4970 CITY HALL BLVD
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

City of North Port

Meeting Minutes

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | **6:30 PM** | **City Hall Room 244**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Chair Morgan, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Gray, Board Member Patel and Board Member Wallace

Absent 3 - Board Member Jackomin, Board Member File and Vice Chair Chavis

ALSO PRESENT

Staff Liaison Sturgess and Board Specialist Lindner.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Eric Talaska: Spoke to Rainbow Bridge memorial.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 26-0591 Approve the March 19, 2026 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes.

Chair Morgan announced the item and requested a motion.

A motion was made by Board Member Stevens, seconded by Board Member Patel, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Morgan, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Gray, Board Member Patel and Board Member Wallace

Absent: 3 - Board Member Jackomin, Board Member File and Vice Chair Chavis

6. UPDATES

A. 26-0586 Review and Discussion of Recent and Upcoming Parks & Recreation Department Events

Chair Morgan announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess introduced the item and spoke to North Port Aquatic Center operating hours, lifeguard hiring and training, sold memberships, Warm Mineral Springs building renovations, Early Explorers program, Spring Break Camp, Egg Hunt Extravaganza, Book Swap, and maintenance.

Discussion took place regarding Blue Ridge, Dallas White, Highland Ridge, and McKibben parks maintenance, North Port University and North Port Teen Youth Council administration, World's Largest Swim Lesson, and Freedom Festival.

B. 26-0587 Review and Discussion of Parks & Recreation Department Agenda Items for Recent and Upcoming City Commission Meetings

Ms. Sturgess announced, introduced, and spoke to the item regarding Hope Park Playground grant funding, Warm Mineral Springs construction manager at risk (CMAR) amendment, Kiwanis special event assistance funding and Pet Expo, and Legacy Trail connector funding opportunities.

Discussion took place regarding cost recovery, grants, and funding sources.

C. 26-0742 Review and Discussion on Suggested Budget Reductions

Chair Morgan announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess introduced the item, provided a presentation including overview, organizational evolution, and performance metrics, cost recovery model, community benefit framework and breakdown, special events, park system snapshot, public satisfaction and trust, parks maintenance division, level of service modes, and responded to questions regarding impact fees, millage rates, property taxes, budget cut adversity, general fund clarifications, and proposals.expenditures and cost clarifications.

Chair Morgan requested a motion.

A motion was made by Board Member Gray, seconded by Board Member Patel, to bring back options regarding a Rainbow Bridge memorial area at the Canine Club Dog Park for future discussion. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Morgan, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Gray, Board Member Patel and Board Member Wallace

Absent: 3 - Board Member Jackomin, Board Member File and Vice Chair Chavis

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chair Morgan announced the item and queried Board Members regarding items to be placed on a future agenda.

Discussion took place regarding Circle of Honor.

Public Comment:

Eric Talaska: Expressed support of Item No. 26-0742.
Chuck English: Spoke to various topics regarding the item.

Chair Morgan requested a motion.

A motion was made by Board Member Patel, seconded by Chair Morgan, to add a future agenda item for a presentation by Chuck English regarding Phase 2 of the

Circle of Honor. The motion carried on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Chair Morgan, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Gray, Board Member Patel and Board Member Wallace

Absent: 3 - Board Member Jackomin, Board Member File and Vice Chair Chavis

Discussion continued regarding Circle of Honor.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Morgan adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

By:_______________________
Joan Morgan, Chair