

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019**

Present: Robin Short, Chair; Melina Frederick, Vice-chair; Maureen Coble; Helen Marchese; Gail Stevens; James Scheidel; Kody Parsotan, Youth Member; Sarasota County Liaison Ed Exner; Staff Liaison Tricia Wisner, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director; and Recording Secretary Goodman.

1. 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 Room 244 by Chair Short.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken with each Board Member introducing themselves.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no chair announcements.

6. APPROVAL OF PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR JANUARY 18, 2019

Board Member Coble moved to approve the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board January 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes as presented; seconded by Board Member Marchese. The motion carried unanimously.

7. FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAW TRAINING

Assistant City Attorney Golen provided a presentation regarding Florida Sunshine Law; Ethics, Public Meetings and Public Records.

Assistant City Attorney Golen left the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

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

a. Sarasota County Athletics – Ed Exner

Sarasota County Liaison Exner provided the following updates: 1) all athletic fields have been treated to prevent the growth of weeds; 2) Atwater Park: a) opening day for Little League was held; b) all edging and maintenance issues were addressed on the fields; c) repairs and netting on the batting cages were addressed as needed; d) fencing to replace the netting on the back of the batting cages is being considered; 3) George Mullen Activity Center: a) flag football season has started; b) issues with the walkway from the concession building to the field are being addressed; 4) Dallas White Park: a) the new volleyball court system has been installed; b) the breaker box has been changed out for the operation of the lights; c) the softball field is being utilized by the Huskies Football for practice; 5) Butler Park: a) fields 1 and 2 are being used for soccer; b) field 3 is currently not being used to allow for the field to regenerate and will be opened in mid-March; 6) Narramore Sports Complex: a) Leagues have started; b) sod on the fields has been replaced as necessary; c) softball season has begun at the softball complex.

b. City Parks & Recreation Activities, Events & Services recap – Tricia Wisner

Staff Liaison Wisner distributed photographs of the Atwater Fields, new volleyball system at Dallas White Park and an overview of the North Port Aquatic Center. The Parks & Recreation Department has hired Laura Ansel as the new Outreach Coordinator and Jeff Nelson as the new Parks & Ground Manager. Staff is preparing to hire staff for the North Port Aquatic Center and Staff Liaison Wisner is now the Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation.

Staff Liaison Wiser provided the following updates: 1) “Movie on the Green” was held January 21, 2019 with approximately 200 attendees; 2) “Newcomer Day” was held February 2, 2019 with approximately 400 attendees; 3) the Gulf Coast Senior Games were held with the “Bag Toss”; 4) “Start Smart” baseball began with 67 participants; 5) “Woofstock” was held February 9, 2019 with approximately 800 participants; 6) Kickball started at Narramore Sports Complex with 11 teams registered; 7) “Rec-On-Wheels” at Marius Park was held February 20, 2019 with approximately 30 attendees; 8) “Teen Talk was held February 21, 2019 with approximately 50 participants.

c. Upcoming City Parks & Recreation Activities, Events & Services – Tricia Wisner

Staff Liaison Wisner reported the following: 1) “Movie on the Green” is being held February 22, 2019 featuring the movie “Shaggy Dog” which came out in 1959 and follows the theme for the North Port 60th Anniversary. A cardboard “build your own car” workshop was held for participants to build their cardboard car and bring to the “Movie on the Green” to bring a drive-in atmosphere to the event; 2) the “Community Health and Wellness Fair is scheduled for February 23, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the George Mullen Activity Center with 39 vendors participating; 3) “Beginner Photography” classes will begin February 25, 2019 at the George Mullen Activity Center with 7 registered; 4) “Binglo Family Game Night” is scheduled for March 15, 2019 at the Morgan Family Community Center from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; 5) “Arts on the Green” is scheduled for March 9, 2019 at the City Center Front Green from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in coordination with the North Port Art Advisory Board; 6) a “Community Yard Sale” is scheduled for March 16, 2019 at the City Center Front Green from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; 7) a “Community Baby Shower and Pre-School Expo” is scheduled for April 6, 2019 at the George Mullen Activity Center from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and hosted by Social Services and the Health Start Coalition of Sarasota County.

d. City Parks & Recreation Capital Project Updates – Tricia Wisner

i. North Port Aquatic Center

Staff Liaison Wisner reviewed the photograph of the Aquatic Center and reported that pressure testing of the seams of the competition pool will take place next week. After the testing is complete and all the required actions are taken, the pool finish will be added. The roof and windows have been installed on the bathhouse building and concession building and the final specs for the food service items are being installed. All filters and underground utilities are complete and the projected opening date is in July 2019.

9. DISCUSS THEME OPTIONS FOR POINSETTIA PARADE AND FESTIVAL

Board Members provided ideas for the theme of the Poinsettia Parade and Festival which included: 1) North Port Diamond Jubilee; 2) North Port Holiday Diamond Celebration; 3) Holiday Diamond Jubilee Now and Then; 4) Holiday Diamond Jubilee Blast from the Past; 5) Then and Now; 6) Cheers to 60 Years.

Subsequent to voting, it was decided to recommend North Port Holiday Diamond Jubilee as the theme for the Poinsettia Parade and Festival.

