



City of Pensacola
Parks and Recreation Board
Approved Meeting Minutes

August 15, 2019

8:00 am

Whibbs Conference Room

Members Present: Paul Epstein (Chairperson), Antonio Bruni, David Del Gallo, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, David Forte, Rand Hicks (left at 8:47), Maranda Sword

Members Absent: Gabriela Garza, Leah Harrison

City Staff Present: Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Molly Mahtani (Recreation Assistant Supervisor – Bayview Sr.), Michael Mims (Area Manager), Allie Norton (Public Information Specialist), Jeremy Street (Recreation Supervisor – Bayview Sr.), Paul Pipes (Volunteer and Outdoor Pursuits Coordinator), Lawrence Powell (City Neighborhoods Administrator), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director), Tonya Vaden (Recreation Superintendent), Michael Ziarnek (Transportation planner – Complete Streets)

Others Present: Betty Douglas, Deathera Forbes (Magee Field Rattlers), Dottie Dubuisson, Krista Hobgood, and Kelley Martinez (CILDRC)

CALL TO ORDER – 8:00 am

ROLL CALL – An oral roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Del Gallo made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2019 meeting. Member Bruni seconded. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Recognition of Staff for NRPA Award

Director Cooper mentioned that Tonya Vaden has accepted the position of Recreation Superintendent. Superintendent Vaden mentioned that the City won one week out of four in the NRPA Parks and Rec Two-Step Challenge. Superintendent Vaden thanked all who made the video happen – Jeremy Street, Molly Mahtani, Allie Norton (who did the videotaping and the editing), Tracy Hotopp, Addie Quina, and Lendward Griffin. There were several awards and prizes that were handed out.

Director Cooper mentioned that we received a nice letter regarding Coordinator Pipes and the wonderful time that their children had in his outdoor camps. Next summer Coordinator Pipes will be working out of the new Adventure Center that will be located at the new Bayview Resource Center.

Manager Mims was recognized for taking the GOAT Farm track team to Greensboro, NC for the Junior Olympics. One of the athletes placed 4th in the 3000 meter, thus making him an All American.

Park Restrooms

Chairperson Epstein mentioned that only regional parks have permanent restrooms, as well as some of the boat launches. Only one Neighborhood Park has a port-o-let (Henry Wyer Park). That port-o-let is currently being funded by the CRA. Discussion followed regarding repairing/redone restrooms. Director Cooper mentioned that most of the regional parks have or are getting new restrooms. We routinely clean and Building Maintenance maintains those restrooms. Port-o-lets cost about \$100.00 per month, as soon as we put one in, we get complaints about its cleanliness. In the industry, Neighborhood Parks are designed to be used by neighbors, if facilities are needed, people go to their homes.

As Bruce Beach plans are developed, restrooms will be included. A list of restrooms, conditions, and cleaning schedules will be provided to the Board prior to the next meeting. The Board will then decide what other regional parks may need restrooms, either temporary or permanent.

Approval of Installing Cell Phone Tower in Legion Field

There has not been any pushback from anyone regarding this. No trees will be removed, and we can use the pole for lights on one of the new T-Ball fields. We will receive \$1500-\$1600 per month. A motion was made to approve, seconded by Member Hicks. The item was approved.

OLD BUSINESS**Julian Olsen naming update**

Chairperson Epstein made a presentation at the August 5, 2019 Agenda Conference of the merits of Julian Ole Olsen. Member Hicks mentioned that based on the presentation, he got the impression that Chairperson Epstein was representing an opinion of the Board that was inaccurate, that the Board wanted to name the Bayview Resource Center after Mr. Olsen. He still believes that the Board does not want the Bayview Resource Center named after anyone, but something significant should still be named in his honor.

Chairperson Epstein mentioned that City Council understands the Board's position, and wants to follow the recommendation, but they would also like to have a recommendation of what to name in his honor. He did say that one of the options would be to name the Bayview Center after Mr. Olsen, but he tried to rectify his error.

There are two different Council meetings scheduled for September, and Council would like to hear from the Board during that month regarding what should be named in his honor. Since the request came from Mrs. Douglas, Chairperson Epstein feels that she should be in favor of what the Board decides. After some discussion, staff will come up

with some options and present them to Mrs. Douglas for her approval. Mrs. Douglas would like something at Bayview since he made such a contribution at Bayview. Her list will be presented to the Board for discussion at next month's meeting.

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES

The video submitted to NRPA was shown. Superintendent Vaden also wanted to thank the groups Gull Point Summer Camp, Gull Point Music Theater Camp, Gull Point Ageless Grace, Fricker Summer Camp, Fricker ARC Camp, and the Friday Picker's at Bayview.

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- He introduced Michael Ziarnek, the new City Complete Streets Planner.
- The grand re-opening of Morris Court Park is set for August 31 at 10:00 am.
- We have closed on the YMCA property. We are working towards demolition, then construction.
- Today is City Hall Selfie Day.
- The new Playbook is out.
- We are working with Housing to redesign and redevelop Kiwanis Park.
- We are working with Council member Hill on funding for Magee Field, after football season.
- Tierra Verde, Legion Field, and Springdale Parks have playgrounds on site. We hope to get those installed as soon as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Member Park Visitation Program

- The following parks were presented: Allen Park, Bill Gregory Park, Durant Park, and Tippin Park.

OPEN FORUM

- Ms. Dubuisson –
 - o wondered if there is an opportunity to create a forum or a form to submit park issues? People don't like calling 311. It was mentioned that there is a 311 app.
 - o mentioned that policing of parks has been down due to the officer assigned to parks being down with a broken foot. She was wondering if we could get signs saying no alcohol/drug use in parks, especially where children play.
- Ms. Martinez thanked Director Cooper for getting ADA restrooms.

ADJOURNMENT – 9:13 am