

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

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October 17, 2019

8:00 am

Whibbs Conference Room

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**Members Present:** Paul Epstein (Chairperson), Antonio Bruni, David Del Gallo, David Forte, Rand Hicks, Maranda Sword

**Members Absent:** Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Gabriela Garza, and Leah Harrison

**City Staff Present:** Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), and Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director)

**Others Present:** Kelley Martinez, Pat Meusel, and Terry Thrash

**CALL TO ORDER – 8:03 am**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2019 meeting. Members Sword and Del Gallo made a motion to second. The minutes were approved.

Director Cooper brought an update that the minutes from the last meeting, in regards to naming the street in honor of Julian Olsen, were forwarded to Council Executive Don Kraher to submit to City Council on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Thrash, a tennis professional at Roger Scott Tennis Center, had sent in a request to name Court 22 at Roger Scott Tennis Center after Brian Sakey. He presented a short biography of Mr. Sakey. Mr. Sakey moved from Australia to play tennis in Arkansas and eventually moved to Pensacola. He has had a great influence on the local tennis community. Mr. Sakey is the father of one of the current managers of the tennis center, Brock Sakey. Director Cooper mentioned that there had been a premature dedication of the court, but the reason for the dedication at the time, was to have Brian Sakey there to accept the honor. Mr. Sakey has since succumbed to cancer. Although the dedication has already been made, the sign will not be put up until it has been accepted by City Council.

Member Hicks made a motion to move ahead with naming the court. Member Forte seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES**

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- Prior to Council Member Wingate's passing, he and Director Cooper worked on increasing parking at the Woodland Heights Resource Center. The plans are being finalized. We are adding 40-50 spaces. Some will be added along Berkley, and some near the current basketball courts. The current basketball courts will be moved to another park close-by, no trees will be lost.
- We are receiving bids on the demo of the old YMCA building on Langley.
- The fitness and office equipment that is remaining at the old Y will be put up for auction soon.
- The playground installation at Legion Field is complete. We are still working on the rest of the field plans.
- Bayview Community Center is progressing; it should be completed by late summer.
- The renovations at Bayview Senior Center are almost complete; it should open hopefully before Christmas.
- The playground equipment that was ordered for Springdale Park was too large, so we are ordering other equipment, and will use the other one elsewhere.
- Tierra Verde is getting a new playground soon.
- The contractor has been selected to remove the old playground at EPH Lions Park. A new playground will be installed.
- The demo is almost complete at Kiwanis Park. After a new playground is installed, Public Works will install a storm drain and we will also add a dog park.
- Renovations to Hunter Pool are underway. The building had to be closed due to roof leaks. Temporary buildings were used during the summer. The bottom of the pool will also be resurfaced.
- We are working on getting the building at Miraflores on the National Registry of Historic Places. We are also working on adding ADA access to the building while checking on the impact on getting it on the registry. We will be replacing the burned down playground with a smaller piece of equipment.
- The East Pensacola Clubhouse will be undergoing renovations – a new roof, stage, updated bathrooms, etc.

Member Forte mentioned that he would like to have an athletics update. Director Cooper will restart the presentations by the staff.

**OLD BUSINESS****Board Member Park Visitation Program**

There were no parks presented.

**OPEN FORUM**

- Member Forte wanted to give kudos to whomever cleaned up after the Seafood Festival. By the next day, everything was spotless. He was very impressed.
- Member Hicks mentioned that the slow ride had 380 participants. There was free beer and good food after the ride.
- Ms. Martinez mentioned that the Brownsville Park is almost ADA compliant. It was brought to her attention that the park is not in the City limits. She showed pictures of

the rubber surface material that was used, and suggested that the City use it in some of their parks.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 8:43 am