

**NEW PORT RICHEY PARKS & RECREATION  
DEPARTMENT**

**PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

March 8, 2016

7:30 a.m.

**AGENDA**

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- February 9, 2016

**2. OLD BUSINESS**

- Playground Photo Shoot
- Recreation & Aquatic Study - Mtg. March 9th & 10th
- Reserved Signs for Shelters/Sims Park
- Message Board/Sims Park

**3. NEW BUSINESS**

- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Code
- Florida Sunshine Law
- Parks & Recreation Department Mission & Vision Statement
- Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan

**4. SPECIAL EVENTS**

- Loquat Festival - March 19th at Frances Ave. Park
- Spring Break Basketball Camp - March 21-24 (RAC)
- Easter Events - Saturday, March 26th (RAC)
- Family Movie Night - Saturday, March 26th at Sims Park
- Chasco Fiesta Street Parade - Saturday, April 2nd
- Chasco Fiesta Boat Parade - Saturday, April 9th

# **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

February 9, 2016

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, February 9, 2016. Board Members Dave Schrader, Carolyn Marlowe, Justin Billings, Bob Smallwood, Betty Black, Joy Phillips, Greg Giordano, Dana Suiters, and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance. The January meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Sims Park Grand Re-Opening Celebration - There were about 2,000 in attendance at the event and the playground has been observed with heavy use every day since then. The Park and Grand Opening were very well done; shelters and grills have been used for parties, the Ice Cream shop sold out of ice cream, some participating restaurants have seen a boost in business, especially one that gave out a discount coupon at the event. Thank you to all staff; very professional in courtesy, customer service and appearance. Planters were made by Park staff from original wooden playground; everyone loved them.
- Master Plan RFP - Input from Advisory Board Members is much appreciated and has been included in the specs; proposal is now with the City Manager; will help with improvement projects like the Skate Park and the North entry into the Grey Preserve.
- 2016 Promotional Calendars - Should get them this week; pictures were taken at different parks and have some regular events (Summer Camp, Chasco Fiesta, Main Street events, etc.) already on the calendars. Next year we may do a photo contest for the promotional calendar.
- Fitness Center Equipment Up-date - We have 4 new pieces of equipment so far and everyone seems to be happy with it. There are more options that can be used (i.e. watch Net Flix, play Angry Birds, jog through San Francisco, read a book, etc). Specs are being worked on for additional new Fitness Equipment. Recreation & Aquatic Center construction plan up-date - Council voted to have a study done; work is on hold; meeting on February 19th with City Manager and Elaine first; will keep Advisory Board up-dated. Video Boards at Sims - Council wanted to go to the Park and look at sizes, met at last-minute in the rain; want to purchase 1 and rent 1 (for Chasco) to see sizes and if we want to purchase second one.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Smoking in Sims Park - Discussion ensued about enforcement and posting signs; intention is to designate Splash Pad and playground as non-smoking areas and post signs; it will take a little time to inform and educate the public. Patrons at Movie nights have been asked to step away from the area to smoke.
- Public Speaking Dates to promote the Recreation & Aquatic Center - Board of Realtors in March, Hospital employees meeting, others in community; take appropriate flyers to them for activities and programs those at their facilities may find of interest. Resident rate for School Board members (passport) needs to be renewed soon.
- Membership Drive - The Membership sale went very well. (Dave wants to know how many Silver Sneakers members attend the Recreation & Aquatic Center. He also has questions about the Video Boards at Sims Park.\*See Vox Pop)
- Message Boards on Shelters at Sims for Reservations - We want to have a display board at each shelter that informs the public about how to reserve a shelter and lets them know when one is reserved. What type of events would you like to see at Sims Park? Children's concert series, chill lounge nights (like in St. Pete.), "Cirque des ole" type of activity; local businesses get involved - Taste of, local music, art festivals? Flyers at local businesses would help promote the activities and events. Customer Service Surveys summary (hand-out) - Results are color-coded and show high satisfaction with customer service at the front desk; some surveyed did not take a program; and most were satisfied with the cleanliness of the facility. We will continue to do surveys periodically. Suggestions were made that results are published for Council and staff to be shown that some comments were favorable.
- There will be a photo-shoot at the Sims Park playground on Friday, March 4th at 3:30pm; the playground company has requested that children be invited to participate. (The Advisory Board would like to be sent a reminder.) A waiver must be signed in order for the children to participate.

## SPECIAL EVENTS

- Daddy Daughter Dance - Saturday, February 13th (RAC)
- Quilt Show - Friday-Sunday, February 19-21 (RAC)
- Walk-A-Hound - Saturday, February 20th at Orange Lake
- Movie Night - (Peanuts) Saturday, February 27th at Sims Park
- Nature Coast (St. Petersburg Times) Home Show - Saturday & Sunday, February 27-28 (RAC)
- Corn Hole Tournament - Saturday, March 12th (RAC)

- We are also planning a series at Sims Park and the first one will be Healthy Days on Saturday, March 5th - there will be several instructors teaching mini-classes; Tai Chi, Yoga, Boot Camp. Flyers will be taken to local businesses to promote the event and prepare them for extra business.

### VOX POP

Comments: \*Bob questioned the function of the Advisory Board. Elaine reaffirmed that the function of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board is to provide input, but that City Council gives the final approval. Elaine reassured all Advisory Board members that the Mission statement, policies & proclamations regarding the functions of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board, and the Sunshine Law would be reviewed at the next meeting. Bob then suggested that there should be a general information board at Sims park that shows upcoming activities and events. (The message board with events was taken down during construction at Sims and the decision is pending as to what type of message board(s) will be put there.) Input from the Advisory Board is appreciated and has resulted in two park benches put in Jasmin Park.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty M. Black  
Parks & Recreation Board, Secretary

BMB: dcf