



City of Pensacola

222 West Main Street
Pensacola, FL 32502

Meeting Minutes 3 - Final

Parks and Recreation Board

Thursday, February 16, 2023

8:00 AM

Hagler Mason Conference Room, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

- Present** 6 - Chairperson Rand Hicks, Renee Borden, Antonio Bruni, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, John Jerrals, and Michael Wolf
- Absent** 2 - David Del Gallo, and Leah Harrison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MINUTES OF JANUARY 19, 2023 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Attachments: [23-1-19 Minutes - Unapproved](#)

A motion was made by Escobar-Ryan, seconded by Borden, that this Minutes be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chairperson Hicks, Borden, Bruni, Escobar-Ryan, Jerrals, and Wolf

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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Attachments: [23-2-16 Director's Report Parks and Recreation Board](#)

Chairperson Hicks asked board members if they had questions regarding the Director's Report.

Member Bruni asked if Parks is considering two-weeks early registration for summer camps and/or all camps. Director Stills responded that we are going to try and engage that same process going across the board making it early registration accessible to city residents.

Director Stills announced to board that Tonya Byrd has accepted the promotion as Assistant Parks and Recreation Director. Director Stills asked Assistant Director, Byrd to speak to board members regarding summer programs.

Assistant Director, Byrd told board members we are looking for two-week period for our summer camps at the four locations where we have after

school and summer camps. We have taken a look at the Outdoor Camp and one of the concerns restricting that registration just to city residents for a two-week period that camp fills up in less than an hour. Looking at last year statistics for number of participants, we had 204 participants all summer long 9 1/2 weeks of camp 169 were residents only 35 were nonresidents so our concern is those 35 kids that have come up through the camps and want to advance they will not have that opportunity. Member Bruni agreed it is a legitimate concern but thinks the concern of city residents having access is the reason we pay extra city taxes us having access first. If the camp fills up with all city residents, sorry tell the county to start a program or get the county to give us money to expand our program. We might get push back from those families, but they are not our constituents they are not our citizens. To grandfather in the kids from the Outdoor Camps, would be an option. Discussion continued with staff responding according to questions from board members. Director Stills and Assistant Director Byrd also provided input.

Chairperson Hicks asked about the development of Pickle Ball. Director Stills responded we have three sites where we are doing pickle ball in now. We are in the process of trying to create other courts with existing tennis facilities that we have. Director Stills reminded board members that Athletic Superintendent Fox had said at last meeting that most of the really serious pickle ball players do not want to play with a tennis net, but we are in the process of conversions doing one in particular at Armstrong Park.

Chairperson Hicks asked about lacrosse and disc golf. Director Stills replied he has no updates at this time. We did have a group trying to start lacrosse at one of our facilities. Director Stills asked Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody to update board. Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody shared that Hitzman Park had improvements two years ago. We poured in new concrete pads, new signage, and new baskets. The idea to have an 18-hole disc golf course has been thought about, it is still an option. I had worked with some pro players and UWF on the design so that tournaments could take place by doubling the use of the 9-hole course. Chairperson Hicks stated he could bring the pros to Park Department. Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects replied yes that would be great.

Member Borden inquired about the Bay Bluffs structural assessment project. Director Stills stated we were made aware there were some structural damages on some of the steps. We are in the process of getting someone to go out and assess it. We will keep the board updated with the progress.

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

COUNCIL EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - BYLAWS

Attachments: [Boards Handbook Key Points](#)

Executive Council Kraher came before Parks and Recreation board to give an overview of the board handbook that will provide guidance to all Council appointed boards. Executive Council Kraher began by explaining to the board that the document that had been distributed titled City of Pensacola, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, Rules of Conduct and Procedure was a document in the system but was unable to determine its origin or if it had been approved by council.

Executive Council Kraher shared with board members cliff notes of what administration is looking at doing knowing that the board had been discussing the bylaws so as to not duplicate work or override any decisions. City Council had a workshop where we talked about our plan for creating a handbook for our boards, commissions, and authorities. The handbook is to cover those things that are across the board we are trying to standardize all of our boards with big items e.g., term limits, selections, attendance, voting and quorum and public input. The handbook attempts to mirror Council Rules and Procedures.

After the general guidelines are established, will look at each board and individualize the needs for that specific board.

Executive Council Kraher asked board members if they had any questions. Discussion ensued among Executive Council Kraher and board members responding accordingly to comments and questions.

STAFF REPORTS

PARKS PRESENTATION - BILL KIMBALL

Attachments: [Parks Presentation](#)

Parks Superintendent Kimball brought an overview presentation regarding City Parks.

