

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2024

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center and called to order at 7:04am on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Board Members Chairman David Schrader, Carolyn Marlowe, Rob Oman, and Stephen Blanchard were in attendance. Launi Schmutz-Harden and Bertell Butler were not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The December 12, 2023 minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Non-resident Advisory Board members
A discussion was had regarding non-residents being a part of the advisory board. A motion was made to include non-residents; however, there was no second and the motion failed. Advisory Board members and staff discussed ideas for recruiting potential members. Staff and board members will continue to work towards filling the vacant seats with residents. The topic will be revisited if it becomes too difficult to find interested residents.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Next issue of the Bridge – Friends of the Rec Center Group
An update on Friends of the Rec Center group will be coming out in the next issue of The Bridge.
- Application for grant for Grey Preserve discussion
The application for the grant for Grey Preserve is ongoing. The next meeting it will be an agenda item and an update will be given with more details on what is proposed to be done.
- Update on Meadows Dog Park
At the next meeting there will hopefully be a completion date to report.
- Sims Park playground surface replacement discussion
At the last City Council meeting, the playground surface replacement project in Sims Park was approved.
- Frances Avenue Park improvements
The City is entering into a contract to have improvements done in the park. Chairman Schrader asked where the boardwalk is going to be.
- Future P&R Advisory Board meetings discussion

The Board members were not in favor of changing the frequency of the P&R Board meetings. The board felt that with the current amount of content for the meetings, it was best to keep meeting monthly. The board was open to reevaluating this topic at a later date.

- Items not on the agenda

A discussion was had regarding the Special Event permitting process. Board members discussed about how it was done in the past. Staff provided information about the current process and that a Special Event Team (S.E.T team) meets to review these permits. The Board asked to be informed about upcoming Special Events.

Chairman Schrader mentioned that 2024 is the 100-year celebration for the City of New Port Richey and that he is participating with some of the planning.

Staff provided event recaps:

- Dec. 15th (Sleighed It!)
Friendly competition in replicating holiday desserts! Max of 20 participants. Top 6 contestants get prizes. For ages 11-17. We had 14 signups for this event. This was the 3rd year we have now done the event.
- Dec. 16th (Toys for Tots)
Staff recognized Chairman Schrader for volunteering. We helped over 2500 children and distributed tons of toys. We had volunteers from the local High School JROTC groups assist with the organization and distribution for this program. This year we helped the highest number of families and children yet.
- Dec. 26th – Jan. 5th (Winter Camp)
40 campers spent their holiday break here at the facility. Campers were broken up by age (5-8 & 9-12). We took 15 more campers this year than in previous years. We took the campers to Stop N Play and Astro Skate for field trips.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Staff provided a general overview of the upcoming events.

- Kids Night Out – Sat., Jan. 13, 2024, 6:00pm – 9:00pm
- Arbor Day Celebration @ Frances Ave. Park. Fri., Jan. 19, 2024, 2:00pm – 3:00pm
- Concert in the Park (Pat Benatar tribute “All Fired Up”) – Sat., Jan. 27, 2024, 7pm
- Valentine’s Family Dance – Sat., Feb. 10, 2024, 5:30pm – 8:00pm
- Concert in the Park (Journey tribute band “Girl Can’t Help It”) – Saturday, February 17, 2024, 7pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:45am.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista J. Schiano