



City of Pensacola
Parks and Recreation Board
Approved Meeting Minutes

July 18, 2019

8:00 am

Whibbs Conference Room

Members Present: Antonio Bruni, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Gabriela Garza, Rand Hicks, Maranda Sword

Members Absent: Paul Epstein (Chairperson), David Del Gallo, David Forte, Leah Harrison

City Staff Present: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Lawrence Powell (City Neighborhoods Administrator), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director)

Others Present: Krista Hobgood

CALL TO ORDER - 8:05 by Director Cooper

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON

In the absence of Chairperson Epstein, member Bruni made a motion to appoint member Hicks as acting chair. The motion was seconded by member Escobar-Ryan, the motion passed.

ROLL CALL - An oral roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Garza made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2019 meeting. Member Sword seconded. The minutes were approved.

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- The Bayview Senior Center renovations are coming along. The contractor is trying for January, but we are hoping for December.
- The new Bayview Resource Center is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020. The Council will be discussing the budget. The budget includes the two new positions for the Center. Staff has begun selecting all of the furniture, fixture, and equipment for the building. Paul Pipes is getting excited about buying new adventure equipment.
- Morris Court park renovations are about done, working on scheduling the ribbon cutting with Council member Cannada-Wynn, later this month.
- The closing of the land exchange with the YMCA is on July 26. The Zoning Board has approved the YMCA to build their entire lot. The Planning Board has an item on the Council agenda that will let the YMCA build on their site.
- We are finishing the environmental assessment of the current YMCA property. They have permitted us to have pretty much anything that we want from the current

- building. We are considering several options for the fitness equipment, including setting up an area for Public Works, and Parks employees to work out. In addition, if the Fire Department needs any of the equipment, it is being offered to them. There are other items that we are looking to place in our locations. The last day at the YMCA will be August 9, and then the after-school program will move to Vickrey.
- The design of Legion Field is coming along. The design will include replacing the press box, adding a splash pad, replacing the playground and fitness court, adding a sidewalk and gazebo area. Anthony Caldwell will be speaking to Council and expressing the fact that Magee Field needs funding. Council member Hill is supportive of this program.
 - The plans for renovations to Kiwanis Park are coming along. We are meeting with the Westside Redevelopment to discuss expansion of the Fricker Center.
 - Some skate spots will be added under I-110 and at Hitzman Park.
 - Kim Carmody has accepted the position of Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects. Her position will be filled in-house by either Thomas Brame, Betsy Huhn, or Tonya Vaden. There was another candidate, but he did not qualify with Human Resources for the position.
 - Cheryl Fox will assume the authority over Vickrey since the programming (besides athletics) will be transferring to the YMCA. A letter was sent to the parents of Vickrey's afterschool program participants that they can enroll their child in the YMCA's afterschool, or they can go to Gull Point. Gull Point has reached its capacity of 60 during summer camp, but during the school year we normally run about 20. Busing by either the school system or the YMCA to Gull Point and Vickrey will be provided.
 - The building at Hunter Pool has been closed for renovations. We are finalizing the plans for the renovations. As soon as pool season ends, we will get bids for the construction, and it will be completed prior to next year's swim season. The temporary situation has worked out pretty decently for the staff.
 - The playground at Tierra Verde is ready to install. We are waiting to schedule it with the installer.
 - In regards to the Skate Spots, Gate Precast Concrete is donating some "mistakes" that are architecturally beautiful. They will give us eight items. Skate Spots are a one-feature place for skate boarders to practice tricks that are off the beaten path. We are doing three or four under I-110. Gate Precast has been using some of our space to store concrete until it was ready to install on the Federal Courthouse on the corner of Garden and Palafox.
 - Questions were raised about the skate park. It has become a state/private partnership, so they have to follow state purchasing laws. The entire project including the park and stormwater is in the design phase.
 - Member Escobar-Ryan asked whether or not we offer an ESL (English as a Second Language) program. Director Cooper was not sure whether it is one of over 200 programs that we are offering. Parks and Recreation is always open to new programs.

OLD BUSINESS**Board Meeting Time (not on the agenda)**

- Chairperson Hicks mentioned that the meeting time of the Parks and Recreation Board is an item on the City Council agenda tonight. Most Parks and Recreation Boards in the State of Florida meet after 6:00 pm. Attendance is still down unless the agenda contains an item of interest. Maybe the Board can create other ways of having the public watch when they can.
- Discussion followed that although the Board serves the Council, they do not work for the City, and they are not paid for their time. They want to do their best, but they are volunteers. They want community involvement, but mandating their meeting time does not work. There is no time when everyone can participate. If they want to meet between 8:00 and 5:00, then people who work that schedule cannot attend. If it is afterwards, then a different group of people will show up. Experience shows that it all depends what item(s) is (are) on the agenda.
- The idea of changing the Board meetings from one location to another was presented, but that can get confusing, someone always does not get the message. Even constantly changing the time would do the same thing. Ms. Hobgood suggested keeping the usual meetings, but adding an additional quarterly meeting at a park to encourage citizen input.
- Another idea that was suggested is creating a Parks and Recreation Board Facebook page that would have the Board member's park pictures, descriptions of the parks, issues, and upcoming events. This topic will be put on a future agenda.

Board Member Park Visitation Program

- The following parks were presented: Baywoods Park, Cobb Resource Center, Dunwoody Park, H.K. Matthews Park, Miralla Park, and Woodland Heights Resource Center.

OPEN FORUM

- CNAPP (Council of Neighborhood Association Presidents of Pensacola) wants to get up a competition to clean-up neighborhood parks. They also want to put in multi-lingual free libraries throughout the City.
- Lawrence Powell, the new City Neighborhood's Administrator, addressed the Board. He looks forward to working with the Board. His office is on the second floor where he can be accessible by the public.
- There will be a Slow Ride at the Institute for Human and Machine Cognition (IHMC) beginning at 6:00 pm, followed by food, fun, and libations.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:22 am