



City of Pensacola
Parks and Recreation Board
Approved Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2020

8:00 am

Council Chambers

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

Members Absent: Gabriela Garza

City Staff Present: Ericka Burnett (City Clerk, attended by teleconference), Brian Cooper (Parks and Recreation Director), Deja Dowdell (Marketing Coordinator, attended by teleconference), David Forte (Capital Improvement Projects Manager), Heidi Thorsen (Assistant to the Director), and Tonya Vaden (Recreation Superintendent)

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 may 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 – by Director Cooper

Director Cooper 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.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS

Clerk Burnett swore in one reappointed member (Leah Harrison), and two new members (Jarrah Jacquay and Michael Wolf).

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

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Director Cooper opened the floor for nominations. Member Del Gallo made a motion to nominate Member Hicks to serve as chair. Member Sword seconded the motion. All approved naming Member Hicks as the new chair. Chairperson Hicks presided over the rest of the meeting.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Chairperson Hicks opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chair. Chairperson Hicks made a motion to nominate Member Del Gallo. Member Del Gallo accepted the nomination, but suggested possibly letting someone with more experience on the Board serve in that capacity. Chairperson Hicks made another motion nominating Member Sword. Member Del Gallo seconded the motion. No other nominations were put forth. The motion was approved that Member Sword will serve as Vice-Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Member Del Gallo made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting. Member Sword made a motion to second. The minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

(None)

DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORTS, CORRESPONDENCE, PROJECT UPDATES

Director Cooper brought the following updates:

- We have been involved in the pandemic [COVID-19]. We have struggled, just like everyone else with issues of how and when to close and re-open. The parks and tennis courts are all reopened. The Resource Centers remain closed; we are hoping to reopen them on June 15. The Golf Course has been able to remain open the entire time. We had three members on-site at City Hall; everyone else worked from home, and came and went as needed.
- Our guys have gone to one person per truck instead of two.
- We had one confirmed case of the virus in our department; the employee is doing well. We had several people who were exposed to him stay home for a few days to prevent the spread and be sure they did not contract it. We are working with the City nurse and following all of the proper protocols.

- We have seen construction costs rise to about one and a half to two times what we were expecting. We had a new parking lot that came in over budget, so we have had to place the project on hold until we can find the money. The construction of the soccer field's also came in way over budget. We will put it back out for bids soon.
- The press box and other updates such as a new walking path, better lighting, T-Ball fields, etc. at Legion Field will go to Council next Thursday.
- We anticipate a soft opening of the new Bayview Resource Center in July or August. The ribbon cutting we are anticipating for Labor Day.
- The Bayou Hills Championship Run, which was scheduled for March has been moved to Labor Day. This will be a major event in that whomever wins this event will be considered the City Champion runner. There will be several different festivities going on at Bayview Park that weekend. They are hoping to do the presentation of the awards in the new community center. The City and Pensacola Sports will partner on the event. Chairperson Hicks asked for clarification, whether it is the for-profit or not-for-profit portion of Pensacola Sports. Director Cooper said it is the Pensacola Sports Foundation.
- We will have ribbon cuttings this fall for Durant Park, Bayview Senior Center Renovations, EPH Lions playground installation, and Springdale Parks, after the pandemic has cleared.
- We have a new ADA ramp at the Miraflores Building. The ramp is moveable so it does not take away from the possibility of getting the building on the historic registry.
- The pavilion at Osceola Golf Course has been rebuilt.
- The new cart paths project at Osceola is also going to Council next Thursday.
- The Julian Olsen monument design is almost complete. We are working with the family to be sure the image is correct from all sides. We have received some funding through a couple of Council Members.
- The Kiwanis Park project is almost complete. We still have to complete the dog park.
- We have completed the renovations to the surface of Hunter Pool and the restroom facility. The pool house is still shut down and the new pool house is in the design phase; we are working for a streamlined way to get people in and out of the pool.
- The renovations to the disc golf course at the Hitzman-Optimist Park are complete. Next month there may be an item for discussion regarding naming one of the holes in honor of someone.
- The dog park at Bayview Park has been renovated and is back open. There is a constant struggle with erosion at the park.
- The Tierra Verde playground is now back open; several City officials, some Parks and Recreation Board members, and citizens were present at the ribbon cutting.
- Member Jacquay asked if there were any slow-downs on the projects due to COVID-19. Director Cooper replied that we have not had any slow-downs, but we have definitely seen a rise in costs.
- Member Sword asked if we have someone wiping down the playground equipment during the pandemic. Director Cooper replied that we have 65+ playgrounds, and it is impossible to keep them all wiped down. Several board members mentioned that citizens do not understand that we are not wiping down the playground equipment, and why the drinking fountains have been turned off and the bathrooms locked. Director Cooper reemphasized that we do not have the personnel available to wipe

down everything constantly. We are asking the public to use their best judgment and do their part on helping to keep everything clean and sanitized.

Staff Report

Superintendent Vaden brought a presentation about Summer Camps (including Outdoor Camps).

- We are looking forward to getting some semblance of normalcy. The centers were able to do some projects/improvements while they were closed for the pandemic. The centers also setup several different types of virtual recreational possibilities.
- We will be having a limited opening starting with Summer Camps. For direction, we surveyed the parents who would bring their children to summer camp to see what would cause them from not bringing their child. We have made changes based on the results.
- We will be reducing the leader/child ratio to 1:9, and keeping the groups under 40 so that there will not be any more than 50 people in the buildings at one time. We will also not be mixing the groups, except for a few limited field trips.
- Most of the field trips will be brought in-house instead of taking the children out. We will keep this up for June, possibly July. We will also keep as many of the items clean/separated by participant.
- While we will encourage the parents/children to wear facemasks, we will not require it. All of our staff members are required to wear them, at least until the City ordinance is lifted. Each staff and child will undergo an infrared temperature check. Playgrounds will be wiped down prior to and immediately following usage. We will also get portable sinks, and plenty of hand sanitizer. Access to the building will be restricted to Summer Camp only during the hours of summer camp.
- Meals for seniors and children will continue to be provided with curbside pickup, although we are not sure at which centers. We are working with the Council on Aging. Lunches will be provided to camp participants.
- Staff training will be on June 9. We are starting three weeks later than normal since we were not sure if we could have summer camp. Now that we are permitted to do so, it took a few weeks to get things in place, staff trained, etc.
- We are not working with the senior citizens yet, due to them being at a higher risk for catching the virus. The virtual recreation will continue with them.
- Chairperson Hicks requested a quick update at the next meeting.

OLD BUSINESS**Board Member Park Visitation Program**

The following parks were presented: Eastgate, Hitzman-Optimist, and Scenic Heights Parks.

OPEN FORUM

- Chairperson Hicks brought up the discussion about the meeting time of the Parks and Recreation Board.
 - o Member Wolf said he does not have a problem with the time, but other boards meet at 1:00 pm, and he would be open to that as well.
 - o Member Sword has no problem with the current time.

- Member Escobar-Ryan prefers early morning. She also does not mind online participation.
 - Member Del Gallo mentioned that anything after 8:00 am on Tuesdays and Thursdays is difficult. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday's are usually wide open.
 - Member Harrison mentioned she has to be home by 2:30 pm, so sometime between 8:00 am and 2:30 pm.
 - Member Bruni mentioned he does not have problems as long as he has notice. He would prefer to have a regular time and place.
 - Member Jacquay would prefer afternoons.
 - The time will not be changed right now. Please continue the discussion by emailing Assistant Thorsen.
- David Forte mentioned that he would bring an update next month.

ADJOURNMENT