- * Annual Budget is \$2.5 Million
- * Parks is divided into three divisions - Parks Crew, Tree Crew, and Trash Crew
- * Employees - 22 Full Time Staff
- * A park is within a half mile radius of 97% of all city residents
- * 58 Parks with Playground Structures
- * 23 Parks with Outdoor Basketball Courts
- * 3 Boat Launches
- * 3 Parks with Tennis Courts
- * 4 Parks with Dog Parks
- * 2 Parks with Splash Pad

Parks Superintendent Kimball asked the board members for questions.

Member Wolf asked how many splash pads are in the city. Parks Superintendent Kimball responded the city has two. One at Legion Field and one at Plaza De Luna. Member Wolf asked if the splash pads are salt systems. Parks Superintendent Kimball responded neither is salt system Plaza De Luna is chlorinated recycled system and Legion Field is not on a recycled water system is ran through water meter.

Member Bruni asked if the tree crew is a dedicated tree crew. Bill responded we have 2 employees in the department on the tree crew this is their main job, but they do have other responsibilities. The set-up and break down of barricades for special events and they are our only CDL drivers so when things come up, they get pulled to drive the barricade trailers. Member Bruni asked when they remove or trim a tree do they have to go through the permit department. Parks Superintendent Kimball responded we were the permitting department now that we have the arborist every tree we remove is inspected and goes through the City's Arborist. Member Bruni asked if the tree crew is kept busy year-round. Parks Superintendent Kimball responded yes, we are back logged we have over 164 work orders that are prioritized based on the most hazardous to the least hazardous that are on public property and right-a-ways.

Member Borden asked if labor is still a primary issue. It was last year when you came before the board with your presentation. Parks Superintendent Kimball responded labor is always an issue general labor is getting better ball crew is fully staffed, landscaping crew is very close to being fully staffed again, it's the tree crew it's the expertise of the tree crew and the requirement to have a CDL license those positions are not paid much more than our general landscapers so it's hard to fill those positions.

Chairperson Hicks asked if a private company is removing a tree is it required to have orange cones in place. Parks Superintendent Kimball responded if the work is being done in the right-of-way it is required.

NEW BUSINESS

PARK AMENITY REQUEST:

NAMING OF BLAKE DOYLE COMMUNITY SKATEPARK
NAMING OF KUGELMAN FAMILY AMPHITHEATER
NAMING OF JONAH BOWL
NAMING OF GANNETT FOUNDATION BEGINNER AREA

Attachments: [23-2-16 2022-Upward Intuition Blake Doyle Skate Park](#)

Jon Shell came before the board to present his request to the naming of the following: Blake Doyle Community Skatepark at Hollis T. Williams, Kugelman Family Amphitheater, Jonah Bowl, and Gannett Foundation Beginner Area. Mr. Shell began by saying he did not have any words

prepared for today that he had wrote a cover letter and submitted it along with the park amenity forms. He appreciates everyone and is really excited about the Skatepark. Mr. Shell stated that he and Director Stills were at the construction site of the skatepark and it's looking really good. I think it's something that the city can be very proud of, and I plan to be out there as much as I possibly can, probably everyday once it's built. So, thank you, all. Mr. Shell asked board if they had specific questions.

Member Borden asked the individuals that you're requesting to name the certain sections those individuals made donation to the construction of the park itself or to your organization or how, but I think there was a dollar amount wasn't there associated with those? Mr. Shell responded, yes, it's different for each one. The Gannett Foundation was a \$100,000 grant to Upward Intuition and then we gave that funding straight to the city to go towards construction. When we got started pushing for a public skatepark back in 2015 that is when, a friend of mine, Blake Doyle past and so his family and a lot of his friends rallied around that, and we were pushing for public skatepark before we even knew that we were going to partner with the city. We decided from the beginning we wanted to do it in memory of Blake. The Kugelman family made a dollar donation \$100,000 gift. And then, Jonah Bowl. Jonah's mother is present with me today. When Jonah past suddenly, Jonah's parents Justin and Kristen along with family and friends rallied behind the Skatepark project and helped me put on events and collect donations. Our organization, Upward Intuition we spent nearly \$100,000 on soft costs on design. We weren't able to use it. We had a new redesign, but they've been a huge part of the project and helped with community support and events and so forth.

Member Escobar-Ryan commented that this is a wonderful example of how people can turn very sad events into something amazing for the whole community. I just want to say thank you my respect to you and all the families involved and all the people pushing this into the community I totally understands the ideal behind the naming and totally support this.

