

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 21, 2024 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Phil Christman, Vice Chair
Robin Gibson, Member
Mike Wise, Member
Grant Izzi, Member

EXCUSED: Steve Stewart, Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer McMahon, Chief Operating Officer
Ariana Wilson, Admin Assistant-City Clerk's Office
Mandy Edmunds, Parks and Rec Operations Manager

Vice Chair Christman called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Approval of the Agenda –

Vice Chair Christman welcomed new Committee Member Grant Izzi. Member Izzi introduced himself and gave a brief background.

Member Wise moved, and Member Gibson seconded to approve the May 21, 2024 agenda as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

2. Audience Comments – None.

3. Action Items

a. Approval of Minutes – November 14, 2023

Member Wise moved and Member Gibson seconded to approve the November 14, 2023 minutes as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

b. Election of Committee Officers 2024-25

Member Wise moved and Member Gibson seconded to appoint Phil Christman as the Committee Chair for the 2024-2025 fiscal year; the motion carried unanimously.

Member Gibson moved and Member Izzi seconded to appoint Mike Wise as the Committee Vice Chair for the 2024-2025 fiscal year; the motion carried unanimously.

4. Items for Discussion

a. FY2024 Mid Year Report

Chief Operating Officer Jennifer McMahon reviewed a presentation of the Recreation Department's 2nd quarter. This presentation is made part of the record. They reviewed and discussed the following:

- Revenue and expenses for programs and rentals
- Summer Camp – Currently full with a waitlist
- Staffing – First year since Covid, with a full staff, including camp counselors and lifeguards

- Pool admission – Numbers are the same as last year
- Rec rentals – February through June are the busiest with events almost every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday
- Fitness Center equipment replacements/upgrades
- Underwater egg hunt
- Significant park projects completed by staff such as:
 - Tree trimming at Egan Park
 - Sand cleanup from 9th Ave to 1st Ave
 - Sand barrier added to the dog beach
 - Shell 75th Ave parking lots
- Beach Cleanups – Dune Savers outreach and Beach Ambassador Program
- Keep Pinellas Beautiful – St. Pete Beach received an outstanding partner award
- New toy boxes
- Revenue for weddings and special events
- Sandbags at Egan Park – These are available year-round at this location
- Hurricane Expo – Hurricane season starts June 1st
- 4th of July – Fireworks will be on the 4th this year

Vice Chair Wise asked what efforts the City makes to get some of this information out to residents and what the best way to stay informed of any changes was. Ms. McMahon stated information gets posted to the City's website and social media. There is also a City newsletter you can sign up for that gets posted every Friday. If there is ever a need to get vital information out, the City will also send out notifications to anyone who has signed up.

b. Update on Park Enhancements Throughout the City

Park enhancements were reviewed during the presentation.

The Committee discussed the Egan Park project and master plan. Ms. McMahon stated they do have a park design but have not received designs for stormwater and such. She also stated she was waiting for the new City Manager to start to pick the master plan back up.

Member Izzi asked how the City communicates during turtle season and what their approach is for turtle lighting. Ms. McMahon stated Ms. Edmunds communicates with Sea Turtle Trackers every day since they let her know once the beach is ready for raking. Code Enforcement went out with the Sea Turtle Trackers the last week in April and identified any lighting that needed to be corrected.

5. Adjournment – Next Meeting November 19, 2024

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 AM.

These minutes were approved at the May 19, 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.