



# City of North Port

4970 CITY HALL BLVD  
NORTH PORT, FL 34286

## Meeting Minutes Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

---

Thursday, March 16, 2023

6:30 PM

City Hall Room 244

---

### 1. Call to Order

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

### 2. Roll Call

**Present** 7 - Chair Everett, Vice Chair Murphy, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Thomas, Board Member Bazan, Board Member Rosa and Board Member Jameson

**Absent** 2 - Board Member Benton and Board Member Gray

### Also Present:

Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Trish Sturgess and Recording Secretary Matthew Powell

### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board.

### 4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 5. Approval of Minutes

- A. [23-0473](#) Approval of Minutes for the February 16, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

***A motion was made by Board Member Rosa, seconded by Vice Chair Murphy, to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 7 - Chair Everett, Vice Chair Murphy, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Thomas, Board Member Bazan, Board Member Rosa and Board Member Jameson

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Benton and Board Member Gray

### 6. Presentations

- A. [23-0515](#) Barbara Lockhart: Environmental Conservancy of North Port

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Lockhart provided a presentation including overview, goals and objectives, number of lots owned, species protected, education regarding local environment, negotiation process, cooperation efforts, expanding City parks, increasing natural green space,

environmental preservation, and park clean up.

Discussion took place regarding tree fund usage, lot priority, conservation easement designation, land goals, future goals, gopher tortoise preservation, fundraising activities, parks adopted, tree preservation and species, and lot connectivity.

**B. [23-0516](#)** Jennifer Krajcir: Restoring North Port's Natural Habitats in Public Areas

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Krajcir spoke to goals, community involvement, acreage requirements, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) role, conservation easement, habitat improvement process, removal of invasion species goals, and relocation process.

Discussion took place regarding FWC requirements, Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program, community involvement, area requirement, and relocation costs.

## 7. Unfinished Business

**A. [23-0517](#)** Review and Approve Annual Parks and Recreation Advisory Report

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess provided a presentation including current board members, annual report requirement, vision and mission, projects and initiatives, events and activities, and fiscal year (FY) 2022 and 2023 goals and considerations.

Discussion took place regarding process for making recommendations to Commission, and increasing awareness.

***A motion was made by Vice Chair Murphy, seconded by Board Member Rosa, to approve the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 2022 Annual Report. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 7 - Chair Everett, Vice Chair Murphy, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Thomas, Board Member Bazan, Board Member Rosa and Board Member Jameson

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Benton and Board Member Gray

Discussion continued regarding presentation format.

***A motion was made by Board Member Rosa, seconded by Board Member Stevens, to present the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board 2022 Annual Report at a future City Commission meeting. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 7 - Chair Everett, Vice Chair Murphy, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Thomas, Board Member Bazan, Board Member Rosa and Board Member Jameson

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Benton and Board Member Gray

Discussion continued regarding process for presentation.

## 8. New Business

**A. [23-0538](#)** Review of Parks and Recreation's Marketing Metrics for February 2023

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess spoke to partnerships, performance metrics, and events.

**B. [23-0518](#)** Discussion on Board Rules and Objectives

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess spoke to amendments, rules, and goals.

Discussion took place regarding event participation, process for making recommendations, and Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council schedule and representation requirement.

***A motion was made by Vice Chair Murphy, seconded by Board Member Thomas, to appoint Board Member Jameson as the North Port representative for the Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 7 - Chair Everett, Vice Chair Murphy, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Thomas, Board Member Bazan, Board Member Rosa and Board Member Jameson

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Benton and Board Member Gray

**C. [23-0519](#)** Discussion on Focus and Direction of Board

Chair Everett announced the item.

Discussion took place regarding goals, future park locations, native plantings and wildlife preservation, land conservation, increasing park interactivity and visitation, community involvement, creating an arboretum, preserving history, art collaborations, tours, scavenger hunts, City beautification, Board role, staff requirements, youth programs, and dog parks.

Ms. Sturgess spoke to funding, strategic pillars, planning and prioritizing goals.

Discussion continued regarding prioritizing goals, future projects and plans, youth events, awards, sporting events and locations, park development, and creating concept areas using native plantings.

***A motion was made by Vice Chair Murphy, seconded by Board Member Rosa, to direct staff to identify potential concept areas utilizing native plantings. The motion carried on the following vote:***

**Yes:** 7 - Chair Everett, Vice Chair Murphy, Board Member Stevens, Board Member Thomas, Board Member Bazan, Board Member Rosa and Board Member Jameson

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Benton and Board Member Gray

Discussion continued regarding financing, locations, partnerships, and requirements.

## 9. Updates

**A. [22-2772](#)** Trish Sturgess: Recent and Upcoming City Commission Meetings

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess spoke to American Red Cross training, water slide inspection, and Warm

Mineral Springs opening.

**B. [22-3445](#) Trish Sturgess: Recent and Upcoming Events**

Chair Everett announced the item.

Ms. Sturgess spoke to recent and upcoming events.

Discussion took place regarding sponsorships.

**10. Future Agenda Items**

Future Agenda Items include discussion regarding potential concept areas utilizing native plantings.

**11. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Everett adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Everett, Chair

These minutes were approved on the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.