

# **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

February 14, 2023

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center and called to order at 7:05am on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Dana Suiters, Chairman David Schrader, Bertell Butler and staff liaison Terri Moore were in attendance. Aquatics Manager, Cody Bonanno attended as a guest.

The November 8, 2022 minutes were unanimously approved. (There was no quorum in December or January.)

## **INTRODUCTION:**

- New Advisory Board Member, Bertell Butler – Introduced
- Guest – Mike Mancini, Parks Supervisor (Grounds Maintenance) – He was not present. He will be invited again to the meeting next month to update the Board on Park projects. He will let us know what is going on with the playground surface at Sims Park, and some of the other things mentioned by the Board that need attention.
- Cody Bonanno, Aquatics Manager – Introduced. We are gearing up for the upcoming season.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Light Up the Night – Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – The event went very well, and the staff did a super job with it.
- Toys for Tots (Distribution Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>) – The event went very well. There were tens of thousands of toys and books distributed to over 500 families. New Port Richey RAC was the largest distribution site, and the event ran very smoothly. Thank you to all that assisted with the event.
- 2023 Membership Campaign – There were 327 memberships sold, which exceeded the goal. Joey Galto sold the most memberships and will receive a reward.
- Arbor Day – Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> – The event was held at Frances Ave Park in the afternoon. Public Works assisted the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class from Genesis Elementary School in planting a new tree.

- Project Updates –
  1. Pool resurfacing BIDs are out for the Activity Pool
  2. Restroom Project exceeded the budget amount again, so BIDs were rejected. Items to repair/replace/upgrade during the interim were identified and the work is being done by Facility Maintenance
  3. Gymnasium Wall & Floor are pending
  4. Treadmill in Fitness Center will be replaced (one each year); new belts will be installed on the other treadmills
  5. A Walk-through of the RAC will be done soon, and the Board will be updated

### NEW BUSINESS:

- Change Meeting Day/Time? – There was some discussion, and then the Board decided that the second Thursday of each month at 6:30pm would be an agreeable day and time to meet. All voted unanimously to recommend changing the meeting day and time to that beginning in March, 2023.
- Board Recruitment – Terri has been speaking to various groups and members and encouraging all that meet the qualifications to apply. She would like to see a variety of recreational interests represented on the Board, such as: Pickleball, Racquetball, Aquatics, African-American Club, etc. in order to be diverse and represent the community. (A question was asked if any County residents would be allowed to sit on the Board, but currently, there is no such allowance in the Board Policy.) All voted unanimously to have the Board Policy changed to allow one County Seat (non-City resident) to be open on the Board.
- Citizen's Academy – March 1<sup>st</sup> (RAC) – The presentation will be revised so it will not be exactly the same for each Academy. A tour of the RAC will be done, and the staff is trying to think of ways to make the presentation more inter-active and fun.
- Outdoor Recreation Programs – Terri is working on new programming for outdoors; there is opportunity to explore and expand Recreation for and in the community. Kayaks may be utilized at Frances Avenue and Grey Preserve. Cody can take the lead. We are considering creating a position in the next budget year. We want to get people on the River that runs through the City. We are getting proposals for rentals of Kayaks and Paddleboards from rental companies. We can add to that: educational presentations, bird watching and identifications (Little Explorers), fishing clinics, etc.

- PRAC All Staff Meeting – We are planning a meeting before the summer season begins; inviting other Department Heads to meet and answer questions. We would like the Advisory Board to attend and participate (possibly at the Grey Preserve – we will tell you the date and time beforehand) for Team Building.
- Fee Evaluation – There are no changes from last year, but we are reviewing the User Agreements with groups like the Quilters Guild, TBAC Swim Team, etc. Some of the fees have not been raised in quite some time. We are putting together a cost-recovery equation; which programs serve the community, and which are competitive? For example, for competitive Pickleball, is there an opportunity to charge reservation fees? Should the reservation fees be increased? A fee study will be done, and the Board will be asked for their input before it goes to Council.

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Projects –
  1. Road needs to be graded at Grey Preserve. It is really bad.
  2. Grand Blvd Park improvements – It is getting finished up and is looking a lot better.
  3. The Meadows – The project will be BID soon. (Re-doing the Playground, Dog Park, Restrooms, and more. (The Boardwalk connection will be done later; in phase II or III.)
  4. Pool Heaters – The heaters for the lap pool have become inoperable and unsafe. We have been using the pool blanket and keeping the pool between 79-81 degrees. We are planning to get a new pool heater now and another one in the fall in order to have them both operating next winter season. An estimate has been received from CES (there is a 10-12 week lead time). Geo-thermal heaters are also being considered. Rental heaters were also considered, but there was difficulty getting a timely response from the company. We have extended the memberships of those affected by the cooler water temperatures and being unable to utilize the pool temporarily. The CES service records for preventative maintenance on the heaters are being reviewed, as well. (Questions were asked about the Geo-thermal operations and efficiency, and cost.)

### SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Concert Series (flyer distribution) – The Simply Shania concert had to be cancelled due to the weather. The Fleetwood Mach/Stevie

Nixx concert will be this Saturday. The weather is expected to be perfect.

- The Daddy-Daughter Dance was very successful. We upped the cost, and still had good attendance (discussion).
- Spring Camp: March 13-17, 2023 – Registration is being held for Spring Camp.
- Youth Basketball League – This will be starting soon.
- Department Operations – We are gearing up for Summer Season; hiring Lifeguards, setting up Swim lessons, getting Camp staff, etc. A question was asked if there will be vendors at the concert. There is not a plan to have vendors at the concerts.
- Aquatics – Cody spoke about the pool heaters and the plan for seasonal Lifeguard staffing. There will be Lifeguard courses during spring break in March. We are also trying to get more WSI Instructors. We want to offer am and pm swim lessons. Staffing has been a challenge for a variety of reasons. We want to offer a rebate for the cost of the Lifeguard training course to those that join our staff and work through the summer season.

VOX POP:

Comment: The table umbrella that is just outside of the Oak room, needs to be cleaned.

Master Plan – Terri is having conversation around that and would like the Advisory Board engaged in that plan.

There was discussion about the vending machines; if there is consideration to contract with Pepsi or Coca Cola. Bertell stated that he has a contact person to pass on to Terri.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10am. (Dana had to leave at 7:35am.)

Respectfully submitted,

*Carolyn Marlowe*

Carolyn Marlowe,  
Secretary