



# City of Pensacola

## Parks and Recreation Board

### Approved Meeting Minutes

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April 18, 2019

8:00 am

Whibbs Conference Room

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**Members Present:** Paul Epstein (Chairperson), Antonio Bruni (left at 8:45), David Del Gallo, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, David Forte, Gabriela Garza, Leah Harrison, Rand Hicks, Maranda Sword

**Members Absent:** None

**City Staff Present:** Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Bill Kimball (Parks Superintendent), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director), Robyn Tice (Assistant City Clerk), Tonya Vaden (Marketing Coordinator)

**Others Present:** Betty Douglas, Krista Hobgood, Dr. Ole Olsen (Julian Olsen's grandson)

#### **SWEARING IN**

Assistant Clerk Tice swore in the reappointed (Maranda Sword) and new (Antonio Bruni, David Del Gallo, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Gabriela Garza, and Leah Harrison) Board members.

**CALL TO ORDER** - 8:06 by Chairperson Epstein.

**ROLL CALL** - An oral roll call was taken.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting. Member Sword seconded. The minutes were approved.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Naming of Bayview Community Resource Center in honor of J. Olsen**

Mrs. Betty Douglas spoke on the merits of Mr. Julian Ole Olsen. He was the first Parks and Recreation Director for the City of Pensacola. He was a pioneer who established many programs that affected many areas. Many of his peers including Jimmy Hitzman, Redd Vickrey, and Corrine Jones, have buildings named after them. He served as the president of FRPA (Florida Recreation and Parks Association) for two years, and also received an Achievement Award from FRPA for outstanding service to his community and the State of Florida. He was active in the National Parks Association and received acknowledgement from there as well.

Julian Olsen helped develop Bayview Park, and started a swimming program there. He helped establish many youth centers including Sanders Beach, Fricker Resource Center and Bayview Community Center.

Dr. Olsen mentioned that his grandfather was from Denmark. He signed with the New York Yankees as a catcher until he was told to find a “respectable job”. He created “tot lots” to provide recreation places for the children in the area. He developed a softball league that met on Wednesday afternoons. He setup the first lifeguards on the beach. He was also responsible for setting up things such as boxing matches and square dances. Both Mrs. Douglas and Dr. Olsen mentioned that Julian Olsen would not be in favor of the honor, but definitely deserves it.

Discussion followed. Member Forte mentioned that since this is new construction and the building had not been named after anyone else, this is just a naming. Chairperson Epstein read the City Ordinance pertaining to naming City property. He discussed that the Parks and Recreation Board has to approve the naming, then it would go to City Council for them to approve or deny. He mentioned that he would like to table this discussion until next month to provide the Board members the opportunity to read all of the information that was provided concerning Mr. Olsen. Bayview was selected due to his accomplishments at Bayview Park.

Naming of the facility was also briefly discussed. Member Sword mentioned that she would like to keep the word “Bayview” somewhere in the name. The original Bayview Center was built while Mr. Olsen was the Director.

### **Sunshine Law overview**

Chairperson Epstein provided a brief overview of the Sunshine Law. He did disclose that he and Gabriela Garza work together, however they never discuss any items related to Parks and Recreation at work.

### **DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS**

Director Cooper mentioned that next month he will have all of the areas of Parks and Recreation provide a brief presentation of what they do so that the new members will have a better understanding of the Department.

He brought the following reports:

- We received a thank you from the United States Bowling Congress (USBC) for supporting the Southern Bowling Congress tournament which will be held in Pensacola in February and March 2021.
- Morris Court is undergoing some renovations, a new basketball court, walking path, storm water pond, etc.
- There will be a ribbon cutting for the new playground at Armstrong Park on Friday, April 26 at 4:15.
- Also on that day at 2:00 we will be celebrating National Arbor Day at Miraflores Park. We will be giving away three different species of trees as well as planting a tree.
- We will be installing new windows in the Cobb Center gym.
- We began installing a new playground in Parker Circle on April 17. The ribbon cutting should be in 3-5 weeks.

- Tierra Verde playground will be the next one to go in after Parker Circle is complete.
- The renovations at Bayview Senior Center are taking longer than expected. We will be going to Council in a few weeks to get additional funding. We will still be able to use the Brownsville Community Center.
- Bayview Center is under construction.
- We have removed the blue rubber mulch from Bryan Park. We will be replacing it with engineered wood fiber.
- Springdale Park will also be getting a new playground.

Coordinator Vaden mentioned some upcoming events – Blues on the Bay and Movies in the Park. Fricker Center is holding an Easter Egg hunt on Saturday. The Athletics team has put together another Pitch Hit Run Event that will be held on Saturday. She also mentioned that we have a new version of the Playbook covering May through July. The magazine is produced totally in-house. We have between 3000 to 3500 copies printed.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Board Member Park Visitation Program**

Chairperson Epstein mentioned this program for our new members. He asked them to send their desired parks to Assistant Thorsen to decide who will visit which park. The goal is to get the members out of their neighborhood and discover parks in other parts of the City.

The following parks were reported on – Aviation Discovery Park, Baars Park, Belvedere Park, Eastgate Elizabeth Ferniany Peaden Park, Cecil Hunter Pool, H.T. Williams Park

Director Cooper mentioned that due to mold caused by roof issues at Cecil Hunter Pool, the pool will be operated through the back restrooms until renovations to the building can be done after swim season.

## **OPEN FORUM**

- Ms. Hobgood brought up questions about how we communicate to City Council. Chairperson Epstein addressed her issues. Her desire is to get more community involvement.
- She also mentioned that there are no bathrooms at Hitzman Park. Director Cooper mentioned that we have bathrooms at Hitzman that are opened daily, but none that are ADA compliant. Director Cooper mentioned that when the renovations are made to Hitzman, there will be ADA compliant bathrooms.
- Chairperson Epstein mentioned if there are issues with parks, citizens can log a 311 request.
- Discussion came up about the meeting time of the Board. We will briefly discuss this next month, but vote on it in the June meeting.
- The City has an ADA compliance report. All of our parks are ADA compliant, but only Hitzman is ADA inclusive, allowing people with disabilities to use all of the equipment.
- There will be no park visitation reports next month due to the staff presentations.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 9:38 am