

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2022

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center and called to order at 7:00am on Tuesday, November 8, 2022. Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Dana Suiters, Rob Oman, Chairman David Schrader and staff liaison Terri Moore were in attendance.

The October 11, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Family Movie Night – October 15th – The event was well-attended. Rob suggested that “Closed-captioning” be available for Movie Nights. Terri stated that she would look into it; see what other agencies are doing.
- Kids Night Out – October 22nd – The event was full with 50 participants. There are different themes for each one of these events.
- Zombie Fun Run – October 29th – There were 64 kids that participated, which was fewer than expected. We are working with the Development department on Marketing.
- Puppy Paddle – October 29th – There were 107 dogs participating; but not many vendors. Rob suggested the “Shot Clinic” vendor be invited for next time.
- RAC Project Updates – The Restroom project is over-budget and we are still trying to work out the funding for it without postponing other needed projects.
- Park Project Updates –
 1. Frances Avenue Park is done. A suggestion was made to get Solar panels when the roof is replaced at the pavilion.
 2. Pool Re-surfacing & Shade Structures at RAC – Working to get these projects done during the winter season.
 3. Slide at Sims Park has been fixed. The poured and play surface is in the PW budget next year and will be replaced. It is very expensive and will continue to be patched until then.
 4. The Meadows – Public Works is working on this project. Parking is the challenge; houses have doubled in price.

Mike Mancini is the new Parks Superintendent. We will invite him to the Advisory Board meeting so all members can meet him. He can update us on the Park projects.

5. The Advisory Board brought up some questions about the other parks. New/additional benches are desired at the playgrounds. Improvements at Grand Blvd. Park are not on the schedule right now. There is a broken irrigation cover at Jasmin Park (safety concern). The information kiosks at Grey Preserve and at Sims Park still need to be updated with upcoming events. *Not having keys to the kiosks has been the problem. Monthly and quarterly information will be updated for concerts, movies, etc. before the next meeting. The Boat Ramp area/road needs attention. (Terri will check the status.) The shell road to Grey Preserve needs to be graded. (Is there a regular schedule for this to be done?)

NEW BUSINESS:

- Holiday Hours Veteran's Day; November 11, 2022: RAC is Open 10am-5pm
- Florida Aquatics Council: November – The Aquatics Manager and one of our Recreation employees that has pool care certifications will be going to St. Cloud to attend a one-day training.
- The RAC is Closed for Thanksgiving and the Friday after Thanksgiving.
- Holiday Photo (next meeting) – December 13th – We will send the picture to City Council.
- Upcoming Membership Campaign in January, 2023 – We hope it will be as successful as the one we did for the Summer. We are working on user Group Memberships, as well as, updating Group Agreements (Quilters Guild, TBAC, etc.).

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Para-Pickleball Clinic – November 18th: 11:30am-1pm – Our Pickleball lesson instructor is going to attend Vet Fest on November 12 to try and get a program started at the RAC (inclusivity).
- City of New Port Richey Neighborhood Clean-up on November 19th; to assist residents and home-owners in getting rid of junk.
- Family Movie Night – “A Good Dinosaur” at Sims Park on November 19th at 6pm – The movie has been themed in support of the Dino and Dragons exhibit that will be at Schwettman December, 2022-February, 2023. There will be giveaways, as well.

- Light Up the Night Event on December 2nd, 2022; Tree Lighting at 6pm; Activities & Santa until 9pm – Volunteers are needed to decorate in Sims Park, as well as at the event. The Winter Art Festival has been combined with the Tree Lighting Event this year, instead of duplicating a separate event.
- Holiday Boat Parade – December 3rd – (Recreation staff will decorate the boat)
- Holiday Street Parade – December 10th – City Council will be invited to ride the float/shuttle. Recreation/Park staff will decorate it.
- Sips Holiday Golf Cart Parade – December 18th
- Toys for Tots (RAC) – distribution date is December 17th – Volunteers are needed to assist during the week leading up to it, to help cross out bar codes and sort toys. Assistance will also be needed on the day of distribution.

VOX POP:

Cody Bonanno is very active with the Toys for Tots program. He is also trying to help bridge the gap between Aquatics and Recreation.
The meeting adjourned at 7:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe

Carolyn Marlowe,
Secretary

CM:dch