

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 27, 2025 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Mike Wise, Vice Chair
Daryl Dykens, Member
Kent Gordon, Member
Liz Sinatra, Member
Jayne Stitik, Member

STAFF PRESENT: Mandy Edmunds, Interim Recreation Director
Ginny Bodkin, Deputy City Clerk
Camden Mills, Public Services Director

Vice Chair Wise called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mandy Edmunds, Interim Recreation Director, welcomed new Committee members Liz Sinatra, Jane Stitik, Kent Gordon and Daryl Dykens and thanked them for serving.

1. Approval of the Agenda –

Member Sinatra asked to add a discussion of the Committee’s duties and aligning that with the Comprehensive Plan going forward.

Motion: Member Sinatra moved, and Vice Chair Wise seconded to approve the May 27, 2025 agenda as amended; the motion carried unanimously.

2. Audience Comments – None.

3. Action Items

- a. Approval of Minutes – May 21, 2024

Motion: Member Stitik moved, and Vice Chair Wise seconded to approve the May 21, 2024 minutes as presented; the motion carried unanimously.

- b. Election of Committee Officers 2025-26

Motion: Member Sinatra moved, and Member Stitik seconded to appoint Mike Wise as the Committee Chair for 2025-26; the motion carried unanimously.

Motion: Member Gordon moved, and Member Dykens seconded to appoint Liz Sinatra as the Committee Vice Chair for 2025-26; the motion carried unanimously.

4. Items for Discussion

- a. Staff Presentation

Ms. Edmunds reviewed a presentation on the powers and duties of the Recreation Advisory Board:

- Advise on and evaluate existing programs and propose new ones
- Make recommendations to city staff or the city commission regarding

- Protection, enhancement and beautification of city owned property and rights of way (landscaping management)
- All city recreational activities, marketing strategies, revenue generation, expenditures, establishing partnerships with public and private entities
- Make recommendations for the development of new recreational programs and activities for the community
- Protection and maintenance of the system of parks and recreation facilities including the community center complex, Don Vista, Warren Webster, and parks

Ms. Edmunds explained that the Committee would also recommend special event co-sponsorships to the city commission – currently for 2026. Her presentation included the application timeline, who may be considered, and the need to reapply annually. Co-sponsorships for non-profits and St. Pete Beach schools are preferred. Her presentation provided a list of the considerations for co-sponsorship, including the applicant’s experience and resources, positive economic impacts to the city, compatibility, innovation, plans to advertise and promote, and not be politically motivated or sensitive. Her presentation is part of the meeting record.

Ms. Edmunds went on to review each of the co-sponsorship requests received for the coming year including the funding requests for permits, sheriff fees and/or EMS fees. The Committee can recommend waiving any or all of the fees for the applicant. Staff would take the Committee’s recommendations to the City Commission and then include those accordingly in the annual recreation operating budget, if approved:

- Corey Avenue Business Assoc. (CABA) Craft Festivals – Dec., Jan., Apr., and May dates
- Church Concert Series - Feb. and Mar. dates
- Mardi Gras Celebration - February 17th
- St Patrick’s Day Celebration - March 14th
- Pass-A-Grille Women’s Club Walking Tour – March 21st
- Party Under the Lights – November 1st and May 2nd
- Seafood Festival - May 15th -17th (same organizer as weekly Sunday Market)
- End of Summer Party – Sept 18th
- Halloween Party - October 31st (block party)
- Trunk or Treat – October 31st Corey Ave (previously at Community Center)
- Community Bonfire – December 10th (Pass-A-Grille Community Association)
- Holiday Golf Cart Parade and Concert - December 20th (CABA)

The Committee discussed the proposed events.

- The City and businesses do get a significant value out of the events, and positive economic impact from events, especially on Corey and 8th Avenues.
- It was suggested that next year include what the attendance was, if there are bands (who pays), goals, metrics or just strictly neighborhood (held on public property).

