

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

November 21, 2019

8:00 am

Whibbs Conference Room

**Members Present:** Paul Epstein (Chairperson), Antonio Bruni, David Del Gallo, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, David Forte, Gabriela Garza (in at 8:03), Leah Harrison, Rand Hicks, and Maranda Sword

**Members Absent:** None

**City Staff Present:** Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Ball Crew, Cheryl Fox (Athletics Superintendent), Bill Kimball (Parks Superintendent), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director), Tonya Vaden (Recreation Superintendent), and Mike Ziarnek (Transportation Planner – Complete Streets)

**Others Present:** Krista Hobgood

**CALL TO ORDER – 8:00 am**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Member Hicks made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2019 meeting. Member Bruni made a motion to second. The minutes were approved.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Director Cooper recognized the Ball Crew. He received a nice letter from an out-of-town participant in a tournament that stated how well the Ball Crew performed to get the fields ready after a major torrential downpour. The participant expected to have the event cancelled, but our Ball Crew was able to get the fields playable.

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

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- The playground at Legion Field is complete. We are waiting on the rest of the renovations before doing a ribbon cutting.
- Tierra Verde is 90% complete.
- At Parker Circle we have completed a poured in place ramp to finish off the ADA compliance.
- The renovations at Bayview Senior are finally complete. We are now looking at furnishings. The major things are all done, and the bathrooms are now ADA compliant. The opening date has not been set, but will be before the end of the year.
- Bayview Center is coming along, and we are expecting to open late next summer.

- We are getting three new playgrounds for EPH Lions Park, Springdale Park, and Kiwanis Park.
- Youth football wrapped up for the year this weekend.
- The Pensacola Table Tennis club that meets at Fricker will soon be presenting us with a check.
- We are currently undergoing youth basketball enrollments.
- The newest version of our activity guide is in the works.
- We will be scheduling seven interviews for our Marketing Coordinator position the week after Thanksgiving. We had 39 applicants that met the minimum requirements for the position.
- The contract to demo the old YMCA building has been awarded to A.E. New Jr., Inc. The signage regarding the demo has not gone up, but we have been communicating the progress with the Neighborhood Association.
- Member Hicks thanked Superintendent Kimball and his crew for helping deliver some items his neighborhood purchased to improve Pineglades Park.
- City Council has agreed to release money from the tree fund. Each district will get \$10,000, but District 2 will get an additional \$20,000 due to the trees lost in the 2014 Tornado. Additional money will be available for grants. Planner Ziarnek suggested adding language making the citizen responsible for maintaining the tree until it is established. He mentioned that in Denver individuals planted trees but did not care for them.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Board Member Park Visitation Program**

Chairperson Epstein asked the board if this program is accomplishing what they thought it would. Member Escobar-Ryan suggested creating a standardized tool for everyone to use, that we make available to the public. The tool should be customized for each park so that the board members and public know what to look for when assessing the park. Member Hicks thinks that this is a useful tool. When he visits a park, he tries to find someone to talk to about the park.

Safety in the parks after hours was also brought up by member Escobar-Ryan. It was mentioned that our park ranger would be visiting 10-15 parks and reminding people that they cannot be there after dark. Eventually he will be arresting them for trespassing. We know which parks give the most trouble, and we think he will make a difference.

The following parks were presented –Admiral Mason Park, Aragon Park, Baycliff Estates Park, Bryan Park, Camelot Park, Catalonia Square, Estramadura Square, Firestone Park, and Lamancha Square.

## **OPEN FORUM**

- Ms. Hobgood suggested using the current marquis at the old YMCA building to post updates. She would like to see part of our webpage dedicated to project updates. Superintendent Vaden mentioned that she is trying to keep it updated, but she is doing two jobs right now, so hopefully it will be given more updates. Ms. Hobgood

also had questions on pricing for afterschool. Director Cooper let her know that we control the pricing, and he would be glad to speak with her about it.

**ADJOURNMENT** – 9:02 am