

**CITY OF PENSACOLA
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
MINUTES
1st Floor City Hall, 222 W. Main St.
Pensacola, FL 32502**

December 20, 2018 8:00 am

PRESENT: Paul Epstein (Chairperson), David Forte, Rand Hicks, David Mayo, Ed Wonders

ABSENT: Maranda Sword, Whitney Voeltz

CITY STAFF: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director); Kim Carmody (Recreation Superintendent); Maggie Lochas (Special Events); and Heidi Thorsen (Director's Assistant)

CITIZENS: Anthony Caldwell, Deathera Forbes (EPSAP-Magee Field), Anne Richards

1. **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.** Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Epstein.
2. **ROLL CALL.** An oral roll call was taken.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** Board member Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by member Forte. The minutes were approved.
4. **NEW BUSINESS.**
Letter from Council
Chairperson Epstein addressed the letter that each member had received from City Council in regards to accepting citizen input when considering agenda items. He mentioned that we allow citizen input as we discuss items. If we have an item that may be more of a hot-topic item, we will just limit each citizen to three minutes of input, although this is rare. Speaking cards will not be required. We will continue to have open forum at each of our meetings.
5. **DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES.**
Director Cooper brought the following updates:
 - Director Cooper met with the Mayor Robinson to go over topics. He is very supportive. He wants to try to reach the first three goals of the tennis workgroup (1. Rebuild hard courts, 2. Add 4 more clay courts and under 10 courts, 3. Redoing the parking to possibly build a new clubhouse later on).
 - We are working with Mott MacDonald to see if Fricker can be expanded. Superintendent Carmody mentioned that we have replaced flooring, looking at replacing flooring in the social hall, and repaving/restriping the parking lot. The gym floor has recently been refinished and looks really nice.
 - Director Cooper mentioned that Hunter Pool is experiencing roof issues. We have hired an architecture firm to look at it.
 - Legion Field is in the final stages of design to move the playground, add a splash pad, a new press box, etc.

- The contract for Morris Court Park improvements has been approved by Council, and is in the approval system now.
- We are on a 60-day hold on the Bayview Resource Center project. The state decided we need to have a Cultural Resource Assessment Survey prior to commencing construction. The contractor has 30 days to perform the assessment, then the State has 30 days to review/approve. He reviewed the changes that were made to lower the construction cost.
- Superintendent Kimball is working on getting funding for getting the Hitzman Park playground structure installed. There will also be funding to include a walking path and soccer complex eventually.
- Gull Point Resource Center is scheduled to open in January. Maybe the February or March Parks and Recreation Board meeting could be held there.
- The renovations at Bayview Senior Center have been delayed, more issues have been found. Everything is meeting at Brownsville Community Center. We are partnering with the County on some events there.
- The skate park will now be part of the City. The City will not fund construction of the project more than what Council has agreed to. We will run the construction and maintenance of that part of the park. Upward Intuition has raised the money for the construction. Maintenance will consist of grass cutting, graffiti removal, restroom cleaning, etc. Right now Upward Intuition is about 1.9 million short, and will be responsible for raising the funds prior to construction.
- Parker Circle, Armstrong, Tierra Verde, and Springdale playgrounds are waiting to be installed.
- We are working with Housing to do some renovations at Kiwanis Park.
- The repairs to the Sander Beach boat launch are almost complete.
- Bayview Park tennis courts will be resurfaced, then Hollice Williams Park courts will follow. The courts will be restriped for Pickle ball.
- Director Cooper mentioned that Maggie Lochas has moved to City Hall as Assistant Special Events Coordinator to help Nikki Gray with Special Events. She will also help manage the CMP.
- We have met with several people from the Mayor's transition team including the HR, Environmental, and Education members. We have also attended several Transition Team meetings. Director Cooper has taken both the new City Administrator and Mayor around.
- Chairperson Epstein asked if we have a soccer workgroup yet. No. We are working with the soccer community. Once we have the property, we will be getting more input for things like restrooms, concessions, and parking.
- Member Mayo mentioned that Bruce Beach was briefly the 94th park, but Council approved giving Five Flags Memorial Park to the State for the new bridge project. He asked if we could have a kayak vendor at Bruce Beach. Director Cooper mentioned that we did what the past Mayor wanted, opening the beach for public access. The other side of the beach has been opened for other purposes such as bird watching, and clean-up. After the Outdoor Pursuits building is opened at Bayview Community Resource Center, we may have a satellite launching area at Bruce Beach.
- Superintendent Carmody mentioned that we have created a new cross country/track team. The team placed 2nd nationwide in Knoxville, TN. The team was funded with the help of sponsors. The next goal is to create a girl's team.

6. OLD BUSINESS.

Board Member Park Visitation Program.

The following parks were visited by Board members: Armstrong, Victory 1 and Victory 2, Corrine Jones, Exchange Park, Sanders Beach, and Alabama Square. It was mentioned that it looks like the basketball and tennis courts at Armstrong Park are used regularly. Victory 1 and 2 are basically

right-of-ways. Exchange Park is a small country. Alabama Square is used by a lot of the neighbors. There is a new swing where a parent/child can be together on the same swing (called an Expression Swing). The cost is \$300.00 per swing, and was added to the existing frame.

Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC) update.

Member Mayo brought the update. He mentioned that last meeting was very good. Two Council members came, and there were lots of citizens.

Member Hicks mentioned that he has asked the League of American Bicyclists if we can consider the TPO's Bicycle/Pedestrian coordinator ours. He is still waiting to hear from them.

It was recommended that since the budgets are starting to be formed in January that the BAC should begin to visit various City departments to help fund some of the projects that the TPO may not fund. Member Forte brought some insight into the TPO process, and suggested which projects should probably be funded by the City.

7. OPEN FORUM.

- Deathera Forbes mentioned that she volunteers at Magee Field. She was wondering how she could help that field become more useable for kids to study year-round. Chairperson Epstein thanked her for her concern. Director Cooper mentioned that this board is an advisory board to Council and to him. If there is mold, etc., we need to know about it. There is some money budgeted to renovate the press box and concessions in the next 1-2 years. Maybe the children could go to Cobb for studying and tutoring. We cannot build a community center at the field, but we could build a bigger press box that would allow space for tutoring.
- Anthony Caldwell, President of the NEP Rattlers, mentioned that they are doing year-round sports. He brought several concerns – 1. The field needs more lighting for safety. He also mentioned that it is too small for all of the children to practice and he is having to send children under the interstate bridge to practice. 2. He suggested that we do away with the baseball diamond since this is not being used right now. 3. The bathrooms are outdated and the stalls do not even have a divider. There is no electricity, and they smell. 4. The press box has mildew, and the roof has leaked.

8. ADJOURNMENT.