Ms. Edmunds reviewed some of the other Recreation and Aquatics sponsored events for 2025-26, including the July 4th salute to the military, October Concert Series, Holiday Boat Parade and Tree Lighting, spring concert Series, Yard Sale, Springfest, Bands on the Sand Concert and Back to School Bash.

From there, Ms. Edmunds moved on to discussion of the future vision of board. The recreation

department would like opportunities for volunteer groups for events and input on programs.

Vice Chair Sinatra expressed concern about how much can be accomplished when meeting only twice a year. Chair Wise suggested that the Committee be given the opportunity to be more proactive to shape the future and have an impact. There was concern about the enforcement of laws and rules in the parks. Member Gordon explained that he had visited all the city parks and took photos; a great deal of maintenance is needed – can this Committee be set up to oversee or watch those processes (routine maintenance to capital improvements)? Are all decisions being made by staff – i.e. hours of operation of the pool? Should some of that come to the Committee?

Ms. Edmunds explained that there is a system in which parks are evaluated and reviewed to determine which are in the greatest need of repair and Capital improvements go through the Public Services Director. Everything cannot be accomplished in one year and needs to be spread out. They are working within the allocated budget. She highly recommended using and promoting the use of the See, Click, Fix app for routine maintenance issues. This creates tracking and prioritizing mechanisms.

Ms. Edmunds added that post hurricane priorities for parks have been sent to FEMA. Post hurricane evaluations were discussed; Member Gordon requested a copy of the FEMA hurricane evaluation of parks. Chair Wise expressed concerns about less priorities and focus on parks, since the Parks Department now falls under Public Services, which has other challenges within wastewater, sewers and roads. Parks are very visible to the community. There needs to be a voice for the parks.

Ms. Edmunds summarized that the priorities she heard from the committee were to have input on maintenance and budgeting in addition to the other duties.

Vice Chair Sinatra suggested that the Committee meet more than twice a year to better prioritize the waiver of fees with the needs at the parks. Member Gordon suggested approving the proposed events since they are mostly recurring (and the committee does not have enough information to decide), but remind the Commission to be cautionary because this year has had extraordinary costs and capital items and uncertainty with FEMA. Member Stitik concurred because of the value for residents and small businesses. Ms. Edmunds added that staff is looking at how recreation impact fees from condition use permits can be utilized.

Member Dykens commented on the dire needs for parks post hurricanes. He spoke about the vision for the parks; he would like the Committee to have more input with parks (i.e. grass, boat ramps, picnic benches, maintenance, Egan Park). Ms. Edmunds reminded the members that FEMA review is still in process and some things cannot be moved. Remediation is still in process, as well as what will be covered by FEMA and what will be covered by insurance.

Public Services Director Camden Mills added that staff meets with FEMA bi-weekly. Wastewater, stormwater and critical facilities are high priority as the Community Center. He explained the eight steps to the FEMA process. Member Dykens asked about a timeline for leveling the debris pile area at Egan Park. Mr. Mills explained that the City is waiting to close out that disaster permit from FDEP; they were called in February. An Engineer and contractor were hired to take soil samples to see if remediation is required. The test results have gone to FDEP for review. The City would need to handle the remediation if necessary. A scope of services for sod and irrigation has been put together and is on hold to put out an RFP when the results are received.

Ms. Edmunds said future plans can be discussed with this committee when the time comes.

Vice Chair Sinatra asked whether increasing the frequency of meetings would be helpful; Ms. Edmunds said that there are no major projects right now until the facilities are up and running, but it could be considered in November. A lot of park and beach information can be emailed through Mr. Mills' office. Member Gordon was in favor of setting a meeting sooner than November, and then possibly quarterly going forward. The members reviewed their calendars.

Motion: Vice Chair Sinatra moved, and Member Dykens seconded to meet on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The motion carried unanimously.

Resident Henry Higgins commented in favor of more permanent pickleball courts. He performs maintenance at Hurley and Vina del Mar Parks. He spoke about park maintenance and would like to see covered cabanas or benches for people to use at the courts.

5. Adjournment – Next Meeting July 15, 2025

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:22 AM.

These minutes were approved at the July 15, 2025 Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting.