

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 16, 2023 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Phil Christman, Member
Robin Gibson, Member
Mike Wise, Member

EXCUSED: Steve Stewart, Member
Scott Seubert, Member

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

In the absence of a Chair or Vice Chair, Member Christman called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Changes to the Agenda – Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McMahon reported no changes to the agenda, but welcomed new committee members Phil Christman, Robin Gibson and Mike Wise, who all shared on their backgrounds.

2. Approval of the Agenda –

Member Christman moved, and Member Wise seconded to approve the agenda May 16, 2023 as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

3. Audience Comments – John Kurzman of 59th Avenue gave public comment on safety straps for playground seats and better parking at Lido Park.

4. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2022

Member Christman moved and Member Gibson seconded to approve the November 15, 2022 minutes as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

b. Election of Committee Officers for 2023

Member Wise moved and Member Gibson seconded to appoint Steve Stewart as Committee Chair for 2023-24; the motion carried unanimously.

Member Gibson moved and Member Wise seconded to appoint Phil Christman as Committee Vice Chair for 2023-24; the motion carried unanimously.

c. Playground Replacement Priorities

Ms. McMahon reported that Parks Supervisor Mandy Edmunds, a Certified Playground Inspector, will soon be assuming the role of staff liaison to this Committee. Ms. McMahon went on to review the data (number of visits past year, average dwell time) that was included in the meeting packet for Vina Del Mar, Lazarillo, Lido and Belle Vista Triangle Parks. She reported that Horan Park will be

completed this year and McKenney Park was completed in 2020. Ms. McMahon asked for Committee input. Discussion followed on the pricing of surfacing, annual budgeting, preventative maintenance at park shelters, and transients gathering in parks near the SunRunner stops. Pinellas CPOs (Community Patrol Officers) will be checking at McKenney, Horan and Lido Parks daily; a timer light at the Lido shelter was suggested for prevention. The Vina Del Mar fitness equipment was discussed and that neighborhood's demographic.

Ms. McMahon summarized that following her safety inspections, Mandy Edmund's suggested priority list for the repair/refurbishment of parks was Vina Del Mar, Lazarillo, Lido (kids 2-5), Lido (kids 5-12), then Belle Vista Triangle Park. The prioritization would assist when bringing the budget forth to the City Commission.

Vice Chair Christman moved and Member Gibson seconded to recommend the priorities as outlined by staff to the City Commission; the motion carried unanimously.

5. Items for Discussion

a. Egan Park

Ms. McMahon explained that the \$300,000 budgeted for soccer field sharing with St. John's School proved unpopular with residents. Those funds could be supplemented and put towards Egan Park improvements, where fencing and lighting are necessary. She reviewed an updated Conceptual Plan, which is part of the meeting record. The plan included pickleball, soccer fields (Southwest Little League has disbanded), upgrades to tennis and restrooms. She requested Committee input. Boat ramps, parking, docks and the addition of LED lights were discussed. The use of the new barges for maintenance work, fishing piers and fireworks was also discussed.

Resident John Kurzman added public comment on keeping the Egan Park boat launch spacious and getting boater input on the design/s.

b. PAG Park Update

Ms. McMahon displayed an updated Conceptual Plan (part of the meeting record) that was discussed at the last meeting. She updated members on proposed upgrades – mostly for safety, walkability, and crosswalks. The plan will go back to the Historic Preservation Board and City Commission; she asked for comments. The design was discussed. More trees were suggested, and the extra sidewalk may not be necessary.

c. 2nd Quarter FY23 Budget Update

Ms. McMahon reviewed a presentation which is part of the meeting record. She reviewed Revenues (Staff and Instructor Led Programs, Pool Admissions, Community Center Rentals and Fitness Center), Expenses, and Cost Recovery. She went on to review the Programming, Aquatics, Rental, Parks (cleanups, repairs, landscaping, tree installations, fencing) and Beaches (Mobi-mats, cleanups, concession inspections, safety initiative) Reports. Ms. McMahon lastly reported on upcoming events.

Vice Chair Christman asked about building the next agenda; Ms. McMahon explained that she and Ms. Edmunds would welcome suggested items or topics via email or phone call. Small items can just be reported at any time; they do not have to be put on an agenda. Bayway median lighting was briefly discussed; the lights are being looked at as part of the undergrounding project.

6. Adjournment – Next meeting November 14, 2023

There being no further business, Vice Chair Christman moved and Member Gibson seconded adjournment at 10:37 AM.

These minutes were approved at the November 14, 2023 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.