

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 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, November 13, 2024. Board Members Chairman David Schrader, Rob Oman, Stephen Blanchard Tad Clements and [REDACTED] were in attendance.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- The September 18, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

2. OLD BUSINESS

- City of New Port Richey Centennial Celebration
Chairman Schrader said the event was a success and gave credit to the Recreation and Aquatics center for helping with the event. The drone show received a lot of attention and was a big highlight of the event. [REDACTED] proposed making this an annual Founder's Day Event. The Board was interested in this idea. Staff will work on what this event will look like and will bring event ideas to a future meeting.
- RAC Staffing Update
Application review process for the two open positions is ongoing. Staff will be reaching out to see who is still interested and move forward with starting the interview process. This applies to both the Aquatics Manager and Fitness Center Supervisor positions.

Mr. Blanchard requested that the Dogs in City Parks Ordinance be discussed further. Staff provided Mr. Blanchard with a general overview of the conversation that ensued from previous meetings. At previous meetings, consistency of signage stood out as an area to focus on moving forward. Dogs in Parks is regulated by a City Ordinance which requires City Council approval. Board members briefly discussed ideas on how to recommend changes to the ordinance. The Board would like to have this ordinance be discussed at future meetings prior to presenting their recommendations to the City Council.

3. NEW BUSINESS

- Holiday events overview

Mr. Trapp provided an overview of upcoming holiday events which includes Light Up the Night is December 6th, the Cotee River Boat Parade is December 7th, Movie Night featuring Elf is December 13th, the Holiday Street Parade is December 14th, and Toys for Tots hosted at the Recreation Center is scheduled December 21st. Staff requested for Board members to volunteer if available for the Light Up the Night event.

- Storm Recovery

Mr. Julien talked about the impact that Hurricane's Helene and Milton had on the Recreation & Aquatic Center and throughout all City Parks. Hurricane Helene's impact was felt primarily throughout the City Parks due to the significant storm surge. There was a large number of downed trees and broken branches throughout all City Parks due to the strong winds associated with Hurricane Milton. At the Recreation & Aquatic Center, the facility lost power during the hurricane. The back up generator for the facility suffered significant damages which caused it to go offline. The Parks and Recreation team assisted Public Works with various post storm clean-up efforts.

- Holiday hours

The Recreation & Aquatic Center center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after Thanksgiving. The facility will reopen on November 30th.

- Membership Sale

Staff presented this year's Annual Membership Sale to the Advisory Board. The sale will begin on December 9th and will run through December 23rd. The sale features a 20% discount for City residents and a 10% discount for non-residents. The Board was in favor of offering the sale again this year. This item will go for approval at the December 3rd City Council Meeting.

- Event Wrap Ups

Staff provided an overview of the past month's events.

Cotee River Cleanup

- Participants: 100, 10 kayaks/paddleboards (60 participants in previous years)
- The event is in partnership with Keep Pasco Beautiful for a county wide cleanup.
- Each City Park had a volunteer group cleaning the park.

Halloween Dance

- Participants: 54 pre-registered + 33 day of = 87 participants
- Gross Revenue: \$708
- Activities included: DJ and themed activities
- Planning to do the event next year

Puppy Paddle

- Participants: 79 dogs, 109 owners
- Gross Revenue: \$395
- Planning to do the event next year

4. UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS/REC PROGRAMS/LEAGUES

Staff provided a general overview of the upcoming events.

- Concerts in the Park – Sat., Nov. 23rd (Taylor Swift), 7:00pm, Sims Park
- Pasco Walk to End Alzheimer's – Sat., Nov. 16th, 9:00am-12:30pm, Sims Park & Orange Lake *rescheduled due to Hurricane Helene*
- Movie Nights – Fri., Nov. 22nd (Despicable Me 4) & Fri., Dec. 13th (Elf), 6:00pm, Sims Park
- Light up the Night – Fri., Dec. 6th, starts @ 5:00pm, Sims Park
- Christmas Boat Parade – Sat, Dec 7th, starts at 6:00pm, Cotee River
- Holiday Street Parade – Sat., Dec 14th, starts at 6pm, Downtown NPR
- Toys for Tots – Sat., Dec. 21st, 8:00am – 4:30pm, Rec & Aquatic Center
- Winter Camp – Dec. 23rd through Jan. 3rd, 7:30am to 5:30pm, Ages:5-12, Rec & Aquatic Center
- Cotee River Bike Fest – Fri., Jan 17th through Sun., Jan 19th, Sims Park & Downtown NPR *rescheduled due to Hurricane Helene*
- Youth Basketball League Season – ongoing until Nov. 23rd

The meeting adjourned at 6:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Krista J. Schiano