



City of Pensacola
Parks and Recreation Board
Approved Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

8:00 am

Council Chambers

Members Present: Rand Hicks (Chairperson), Maranda Sword (Vice-Chair), Antonio Bruni (attended by teleconference beginning at 8:14), David Del Gallo, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Leah Harrison (attended by teleconference), Jarah Jacquay, and Michael Wolf

Members Absent: Gabriela Garza

City Staff Present: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Deja Dowdell (Marketing Coordinator), David Forte (Capital Improvement Projects Manager), Bill Kimball (Parks Superintendent), Grover Robinson IV (Mayor), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director), and Tonya Vaden (Recreation Superintendent, attended via teleconference)

To limit the potential spread of COVID-19, some Board Members attended by telephonic conferencing, and members of the public had the opportunity to attend and participate only via live stream or phone. This change in format was consistent with Executive Order 20-69 issued by Gov. Ron DeSantis and had been adopted at the direction of Council President Jewel Cannada-Wynn in consultation with the City Attorney. Public participation was available as follows:

Members of the public could attend and participate via live stream and/or phone.

- To watch the meeting live, visit [cityofpensacola.com/428/Live-Meeting-Video](https://www.cityofpensacola.com/428/Live-Meeting-Video).
- To provide input –
 - o For Open Forum, (for items not on the agenda): citizens may submit an online form here <https://www.cityofpensacola.com/ParksInput> beginning at 7:00 A.M. until 8:30 A.M. only to indicate they wish to speak during Open Forum and include a phone number. Staff will call the person at the appropriate time so the citizen can directly address the Parks and Recreation Board using a telephone held up to a microphone.
 - o For agenda items: citizens may submit an online form here <https://www.cityofpensacola.com/ParksInput> beginning at 7:00 A.M. until that agenda item has been voted upon to indicate they wish to speak to a specific item on the agenda and include a phone number. Staff will call the person at the appropriate time so the citizen can directly address the Parks and Recreation Board using a telephone held up to a microphone. Any form received after an agenda item has been voted upon will not be considered.

CALL TO ORDER – 8:02 AM

Chairperson Hicks read a message about there being about a one-minute delay when the meeting is viewed via the live stream on the City's website.

ROLL CALL – An oral roll call was taken. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Del Gallo made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2020 meeting. Member Harrison made a motion to second. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS**Hitzman-Optimist Park Disc Golf Hole Renaming**

Director Cooper presented the request of naming a hole at the Hitzman-Optimist Park Disc Golf Course in memory of Matthew Brazil, for discussion. He had discussed the item with Amy Barber, the family member that submitted the request. He suggested naming hole number one (out of nine), and she agreed to it. All of the board members agreed. Chairperson Hicks brought up the possibility of naming the entire course. Family and friends will pay for the plaque.

Member Del Gallo brought the following motion:

“I make a motion that we name hole number one as Brian [Director Cooper] read”. Motion was seconded by member Escobar-Ryan. A general oral vote was taken, the vote passed 7-0 (2 members absent).

Cordova Square Park Bench Dedication

Member Del Gallo presented the request from the East Hill Neighborhood Association to name a bench at the east end of Cordova Square Park in memory of Samuel W. Bearman. Member Del Gallo was friends with Mr. Bearman. He mentioned that Mr. Bearman lived in East Hill a long time, and was President of the Neighborhood Association for some time, where he continued to be active even after he stepped down from that role.

Member Del Gallo mentioned that he had seen some nice swings in Alabama Square that he really liked, and suggested naming either a bench or a swing in Mr. Bearman's memory. The Neighborhood Association will be paying for whatever is dedicated in his memory.

Member Escobar-Ryan brought the following motion:

“I make a motion that we do a dedication in either a bench or a swing in Cordova Square Park as proposed.”

The motion was seconded. A general oral vote was taken, the vote passed 7-0 (2 members absent).

Board Members and Neighborhood Associations

(Will be completed later, before the next Parks and Recreation Board meeting)

Rename Lee Square

Mayor Robinson presented the request to change the name of Lee Square to Florida Square. He presented a map of North Hill done in 1806 by Watson Survey. There were three parks in North Hill, Florida Square, Georgia Square, and Alabama Square. The only one whose name has been changed is Florida Square to Lee Square. The monument was in Florida Square for a long time before the name change.

Next year Florida will be celebrating 200 years of being a part of the United States. By renaming the square, the name would be more inclusive of all of our citizens. The square was renamed long after Robert E. Lee's death. Lee mentioned that he did not want something like that named after him, did not feel it would not be appropriate.

Member Escobar-Ryan asked what would be presented at the July 16 City Council meeting, renaming the park, or removing the Confederate monument? Mayor Robinson hopes to discuss both at once.

Member Del Gallo made the motion to rename Lee Square [to] Florida Square. Member Harrison seconded the motion. A general oral vote was taken. The vote passed 8-0 (1 member absent). There were no requests from the public to speak on the issue.

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

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Staff Presentation

Superintendent Kimball brought a presentation about Parks.

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David Forte Update**OLD BUSINESS****Summer Camp Update****Board Meeting Day and Time Discussion****Board Member Park Visitation Program**

The following parks were presented:

OPEN FORUM

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ADJOURNMENT – 9:33 AM