

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2024

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center and called to order at 5:30pm on Wednesday, August 14, 2024. Board Members Chairman David Schrader, Carolyn Marlowe, Rob Oman, Tad Clements and [REDACTED] were in attendance. Launi Schmutz-Harden has moved out of the City limits and is no longer a member of the Board. Stephen Blanchard was not in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The June 11, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved. There was no meeting in the month of July.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- Advisory Board member recruitment
[REDACTED] and Tad were welcomed to their first meeting as Advisory Board members and they were thanked for attending the budget workshop and supporting the Parks & Recreation department.
- Recreational trails program (RTP)
The presentation for the Grey Preserve grant request was postponed, but a new date has not yet been set. Once the date is set, we will communicate it to the Board members.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- City of New Port Richey Centennial Celebration
The Rec Center will host a guided historical sunset paddle on Friday, Aug. 16th. Departure will be from James E. Grey Preserve between 5:30pm and 5:45pm and will end at Sims Park. Also, as part of the Celebration, Game Show Night at the Rec will be held on Friday, Sept. 20th from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Both events are free to participate in.
Dave gave an overview of the Centennial Weekend events being held October 25th, 26th and 27th. Everybody was informed about the Centennial swag that is currently being sold. Flags are \$25 and pins are \$3.

- **FY 24-25 Budget Process Update**
The status of the budget process was updated and the dates of the upcoming meetings were given.
- **Tentative Capital Improvement document / project list**
Information on sources of funding for the General and Capital Improvement Funds were given. A question was asked about the artificial turf project at the Rec center. An inquiry was made about the where the turf was going and Andre explained the layout. The access process improvements were discussed. ██████ asked whether or not a faster way of accessing the Rec center was part of the improvements discussed. Staff committed to review member quick access check-in process.
- **Summer camp wrap-up**
The camp was a success with 11 weeks of creating memories. This year brought in approximately \$115,000.00 gross revenue and had an average of 125 kids attend per week.
- **Dogs in Parks: Follow-up**
A copy of the city ordinance, number 2014-2028, § 2, 2-4-2014 and the County ordinance, number 16-29, § 3, 10-11-16 were handed out. Per the city ordinance, dogs are only permitted in Orange Lake Park, Cotee River Park, or any other park where signage is posted indicating that animals are permitted. The general consensus with staff and Board members was to review consistency of dog signage at all parks.
- **Staffing Update**
Currently, there are two open positions; Aquatics Manager and Fitness Center Supervisor. The question was asked whether there are any internal employees who could be promoted to either position and there is not. The Events Coordinator position duties are being handled by various staff members until the return of an employee out on leave.
- Carolyn Marlowe announced that this is her last meeting due to moving outside City limits. She is retiring from serving the Board after 21 years.

4. UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS/REC PROGRAMS/LEAGUES

Staff provided a general overview of the upcoming events.

- Centennial Paddle Trip – Fri., Aug. 16th, depart Grey Preserve (5:30pm-5:45pm), end at Sims Park (7:00pm-7:30pm)
- Movie Night – Fri., Aug. 16th approx. 8:30pm, Sims Park
- Fall Pool Schedule – Mon, Aug. 12th – Sun., Oct. 27th (Lap Pool only – weekday, all pools open, Sat & Sun)
- 4th Friday Bazaar – Aug. 23rd, Sept. 27th, Oct. 25th, 6-10pm, Railroad Square

- Kids Night Out – Sat., Aug. 3rd & Sat, Sept. 7th, 6pm-9pm, Rec & Aquatic Center
- End of Summer Spectacular – Sat., Aug. 31st, Sims Park
- Cottee River Clean-up – Sat., Sept. 14th, 8:30am
- Concerts in the Park – Sat., Sept. 14th (Santana), Fri., Oct. 18th (Prince), 7:00pm, Sims Park
- Stronger Together Walk – Sat., Sept. 21st, 5:00pm-8:00pm, Sims Park
- Walk to End Alzheimer's – Sat., Sept 28th, 9:00am-12:30pm, Sims Park & Orange Lake
- Cotee River Bike Fest – Fri., Oct. 11th through Sun., Oct. 12th, Sims Park & Downtown
- One Community Now Pack the Park Event – Sat., Oct. 19th, 10:00am – 3:00pm, Sims Park & Orange Lake
- Adult Basketball League Season – Aug. 28th – Oct. 30th
- Youth Basketball League Season – Sept. 14th – Nov. 16th, ages 8-15
- Gameshow Night at the Rec (Centennial themed) – Fri., Sept. 20th, 6:00pm-8:00pm, Rec & Aquatic Center
- Halloween Dance – Sat., Oct 12th, 5:00pm – 8:00pm, Rec & Aquatic Center

The meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Krista J. Schiano