10. DISCUSS POTENTIAL CANINE CLUB IMPROVEMENTS

Board Member Scheidel provided concerns expressed from those attending the Canine Club which included the following concerns and Staff Liaison Wisner’s clarifications:

DRAFT

1. The maintenance workers removal of water bowls which those attending the park leave for their pets. Staff Liaison Wisner clarified that the maintenance workers are instructed to clear any materials left behind. It was recommended for patrons to take the bowls with them when they leave the park. When the bowls are left, Parks & Recreation receives complaints which include patrons not wanting their pets drinking from bowls they are not familiar with. There is a water fountain with a bowl at the bottom to provide pets with water. This is difficult to keep clean and is on the list for the new Parks & Grounds Manager to review and determine a method for addressing this issue.

2. There have been concerns expressed regarding the visual barrier between the big dog section of the park and the small dog section of the park. Some of the patrons of the park would like to see a better barrier between the sections to prevent dogs seeing each other and causing what could be considered disruptive behavior. It was noted that, in addressing these concerns, Parks & Recreation has installed additional slats to the barrier.

3. Concerns were expressed regarding lighting the park after sunset. Staff Liaison Wisner clarified that North Port has an Ordinance which states that Parks are open from sun up to sun down and are not lighted unless they are lighted courts which are open until 10:00 p.m. To provide lighting after dark at the Canine Club would require a new Ordinance to allow lighting in all parks.

4. Patrons of the Canine Club would like updates on any improvements planned for the park. Currently there is not funding in the budget for improvements to the park. The City Commission is starting budget hearings for next Fiscal Year Budget and now is the time for any future improvements to be considered. It was noted that some of the patrons requested information regarding installing a cement pond in the park. In researching this idea, Parks and Recreation found that those dog parks that do have cement ponds find it very difficult to keep clean and due to the location of the Canine Club, it could have drainage and stormwater issues in the Myakkahatchee Creek and would not meet permitting requirements. Another concern that was expressed was to have shade structures/awnings installed. North Port Parks generally use trees and landscaping for shade. Staff Liaison Wisner contacted the City's Arborist to determine what funds are in the Tree Fund. There is irrigation at the park, so additional trees might be considered to address the shade concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding: 1) State Legislation permitting smoking in public parks except on athletic fields and playgrounds; 2) West Villages Blue Heron Park design to accommodate pets; 3) possible location in North Port for another dog park; 4) additional ideas for separating the big dogs and little dogs at the park.

Staff Liaison Wisner agreed to provide Members with maps of City owned property which would be suitable for dog parks and a list of the parks which could accommodate a dog park. The information will be provided to the Members at the next meeting for review and discussion.

11. REVIEW DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CITY COMMISSION

Staff Liaison Wisner provided Members with the Annual Report in the form of a Memorandum for review and suggestions. With the Board's approval, the Memorandum would be sent to the City Manager and then provided to the City Commission.

It was noted that there were 2 small typos in the Memorandum which will be corrected.

Board Member Marchese moved to accept the Parks & Recreation Annual Report in the form of a Memorandum as amended; seconded by Board Member Stevens. The motion carried unanimously.

12. UPCOMING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Staff Liaison Wisner noted upcoming volunteer opportunities include: 1) the "Community Yard Sale": scheduled for March 16, 2019 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the City Center Green; 2) "Movie on the Green" scheduled for February 22, 2019 starting 1 hour prior to sunset; 3) "Community Health & Wellness Fair" scheduled for February 23, 2019 at the George Mullen Activity Center from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; 4) volunteers are needed to prepare the approximately 20,000 eggs for the "Flashlight Egg Hunt" scheduled

for April 12, 2019 at 8:30 p.m. and the “Egg”normous Egg Hunt” scheduled for April 13, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

13. LIST OF PARKS & RECREATION ITEMS SCHEDULED AT UPCOMING CITY COMMISSION MEETINGS

Staff Liaison Wisner noted upcoming Commission Meeting items include: 1) Tuesday, February 26, 2019 the Warm Mineral Springs Master Plan will be presented to the Commission with changes made at the January 7, 2019 Commission Workshop Meeting. It was determined that the cost to rehabilitate the buildings at Warm Mineral Springs would be approximately 10 million dollars and would include new infrastructure and building renovation. To develop the Park as outlined in the Master Plan would be approximately 8 – 10 million dollars; 2) an Agreement with the Sarasota County School Board to allow for parking at the Heron Creek Middle School to accommodate parking for the Aquatic Center is being considered.

14. MEMBER REPORTS

There were no member reports.

15. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING: MARCH 21, 2019 @6:30 P.M.

Agenda items for the next meeting include: 1) update on Legacy Trail; 2) updates on a Disc Golf Course and Mayakkahatchee Creek Greenway Project; 3) review of maps of City owned property for potential additional dog parks; 4) update on Canine Club improvements; 5) all standing items.

Members were encouraged to contact Staff Liaison Wisner with any item they would like presented during budget hearings and if they notice any cleanliness issues at the City parks restrooms and gazebos.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

17. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Short adjourned the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board February 21, 2019 meeting at 7:48 p.m.

ROBIN SHORT
CHAIR

Minutes were approved at the Regular Meeting of
the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board this
_____ day of _____, 2019.