

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

July 16, 2020

8:00 am

Council Chambers

Members Present: Rand Hicks (Chairperson), Antonio Bruni, David Del Gallo, Gabriella Garza (left at 8:40), Leah Harrison, and Michael Wolf

Members Absent: Maranda Sword (Vice-Chair), Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Jarah Jacquay

City Staff Present: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Deja Dowdell (Marketing Coordinator), David Forte (Capital Improvement Projects Manager), Nikki Gray (CMP/Special Events Coordinator), and Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director)

To limit the potential spread of COVID-19, some Board Members could attend 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 – 8:04 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 Bruni mentioned that the minutes only reflect the fact that “a” Board member asked what happens with sick children in summer camp; he would like to be on the record as being the member who asked the question. Member Garza made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2020 meeting with the correction. Member Del Gallo made a motion to second. The minutes were approved with the correction.

NEW BUSINESS**Armstrong Park Tennis Court Naming**

Chairperson Hicks read the recommendation from Council President Cannada-Wynn to consider dedicating the tennis court at Armstrong Park in honor of Ronald P. Townsend. Director Cooper mentioned that there are two tennis courts at Armstrong Park; the request is to name both of them after him. Mr. Townsend was elected as a City Council Member for District 7, and then later was appointed to the Council where he served until 2012. He was instrumental in having the tennis court built to provide the youth in the community a place to play tennis. Since he is still alive, there is a timeframe that has to pass before a renaming can be done, that time has passed. Since the request is being made by a Council Member, it is assumed signage will come from Council funds. Member Wolf made the motion that this item be approved; Member Harrison seconded the motion. The motion passed with no opposition.

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- Last week he was informed that several employees were testing positive for COVID, and other employees were sick so the decision was made to close indoor summer camps. Outdoor adventure camps, pools, and outdoor athletic camps are still running.
- We are planning for after school care. We continue to monitor CDC updates and go from there.
- The Council item to remove the Confederate Monument at Lee Square passed the special Council meeting on Tuesday. Public Works is getting bids to have it removed and relocated.
- Lee Square has officially been renamed Florida Square. We are already in the process of getting the changes made electronically to the new name. Our files will keep the name of Lee Square until Tuesday, in order to maintain the history.
- The two naming items of Hitzman Disc Golf Course, and Cordova Square bench/swing dedication are on the agenda for tonight's Council meeting.
- The bids for Hitzman fields are back out, hopefully we will get something under budget. There is an alternate that is substantial.
- Construction of the press box at Legion Field will begin today, hopefully it'll be completed by the time football season starts.

- We should be moving into Bayview Resource Center the first week of August. We have already purchased a lot of items such as signage for the new center. We are also in the process of hiring staff. Jeremy Street, who has been the supervisor at Bayview Senior Center, will be over both facilities. Molly Mahtani, Jeremy's assistant at Bayview Senior Center, is in the process of being promoted to the position of supervisor at Bayview Senior Center. Addie Boyd-Quina is being promoted to the assistant supervisor at Bayview Resource Center from Gull Point. We will have one more position to fill at Bayview Senior Center, as well as Addie's Keegan position at Gull Point.
- We are still working on getting a map of the parks in each neighborhood association.
- CRA has mentioned to staff about expansion of the Chappie James Museum and Flight Academy. What they have is too small for both groups. The house next door is either being purchased, or has been purchased to expand one of the two facilities. CRA will be funding this project.
- Director Cooper briefly mentioned that we have a project to construct cart paths at Osceola Golf Course.

Chairperson Hicks asked for an update on the Julian Olsen bust. The artist is working hard on it. The mold has been approved by both Julian's grandson as well as Betty Douglas. Director Cooper did not have an anticipated completion date.

Member Bruni asked if there were any children sick with the virus (due to summer camp). Per Director Cooper, we were not informed of any children being sick. There is no guarantee that we will be open for after school care. If the schools open, we will try to follow suit, but if we do not feel it is the right decision, we will not open. Parents will have to make a decision soon as to whether they will send their children back to school in person or let them learn remotely, and part of the decision is what happens with afterschool.

Staff Presentation

Coordinator Gray brought an update on CMP/Special Events.

- She gave a brief overview of what she does such as managing the Community Maritime Park, and issuing special event permits. She works closely with the centers while they are planning their events.
- While coordinating events, she gets the opportunity to work with nearly all of the other departments in the City.
- Normally she permits between 160 and 200 events per year. About 70 of those happen at the CMP.
- During baseball season she oversees the non-profit parking program. The parking program usually brings in about \$128,000 per year. Non-profits usually make about \$27,000 divided by about 15 non-profits per year for working the parking program.
- The current special event permit is about 20 pages. She is working with different departments to try to streamline the process and cut down the number of pages required.
- She is trying to organize two meetings a year for citizens to attend to understand and begin the approval process.

Member Garza asked about September events. As of now special events of fewer than 50 people can be permitted, but there has to be social distancing, crowd control, etc. measures in place. Larger events are trying to plan already for September and October to save money on cancelling an event. Event organizers are trying to be creative by having pop-up events or virtual events instead of the actual event, limiting the size of the event and social distancing.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Members and Neighborhood Associations

Chairperson Hicks mentioned that all of the Parks and Recreation Board members names were distributed to the neighborhood associations, and all of the neighborhood associations were given to the board members. There are some neighborhood associations that do not have a board member that resides there, so he encouraged them to reach out and volunteer to be their representative. Member Bruni said he would be willing to attend neighborhood association meetings in a different part of the City. Member Harrison expressed the desire to be assigned a neighborhood association. All of the members seemed to be in agreement with this idea.

Capital Improvement Projects Update

Manager Forte mentioned that he is working on several different projects, that while they are not parks related, they are Complete Streets, i.e. multi-modal projects, trying to reconstruct a roadway for all of the users, so he will bring an update on those as well.

- A Street/Devilliers/Reus from Main Street to Cervantes – adding sidewalks, making them ADA compliant, beautification, etc.
- Main Street from Barrancas to Clubbs will also be done. Funding will be coming from Florida Department of Revenue in FY 2022.
- Design for the Roger Scott Tennis Center court reconstruction and additional parking is underway. The parking will probably be done in the spring. The courts will be staggered so that not all of them are closed at the same time.
- Garden Street beautification – we have received a grant from the State, design is underway. He is trying to figure out how to get public input and follow CDC guidelines.
- Chase/Garden/Jefferson/Tarragona revitalization – the CRA set aside some money to improve Jefferson Street.

Chairperson Hicks asked if any bike lanes will be added to any of the projects. Manager Forte said probably on A and Main Streets, probably none on Devilliers and Reus Streets, and Jefferson plans have not been determined yet. Mike Ziarnek in Planning is working on incorporating roads into a bikeable network. We are still hoping to become a Bicycle Friendly Community. Part of the designs will also incorporate some input from PPD to incorporate safety in the designs.

Board Member Park Visitation Program

The following parks/centers were presented: D'Evereux Park, Fairchild Park, Mallory Heights 1 and Mallory Heights 3.

Both Member Wolf and Director Cooper came up with a checklist for the parks that were similar. The checklist was distributed to the board members for review. One change that Director Cooper suggested was changing the word “issues” to “observations”. Thoughts were encouraged to be sent to Assistant Thorsen.

OPEN FORUM

- [Nothing mentioned]

ADJOURNMENT – 9:15 AM