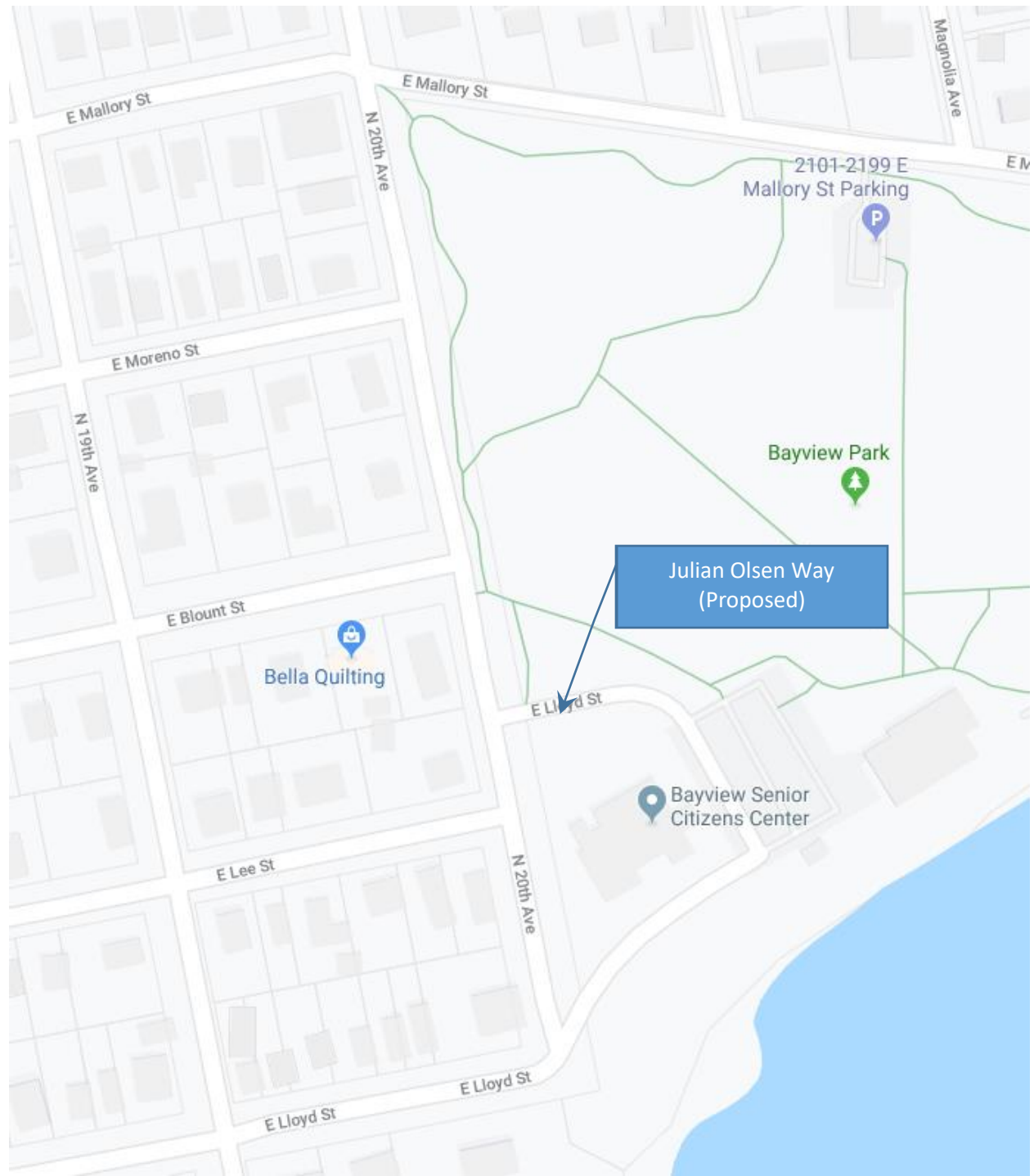
Board Member Park Visitation Program

The following parks were presented: Georgia Square, Miranda Square, Long Hollow, Granada Subdivision Park, Pineglades Park, and Dunmire Park.

OPEN FORUM

- Ms. Hobgood mentioned that she likes the sign idea for Hitzman Park to keep the neighborhood informed. She feels that the neighborhood should have a say in the design of the soccer fields. She wants everything that is discussed in the soccer workgroup publicized, even if the information is incomplete.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:25 am



(Printed from Google Maps)