

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2016**

Present: Helen Marchese, Vice-Chair; Erlene Larson; Joan Morgan; Andrew Sias; Maureen Coble; Walter Dunn; Frankie Pucci, Parks & Recreation Supervisor Dorothy St. Pierre; and Recording Secretary Goodman.

Absent: Victor Boyd, Chair.

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/ROLL CALL

The Regular Meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Committee/Training Room 244 by Vice-Chair Helen Marchese followed by roll call.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

II. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

Subsequent to welcoming new Members Erlene Larson, Regular Member and Frankie Pucci, Youth Member, Vice-Chair Marchese encouraged Members to participate in the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board volunteer efforts.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comment was held from 6:31 p.m. to 6:34 p.m.

IV. APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 20, 2016.

Joan Morgan moved to table approval of the September 20, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes until the next schedule meeting; seconded by Maureen Coble. The motion carried unanimously.

V. POINSETTIA FESTIVAL & PARADE

a. 2016 route logistics

Parks & Recreation Supervisor St. Pierre provided Members with a map of the Poinsettia Parade Route and road closures for review. The 2016 Poinsettia Parade Route will be in the opposite direction from last year's route. Review of the map ensued regarding: 1) parade participants staging and disembarkment area; 2) parent drop off area and drop off schedule; 3) parade route; 4) traffic flow following the parade; 5) information contained in the participant applications; 6) road closures and closing schedules; 7) Road & Drainage staff assisting with traffic control. Ms. St. Pierre noted that there will be a pre-parade meeting for participants to review the information provided with the participant application packet.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) arrival times for participants; 2) location of judge's stand; 3) distribution of candy from the parade participants; 4) parking areas for the public attendees; 5) it was suggested to hold a meeting with the volunteers to ensure all volunteers have the logistics of the parade; and 6) distribution items from Parks & Recreation during the parade.

Members were encouraged to volunteer for the Poinsettia Parade and Festival.

VI. CITY AND COUNTY PARKS & RECREATION PROGRAM/PROJECT UPDATES

a. Sarasota County Athletics – Ed Exner

Michelle Leach, Sarasota Parks & Recreation Athletic Supervisor, on behalf of Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner, provided the following County updates including: 1) the Huskies Football will finish their season at Butler Park; 2) Little League season is ongoing; 3) the quarterly inspection with City Staff was completed; 4) the: ProStyle™ Tournament scheduled for Atwater Sports Complex was cancelled; and 5)

concerns with the George Mullen Activity Center back football field lighting is in the process of being addressed.

b. City Parks & Recreation Activities, Events & Services – Sandy Pfundheller

Ms. St. Pierre reported the following updates: 1) the annual Mother/Son Olympics was held September 16, 2016 at the George Mullen Activity Center with 29 participants; 2) the Connector Bridge Ribbon Cutting Ceremony was held on September 17, 2016; 3) a T Rec Fun Day was scheduled for September 19, 2016 at the George Mullen Activity Center with 25 participants; 4) Parks & Recreation and Property Maintenance staff held inspections at neighborhood parks on September 21, 2016; 5) the North Port Play Day was held September 21, 2016 at various parks and community centers with 220 participants; 6) the project to install energy efficient lighting at the Morgan Family Community Center gymnasium was completed on September 29, 2016; 7) the Parks & Recreation staff along with the Sarasota County staff conducted an inspection at the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park on September 30, 2016; 8) Property Maintenance and Parks & Recreation staff conducted inspections at Blue Ridge Park and Atwater Community Park on September 30, 2016; 9) a Community Yard Sale was held on October 1, 2016 with 350 attendees; 10) there will be another Community Yard Sale to be held November 11, 2016; 11) the Canine Club was closed on October 12, 2016 to address maintenance issues; and 12) the water bottle filling stations at the community centers have reduced the number of plastic bottles discarded in the amount equivalent to 32,754 water bottles.

c. City Parks & Recreation Capital Projects Updates

1. Myakahatchee Creek Land Acquisition

Ms. St. Pierre reported that the City is continuing to work with the American Acquisition Company to pursue willing sellers for the Myakahatchee Creek Land Acquisition. City Staff met with County Staff to review the properties submitted for consideration as part of the Sarasota County Neighborhood Parkland Program. There are approximately 47 parcels remaining to be purchased.

2. Butler Park Multi-purpose Fields

A contract for the Butler Park Multi-Purpose Sport Field Renovation Project will be presented to the City Commission on November 8, 2016 for approval.

