

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 15, 2022 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Danielle Micklitsch, Chair
Mike Flannery, Vice Chair
Scott Seubert, Member
Steve Stewart, Member

EXCUSED: Yvette Gaugh, Member

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk

Chair Micklitsch called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

1. Changes to the Agenda - There were no changes to the agenda.

2. Audience Comments – Resident Deb Schechner of Boca Ciega Isle Drive commented on concerns regarding a hotel that may potentially be built near Lido Park playground and residences. A Committee discussion followed on zoning.

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes: May 17, 2022

Chair Micklitsch moved and Member Flannery seconded to approve the May 17, 2022 minutes as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

b. Approve/Accept Meeting Dates 2023

Chair Micklitsch moved and Member Seubert seconded to approve the Committee meeting dates for 2023 as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

4. Items for Discussion

a. FY22 Financial Review

COO Jennifer McMahon reviewed a presentation on the revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2022; her presentation is part of the meeting record. Highlights included the increase in pool admission fees, salaries, and a brief discussion on COVID revenue losses. Reports on programming, aquatics, rentals, special event permits, and parks followed. Event highlights included the lighted boat parade and other holiday gatherings.

b. PAG Park

Ms. McMahon presented, for Committee input, the two design concepts that had been presented previously at the District 4 meeting and the Historic Preservation Committee. The Committee members asked questions. Concerns were raised regarding the installation of a pavilion, removing existing plantings for new, maintenance, and installation of sidewalks. The bus shelter is no longer

needed. It was suggested to simply update what already exists and save funds.

Bill Loughery of Pass-a-Grille Way gave public comment against the removal of existing mature trees and no need for additional sidewalks. He was in favor of removing the bus shelter and adding bricks or trees there. He suggested starting with what is there and what can be added, not removed and keep it low maintenance.

c. Horan Park Playground

Ms. McMahon explained that the annual budget includes the replacement of Horan Park's playground and keeping it ADA accessible; bids will be sought.

d. East End of Corey Park

Although the park plans at the Corey Landings project are not far along enough to present, Ms. McMahon shared a landscaping design that has been submitted. The plan is part of the meeting record. The park will be maintained as a City park. A brief discussion followed on contaminants (brownfields) that remain in that area; the owners/developers being responsible for that removal.

e. St. John's Project

Ms. McMahon provided an update on this shared use project, which is still in discussion. The Commission has kept it in the budget for now. The school will proceed in moving the athletic fields whether the City is involved or not.

Monte Hoge of District 1 provided public comment that he and many of his neighbors were not in favor of this project and prefer keeping the neighborhood quiet, not brightly lit, and saving funds.

Mike McDonough of District 1 provided similar comments against the additional lights and traffic in the neighborhood; Member Flannery expressed agreement.

f. Little League – New Contract

Ms. McMahon reported that Southwest (SW) Little League will no longer exist after fall ball, due to lack of participation or enough teams. Madeira Beach approached the City to rent the fields. St. Pete Beach presented a contract to them; should it move forward for Spring; the contract would go before the City Commission. It is the same as the last SW contract - \$1200 for spring \$800 for fall per field per season.

A brief discussion followed on girls vs. boy's field designs.

Resident Bill Loughery gave comment on little league at Hurley Park, the possibility of historic designation for the Hurley concession stands and getting more community involvement in promoting team sports and events at the parks. Resident Deb Schechner gave comment on the proposed dollar amount of the agreement, girl's and boy's leagues and the potential revenue that the games bring to the community. She was in favor of league play.

g. Arbor Day Tree City

The City has resubmitted to the Arbor Day Foundation to become a Tree City; designation is pending.

h. Updates – Fisherman’s Park and Pier

Designs are being considered for landscaping, the intersection, and sidewalks. A study is underway to include this area with the Sunset Way connection to 75th and the beach area. This is currently in permitting. There will no longer be boat slips.

5. Adjournment – Next meeting May 16, 2023

There being no further business, Chair Micklitsch adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.

These minutes were approved at the May 16, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.