

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

August 11, 2015

Chairman Dave Schrader called the regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board to order at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2015. Board Members Greg Giordano, Carolyn Marlowe, Joy Phillips, and staff liaison Elaine Smith were also in attendance. The minutes for May and June were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Summer Membership Drive - Went really well; Membership sales were 15% higher than last year for same period.
- National Parks & Recreation Month - Dave attended the Proclamation Presentation at the City Council meeting.
- Playful City USA Communities Award Presentation - The award was presented at the same City Council meeting, and the trophy looks very nice in the display case in the lobby of the Recreation & Aquatic Center.
- June Pool Party - There were 431 participants; a very large turnout for this event.
- July Pool Party report - The event was rained out.
- Summertime in the City report - Matt Phillips worked very hard on planning and organizing the event; fields at Gulf High School could not be used because they were really soupy from all of the rain; event had to be cancelled both on the regular date and the rain date. We are trying to get at least some of the money put towards the event to be refunded. (Donna is working on that.) The inflatable games that were reserved were used for a Summer Camp Special Event Day; toys and games that had been donated will be given away at other events (laser Tag on Friday night, possibly at Trunk or Treat, etc.).
- Camps - We ran three different camps this summer: Tennis Camp had the most participants than ever before; Adventure Camp & Aquatic Camp were new this year and both went very well; Summer Camp was also well attended and went very smoothly.
- Canoe Battleship Event - Scheduled for August 1st, but was rained out; has been re-scheduled for August 15th. Canoes have been borrowed from Scout Camp; twelve teams have signed up so far. (Greg complimented the hospitality of the Aquatic staff during a recent private pool party he attended.)

- August Movie Night - (flyers handed out) attendance for Movie Night has been lower than when the movie was shown in Sims Park; will be shown in the gymnasium on August 29th; first 100 families will get a Candy Land game or Disney DVD; would like to increase attendance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fit Phantom - threw first pitch at Rays Game on Parks & Recreation Day; good publicity; may be invited to other sporting events (i.e. maybe drop first puck at Tampa Bay Lightning game, etc).
- Review of Addition Fees presented to City Council - Fees go into effect on October 1st; the Finance Department proposed some changes; Parks & Recreation Department is reviewing (i.e. child care, party packages, member fees) and will present to Advisory Board.
- Recreation & Aquatic Center Improvement Project Up-date - Pictures of new indoor playground were passed around; Child care will be offered while parents work-out or participate in classes; rules and policies are being worked on, (i.e. parents must remain on the premises, etc).
- Sims Park Improvement Project Up-date - Pictures of Outdoor Fitness Area (Fit Zone) passed around; there will be 7 pieces of equipment installed (Andy is assisting with the selection- some pieces are ADA and all fit within the budget); working on selection of ground surface color. Fitness area will be across from Historical Museum; not fenced - open air; will be adding health & fitness-related classes; Yoga & Tai Chi classes can be held on the Amphitheatre stage; invite the public to participate for free; usage of the Fitness equipment & "Meet the Trainer" days; maybe work out something to be able to pay an instructor for Saturdays. New Playground - pictures passed around of artist concept (actual playground will be slightly different from picture); youth focus group meeting will be here next week; playground company has provided 20-30 second videos of children playing on units of the new playground; want to show the video clips and get reactions of the children in the youth focus group (see what they like - they get to vote), have fun and get response from them (still working on color selection).
- Parks Division - Parks employees have become Grounds Maintenance and are under the Public Works Department. The new playground will no longer be Elaine's responsibility after it is built; she is still involved in the planning and construction. The City is trying to streamline Maintenance; has a Facility Maintenance Division; only one employee running that right now, but he will hire staff. Pools and Fitness Center will remain in-house.
- All Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Members are invited to attend the Youth Focus Group meeting at 1pm on Wednesday, August 19th. All are encouraged to share ideas for the Sims Park project. Carolyn submitted and shared ideas about the Splash Pad and about having a small train there in the future; discussion ensued about the new playground and

swings at Frances Avenue Park; Carolyn suggested having a small library. Elaine will share the idea with the Library Director.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- August Calendar - some changes/additions -
- Canoe Battleship has been re-scheduled for Saturday, August 15th beginning at 5:30pm
- Town Hall meeting will be held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center on Thursday, August 20th at 7pm.
- Back-to-School Pool Party on Friday, August 21st: 6:30-9:30pm
- Nature Coast Home Show (presented by the St. Petersburg Times) will be held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center on Saturday & Sunday, August 22nd & 23rd: 10am-5pm; City Council has requested this event; there will be a booth for Utilities, Economic Development, the Development Department, and Parks & Recreation. Inserts advertising the event are to be included in the water bills.
- Laser Tag - the Youth Advisory Board will be hosting this event on Friday, August 14th at 7:30pm; one side of the gym will be Laser Tag and the other side of the gym will have games to play and prizes to be given out.

VOX POP

(Joy had to leave the meeting prior to adjournment)

Inquiry was made as to the ground-breaking shovels, and having a sticker for them displayed in the trophy case; a Sims Park Commemorative will be given to all the volunteers involved. Discussion continued about construction in the park.

The August calendar is to be revised to include the Town Hall meeting, youth focus group meeting, new date for Canoe Battleship, and the Laser Tag event and re-sent to all Advisory Board members.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty M. Black
Parks & Recreation Board, Secretary

BMB: dcf