3. Blueways

The final draft of the interpretive map will be sent to the sign company for production. Signs will be located at the 5 parks along the waterway including: 1) Blue Ridge Park; 2) McKibben Park; 3) Dallas White Park; 4) Butler Park; and 5) Marina Park. Signs will also be located at 3 of the portages to provide an overview of the Phase I connection.

VII. UPDATE ON NORTH PORT POOL

Ms. St. Pierre noted that at the October 11, 2016 Commission Meeting, the Commission authorized expenditures of up to \$10,000.00 for maintenance at the Dallas White pool including the purchase of the pool pump. The pool pump is currently in the process of being installed.

VIII. ADOPT A PARK APPLICATION – MARINA PARK

Ms. St. Pierre announced that an Adopt-A-Park application for Marina Park has been received from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Copies of the application were provided to the Members.

Maureen Coble moved to recommend to the City Commission approval of the Adopt-A-Park application submitted by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary for Marina Park; seconded by Joan Morgan. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. PARK AMENITIES & POLICIES

a. Marina Park restrooms

On behalf of Parks & Recreation Manager, Sandy Pfundheller, Ms. St. Pierre reported that permanent portable restrooms are not an option due to Health Department regulations. An approximate cost for engineering and installation of a permanent restroom facility is \$100,000.00 based on a single unisex restroom. The estimate was assuming water, sewer and electric are available on site. A project of this nature would fall under Capital Improvement Projects if acted upon. Members requested a breakdown of the costs for a single unisex restroom facility to be presented at the next meeting.

b. Artificially lighted facilities – park closure time

Subsequent to a citizen requesting that the Dallas White Park volley ball courts be lighted and remain open until midnight, this item was brought before the Board for discussion and recommendation.

It was noted that the existing rules on closures are 10:00 p.m. for the artificially lighted facilities and from sunrise to sunset for non-lighted facilities. Staff is requesting input from the Board to either maintain the existing closure times or consider extending the 10:00 p.m. closing time for lighted facilities. The Board should consider the neighboring residents and note that any change would necessitate a survey to allow for resident input before moving forward with a time extension. Addressing a question, Ms. St. Pierre noted that she would check with the North Port Police Department regarding any noise Ordinances which might be effected by a time extension.

Board Members expressed concern regarding the youth that would take advantage of a midnight closing time which could lead to vandalism and other undesirable behavior. It was noted that lighted ball fields are open until 10:00 p.m. Considering the closing time for sporting events/sports fields, it was suggested that volley ball is a sport and there should be uniformity in the closing times. However, it was further noted that the sports fields are open at night only when a sporting event is scheduled and the request was to keep the volley ball courts open every night.

Board members requested more information regarding the request for extended hours prior to making a recommendation.

X. STATUS OF 2016 ADVISORY BOARD GOALS

a. Discussion of Community Health & Wellness Fair

Ms. St. Pierre distributed a draft flyer announcing the Health & Wellness Fair (Wellness Fair) and noted that Recreation Program Coordinator Jonathan Wheatley has contacted numerous vendors to participate including: 1) Sarasota Memorial Hospital; 2) Sarasota County Master Gardeners; 3) First Physicians Group; 4) Title Hospice; 5) Meals-On-Wheels; 6) North Port Fire/Rescue and others. Emails have been sent to various organizations with follow-up next week through telephone calls. When vendors and services are confirmed, the information will be added to the flyer. Vice-Chair Marchese agreed to provide a list of vendors to Mr. Wheatley that were involved in the Senior Center Health Fair held October 15, 2016.

b. Monthly review of social media and outreach efforts to enhance community awareness of Parks & Recreation

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

c. Volunteer Initiatives

Members were encouraged to volunteer for Trick or Treat at City Hall and the Poinsettia Parade/Festival and activities. Those interested in volunteering were asked to contact Sandy Pfundheller, Parks & Recreation Manager or Ms. St. Pierre.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XII. MEMBER REPORTS

Andrew Sias suggested scheduling events/contests for pets at the Canine Club such as a Halloween costume contest.

XIII. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING, NEXT MEETING; NOVEMBER 17, 2016 @6:30 P.M.

Agenda items for the November 17, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting include: 1) Approval of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes; September 20, 2016 and October 20, 2016; (2) discussion of Community Health & Wellness Fair; (3) Monthly review of social media and outreach efforts to enhance community awareness of Parks & Recreation; 4) Volunteer Initiatives; 5) information regarding the approximate cost for the development of a restroom at Marina Park; and 6) update on the pool and new aquatic facility.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Maureen Coble moved to adjourn the October 20, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting; seconded by Walter Dunn. The motion carried unanimously.

The October 20, 2016 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



VICTOR BOYD,
CHAIR

Minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting
of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this
17th day of NOV, 2016.