

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



FY 2019-2020 Annual Report to the City of North Port Board of Commissioners

IT STARTS IN
PARKS





Introduction of Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members



Jim Scheidel



Grayce Oney



James Hersh

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Not pictured – Victor Boyd

Per Applicable Ordinances, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board works with the City of North Port Parks & Recreation Department in supporting their Vision and Mission by:

- Making recommendations to the City Commission regarding public recreation facilities, programs and future projects.
- Exploring various sources of grant funding available for recreational programs/facilities.
- Supporting and promoting opportunities for play and play spaces in the community.
- Being ambassadors in the communication of ideas and projects to the public, and supporting the plans and desires of the City Commission.



The Board received and commented on the following projects:

- Continued support of the accreditation efforts through the Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).
- Efforts for increased awareness of parks, facilities and events through social media and outreach efforts.
- Capital Improvement Projects including the shade and lighting at Butler Park, walking path installation and improvements to ADA access at the Garden of Five Senses, improvements to Blue Ridge Park parking lot and a new playground at Butler Park.
- Evaluation of vacant properties and consideration for proposed park improvements and an additional off leash dog park.
- Hosting Freedom Fest at CoolToday Park, including post event analysis.
- Evaluation of modification to programs and activities in response to COVID-19.
- Aided in the development, promotion and analysis of surveys regarding the proposed Boca Chica park, community views on potential multicultural event and dog park needs.

FY 2019/2020

Activities Cont.

Events & Activities

The Board supported and promoted the following events and activities:

- Boundless Adventures Walking Trail
- Ribbon Cutting - volunteers
- Newcomer Day - volunteers
- Tree Lighting – volunteers
- Poinsettia Parade – volunteers & 2019 Parade theme
- Sweetheart Ball - volunteers & sponsors
- Freedom Fireworks – volunteers
- Bunny Scramble – volunteers
- Due to COVID 19, 3 meetings were canceled in FY 19-20.





- Promote and support the Parks & Recreation Scholarship Program, Adopt-A-Park Program and sponsorship opportunities at the North Port Aquatic Center.
- Increase community awareness of parks, facilities and events through social media and outreach efforts.
- Evaluate additional opportunities to increase revenue and decrease expenses.
- Promote health and wellness initiatives and opportunities for the community.
- Explore grant opportunities in support of projects and initiatives.
- Remain informed, involved and offer diverse perspective on Parks & Recreation programs, projects and initiatives.
- Evaluate potential locations and amenities for a proposed additional off leash dog park.

FY20-21 Considerations



- Reevaluation of the Community Interest Survey questions to determine impact of COVID 19 on the community's Parks & Recreation needs.
- Evaluation of the adopted Master Plan goals, existing park land and National Recreation and Park Association standards to ensure North Port Parks & Recreation has offerings in line with national standards.
- Evaluation of input from the Florida Recreation and Park Association Park Impact Calculator.
- Support the efforts of Ad Hoc Committee for the new Armed Forces Memorial Park.
- Evaluation and input on prioritizing improvements that provide inclusive activities and reduce ADA barriers within parks.
- Opportunity for involvement in discussions to provide input regarding the development of a possible regional park on land conveyed from the Wellen Park.
- Parks and Recreation Advisory Board will provide support for additional connections from North Port to the Legacy Trail Connection extension.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
PAST, PRESENT, AND
FUTURE SUPPORT**

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