Directors Stills added that Mr. Shell and his whole organization has obviously been very, very instrumental and there's a lot of opportunity to do a lot of other things, not just this being a park for skateboarders and people that appreciate that sport and that activity and the naming of the particular different apparatuses we liked the idea. The naming to the skatepark will be the Blake Doyle Community Skatepark at Hollis T. Williams, the entire section and entire development under the interstate is in honor of Mr. Williams, who I knew personally, we're excited to be getting to a point where this particular development is kicking off.

Chairperson Hicks commented, So let's look at the larger context of what

we're seeing here. There was once upon a time, a neighborhood that when we installed interstate 1-10 it disappeared, and people were displaced in every direction. And of course, Hollis T. Williams Park is meant to bring life back, diversity back and all the things that we want from human endeavor to that area. The people who are named here the Kugleman family of course is a great family, and their foundation is one of the noblest enterprises in the city. I have no qualms about naming stuff for people who give heart and soul back to the city, but I'm wondering about the forgotten community that's been displaced and do we have a plan based in history to come and tell their story and to name certain areas after them. We have, an indigenous heritage trail that's being conceived that would tell a story about the larger Native American community here past present and going into the future. Might it not be a good idea for us to contextualize this story that is going to occur down at Hollis T. Williams with the addition of the skatepark. As part of a larger plan that we've thought out and we know where we're going and we can start seeking for resources and funding for these various elements from the beginning. Which is right now we're beginning now. The day is today.

Mr. Shell commented, when we started applying for grants that was a big part of the story is the larger linear park. In 2010, they came up with the Greenway Framework Plan and obviously it was put on the shelf. Not much happened since 2010. It was a few years ago that became one of the restored projects so the design is completed for the 1.3-mile linear park. I've spoken been speaking and advocating for that project, the Hollis Williams project since 2015 the county spent nearly \$2 million on the design, and there's construction documents ready to go. I'm really excited about it. I just worked on a committee the Bloomberg Grant Foundation. That grant application actually comes from Mayor Reeves. I was on the committee that put that grant together and it's a million-dollar art grant and the theme of the grant is shifting perspectives so telling the stories of the people that lived in a neighborhood along the Hollis Williams corridor. We will find out this spring if the city's is going to get that grant. I just wanted to assure all of you that i am committed to pushing that forward and figuring out how to best tell that story.

Chairperson Hicks commented, I love the integrity of that idea. Well done. Thank you.

Director Stills commented, Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody, worked with Ms. Holly Benson yesterday and completing getting all of that information presented to make that happen. We're excited of the opportunity for that grant and want to thank Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody and also Cultural Affairs Coordinator, Robinson. We have been working on for quite

some time Jon we appreciate your diligence on that.

Thank you, Jon for coming today. Thank you so much.

Jon shared with board tentatively planning JUNE 10th as the grand opening date for the skatepark.

NAMING OF BLAKE DOYLE COMMUNITY SKATEPARK AT HOLLIS T WILLIAMS

A motion was made by Wolf, seconded by Escobar-Ryan, that this Park Amenity be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chairperson Hicks, Borden, Bruni, Escobar-Ryan, Jerrals, and Wolf

NAMING OF KUGELMAN FAMILY AMPHITHEATER

A motion was made by Bruni, seconded by Wolf, that this Park Amenity be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chairperson Hicks, Borden, Bruni, Escobar-Ryan, Jerrals, and Wolf

NAMING OF JONAH BOWL

A motion was made by Escobar-Ryan, seconded by Wolf, that this Park Amenity be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chairperson Hicks, Borden, Bruni, Escobar-Ryan, Jerrals, and Wolf

NAMING OF GANNETT FOUNDATION BEGINNER AREA

A motion was made by Bruni, seconded by Wolf, that this Park Amenity be Approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Chairperson Hicks, Borden, Bruni, Escobar-Ryan, Jerrals, and Wolf

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2023 NATIONAL RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION - SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

Sponsor: Antonio Bruni

Attachments: [NRPA - Sustainability Report](#)

Member Bruni shared with board members the report Roth (2023) Sustainability in Parks and Recreation National Recreation and Park Association. A report based on a survey of nearly 200 park and recreation leaders that explores how they are working to make their agencies and communities more sustainable.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS BOARD

Attachments: [Proposed Ordinance - Cultural Affairs](#)

Cultural Affairs Coordinator Robinson came before board to give an overview of her position and the proposed ordinance to establish a Cultural Affairs Advisory Board. The Cultural Affairs Advisory Board will have a formalized process for public art donations in the city parks and in the rights-of-way. The board would review the proposals as an advisory board before going to Council. Cultural Affairs Coordinator asked board members if they had any questions.

