



City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

Meeting Minutes - Final Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Thursday, December 19, 2019

6:30 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 244

1. Call to Order

Chair Short called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- Present** 6 - Chair Robin Short, Vice Chair Maureen Coble, Board Member Gail Stevens, Board Member Cheryl Williamson, Board Member Grayce Oney, and Board Member Macy Thull
- Absent** 1 - Board Member James Scheidel

Also Present

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Tricia Wisner, Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner, and Recording Secretary Susan Hale.

3. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Approval of Minutes

- A. [19-1559](#) Approval of the November 21, 2019 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Board Member Williamson, seconded by Vice Chair Coble, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

6. New Business

- A. [19-1409](#) Approval of Parks & Recreation Advisory Board 2020 Meeting Schedule.

A motion was made by Board Member Williamson, seconded by Board Member Oney, to approve the 2020 Meeting Schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously on a voice vote.

7. Updates

- A. [19-0158](#) Ed Exner: Sarasota County Athletics Updates

Mr. Exner provided a report including Atwater Park improvements and staffing, George

Mullen playing field improvements, Butler Park playing field improvements, Dallas White Park repairs, Narramore Park repairs, and planned upgrade of batting areas.

B. [19-0159](#) Tricia Wisner: City of North Port Parks & Recreation Program and Activity Recap

Ms. Wisner reported on Gingerbread House Workshop, Poinsettia Parade and Event, preliminary plans for next year's Christmas themes, duties of new groundskeeper and publishing a new Parks and Recreation PlayBook.

C. [19-1561](#) Tricia Wisner: City of North Port Parks & Recreation Upcoming Programs and Activities

Ms. Wisner provided a report regarding Winter Camp, Swim with Santa event, competition pool hours, upcoming Polar Plunge, Run Rock and Roll 5K, Atwater Community Center citizen input meeting, Movie on the Green, and a Welcome to North Port Braves event scheduled in February.

D. [19-0161](#) Tricia Wisner: Parks & Recreation Capital Projects

Ms. Wisner spoke to advertising bids for parking lot improvements in City parks, ADA walking trails for Boundless Adventures in the Garden of the Five senses, and improvements to the Butler Park Playground.

E. [19-0163](#) Tricia Wisner: Upcoming Parks & Recreation Volunteer Opportunities

Ms. Wisner distributed list of volunteer opportunities and explained Woofstock.

F. [19-0162](#) Tricia Wisner: Parks & Recreation Items Scheduled at City Commission Meetings

Ms. Wisner provided a report including updated hours for the aquatic center, Warm Mineral Springs Master Plan, the Dallas White Park P3 (public/private partnership) progress, and reminded the Board regarding their Annual letter or presentation to the Commission.

Discussion ensued regarding advantage of letter vs. presentation to the Commission.

There was a consensus to direct staff to provide a draft presentation for review and approval. Thereafter, submit the presentation on a Commission agenda in February.

6. New Business Continued

B. [19-1306](#) Review Social Media Metrics

Ms. Wisner cited backup material regarding increased number of social media followers on Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Exner spoke to Sarasota County's Rainout text notification to subscribers as it applies to playing field conditions.

Ms. Wisner summarized what other City departments are doing in the area of social media.

C. [19-1563](#) Recap of North Port Aquatic Center Thanksgiving Weekend Special Hours

Ms. Wisner reported on aquatic center attendance during Thanksgiving weekend, responses from park attendees regarding suggested operating hours, additional amenities at the aquatic center during spring break, security lights at the aquatic center, and issues concerning registering for City activities online.

D. [19-1565](#) Continued Discussion on Developing a Cultural Event

Ms. Wisner introduced the item.

Discussion ensued regarding reaching out to groups through churches and other clubs/civic organizations, Chamber of Commerce resources, 55-plus communities, social media survey examples, possible future venues for an event, Board Members doing individual research, and the City's preliminary budget discussions beginning January.

Ms. Wisner spoke to the different ways the survey will be advertised and published, and how Playbooks are distributed.

Discussion continued including share cultural through food, a food truck rally, vendor admission fees to participate and entertainment generally paid by City, permitting required, alcohol requirements, combining food and entertainment, additional questions to be added to the survey, starting small with food trucks, possible venues, carding for events that offer alcohol, and event feedback from Freedom Fest at the Braves Stadium.

Ms. Wisner spoke to upcoming community night at the Braves' stadium.

Discussion continued concerning restroom availability at a cultural event, funding, using the survey to focus a Board decision, and scheduling an appropriate date and venue.

E. [19-1568](#) Update on Community Interest Input Survey Results

Ms. Wisner provided an overview of the City's annual survey using demographics and a limited number of questions.

Discussion ensued regarding confirming North Port zip codes, additional survey questions to be added, and emailing the final survey draft to Board Members.

F. [19-1569](#) Review of Draft Canine Club User Survey

This item was postponed.

8. Future Agenda Items

Future agenda items included the Canine Club discussion, update on the survey draft, annual Board report to the Commission, discussion regarding next year's Poinsettia Parade theme, Chair Short's report from attending at the Sarasota County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and a recap and possible direction regarding the cultural event discussion.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Adjournment

Chair Short adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Robin Short
Chair

Minutes were approved on the ____ day of _____, 2020.