Member Borden asked if the naming of park amenities will go through Cultural Affairs Board or stay with Parks and Recreation. Director Stills responded that it would stay with Parks and Recreation.

CITY OF PENSACOLA ATHLETIC PARTNER LEASE AGREEMENT

Attachments: [City of Pensacola Youth Sports Organization Field Use Lease Agreement](#)

Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody came before the board to update the board on the progress of the Youth Sports Organization Field Use Lease Agreement and asked the board members if they were able to review the field lease agreement and asked if they had any questions.

Member Borden asked is this different from the MOU or just for the field use. Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody responded it is similar, but this is a lease, and it is only for our youth sports partners.

Members Bruni asked about the percentages of camps are we not doing that anymore. Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody responded camps are different and that is a separate MOU like the Challenger Camp that Athletics Superintendent Fox explained last meeting and a lot of those are subcontracted and we get a percentage or a flat fee for those types of camps. Member Bruni asked if they don't subcontract. Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody responded that we have to do a different agreement if they are charging a fee but, some camps are training camps and do not charge a fee.

Discussion ensued among board members and Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody responding accordingly to comments and questions.

Pensacola Youth Soccer board member, Travis Peterson spoke before the board regarding his involvement with Pensacola Youth Soccer and the

inner-city sports programs. Travis Peterson began by telling the board that he is on the board of Pensacola Youth Soccer and is coming here in a slightly different capacity. About 12 years ago, I was fortunate to be a part of a group of individuals and businesses that helped to coordinate the first Soul Bowl that was held at the Community Maritime Park. If you don't know, the Soul Bowl is an annual inner city football day of fun between Pensacola Rattlers and the SYAH Tigers and it's a cultural event. It's also a really good food event and it's a highlight of the year for these two inner city programs. Recently we had all of the major sports providers from the city in one room around the table with the Mayor, Director Stills and Kim Carmody. The coaches of the football programs and the cheer programs aren't just coaches for those inner-city programs, they are mentors. Discussion at this meeting entailed the lease agreement and the fees associated with the activity. As you know, at Pensacola Youth Soccer, we have about 900 kids that play each season. We waive 10 to 15 youths per season that cannot pay. The inner-city programs its 50 60 70% of their kids can't pay. They have kids that come through the program the entire season and they don't see their parents. When you start talking about levying fees on nonprofit service providers, it's important to look at these programs individually because you know 10 bucks a head from Pensacola Youth Soccer is something we can pay. That would be about \$19,000 this year. We spent at least \$25,000 just on patching up the fields, your fields. We operated at a loss last year only because we had donations from years previous. Programs can't do that. Football plays four major games on their home field a year. It costs twice, three times, four times as much to outfit a football player as it does soccer, all we need is a ball, shin guards, and cleats. So, when we look at these different groups, I think it's important to look at, you know, and I want to be clear and thanks to Kim and Adrian and the rest of the parks and rec team for trying to create some consistency. We exist to provide a service. But it's a different community. These are different sports with different seasons with different impacts on the field and they have different civic contributions. At Pensacola Youth Soccer, we may have a few coaches that do this, but I guarantee you, that's why I say it. McGee field and at Legion field those kids are being tutored and mentored. They're being in some cases, parented by their football and cheer coaches. Please don't assume that all of these programs are the same. Please don't assume that they all have the same abilities to pay. Please don't assume that just because you put it in writing that they're going to be able to pay. We had the Directors of both of these inner-city programs say we don't know if we can pay. So, what are we going to do? Tell them they can't play football that's the real question. For some of the organizations, they are providing a different civic contribution by waiving of fees for these kids and the additional mentoring and tutoring and after school, and you know, in some cases, just keeping an eye on kids while their parents are working. That's a civic contribution that they are making and as taxpayers we should

be comfortable saying that has a value. What's going to be the answer when you have 300 kids who don't have something to do after school? Or in the evening. I just don't know if that's what the city wants to be. How you want to be treating your youth sports organizations.

Member Borden voiced her concerns about revenues collected from youth sports associations and the lack of accountability and transparency of the fees being paid to the city. Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody assured board members that with a change in administration and a new Parks and Recreation Director that the current lease agreements will be followed and reporting and accounting of funds will be transparent and available for board review.

Discussion ensued among board members, Travis Peterson, Director Stills, and Superintendent of Administration and Special Projects Carmody responding accordingly to comments and questions.

OPEN FORUM

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Pensacola adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to City services, programs and activities. Please call 435-1606 (or TDD 435-1666) for further information. Request must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the event in order to allow the City time to provide the requested services.