

# PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

April 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:30am on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. Board Members Dave Schrader, Carolyn Marlowe, Justin Billings, Bob Smallwood, Dana Suiters, and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance. The March meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- FL Sunshine Law and Advisory Board Code - The City Attorney was not able to make it to this month's meeting, but wants to review with everyone, so this item will be addressed at the meeting in May.
- Fitness Equipment (Old and New) - The old equipment will be donated to Gulf High School when the new equipment is to be installed, so the Fitness Center may have to be closed for 2 days. We have received 3 Bids and reviewed the specs & checked references; all is good equipment. Will go to City Council on April 19th for approval. New equipment proposed came in under budget, so if there is a decision going forward to expand the Fitness Center to a larger area, there is \$ to purchase additional equipment.
- Fee Recommendations - Thank you to those that have given feedback; Carolyn & Joy. More comments are welcome. The Board discussed the Membership Drive and the possibility of offering discounts on Memberships in the fall, and all Board members agreed that December & January is the best time for the annual Membership Drive. Suggestion was made of giving 50% discounts to active Military and their families (instead of only 10% to Military only). Questions came up about the Sports Facilities Study, so that Agenda item was discussed next.
- Sports Facilities Advisory Study Up-date - Expecting to get feedback from the study on April 21st. Similar comments about what things need to be addressed were made at each public meeting - both from users and from non-users of the facility; Membership costs up front, day care, hours of operation, etc.
- Review Strategic Plan, Mission, & Vision - Any comments? (email Elaine personally) It explains why we do what we do.
- Chasco Parade Float - John Fussell and the Ground Maintenance staff, along with Joy and a few other volunteers, created an award-winning float again this year. The float won Most Outstanding in the non-professional

category. Dana's and Joy's family entered the Boat Parade and also won an award.

- Video Boards - Elaine is meeting this Friday with the City Manager and the IT Director to discuss when this will be installed. The box will allow groups to plug in directly. Discussion ensued regarding the 2nd Video board, renting a truck with a movie screen on the side for pool parties and movies, and who will manage the video boards and content.
- Master Plan RFP - We have received 4 and narrowed it down to 3; presentations and review will be done on Monday (4/18/16). Once a company is selected, input from the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will be needed regarding what we have and what is needed (some projects are already in the works; new restrooms at Frances Ave. Park, extension of the boat ramp, kayak launches. Are more grills needed? Where should we put a Skate Park? Should anything be added outside for the Recreation & Aquatic Center? Add tables and chairs at Sims/along the river? Put more swings somewhere? Tear down/move playground at Russ Park?
- Skylar Diggins Basketball Camp on Saturday, April 9th was a huge success. She had to accept more participants than she usually does. Out of 14 cities in the US, the only stop in Florida was here at the Recreation & Aquatic Center. She is already planning to be back next year. Everything was well-organized and very professional. She even took extra time to get a picture and autograph with each participant.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Elect Advisory Board Secretary - Carolyn Marlowe was nominated and elected as the new Secretary.
- Volunteer Board Members Breakfast/Mike & Betty Invited - The breakfast will be held on Thursday, April 14th. Betty served on the Board for 18 years and has confirmed she will be there. Mike Copeland served for 14 years and has been invited to attend also.
- Summer Sunset Concert Series - A sample flyer was distributed. Bands that don't normally perform at Sims Park have been invited to participate; alcohol is being limited to craft beers and wine.
- Summer Break Spot Healthy Food Program - the Florida Department of Agriculture is providing healthy meals at the Recreation & Aquatic Center during the Summer; any child may participate but will eat separately from Camp children. This is part of a program to prevent hunger.
- National Kids to Parks Day - May 21st at the James E. Grey Preserve - The Mayor will present a proclamation on May 17th. There will be healthy snacks, a nature scavenger hunt, an open play area, and fishing from the pier. The Mayor is very supportive of getting kids into the parks.
- Pine Hill Park - The County will continue to maintain for the next 3 years, with (2) one-year options to follow, and then Public Works will take over

the park. A banner will be put up there directing patrons to the Recreation & Aquatic Center.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Summer Camp Registration - April 11th (residents)/April 18th (non-residents) - Camp registration is going well so far; giving shirts to the first 75 children that sign up.
- Relay for Life - April 16th at Sims Park - begins at 10am
- Cotee River Seafood Festival - April 22nd-24th at Sims Park
- 3-Point Shoot-out Basketball Tournament - April 23rd at the Recreation & Aquatic Center
- There is a charity Kickball Tournament on Saturday, April 23rd
- Wine Down Wednesday - April 27th at Sims Park - There will be craft beer and wine tasting; fund-raising for children's charities.
- Family Movie Night (Kung Fu Panda 3) April 30th at Sims Park - the movie for May 14th is Inside Out
- Walk a Mile with City Council - May 7th (8:30am) at Sims Park - Everyone will meet at the Amphitheatre stage; the walk will remain within the park so there will be no street closures.

### VOX POP

An LED video board will be used on Mother's Day weekend; Saturday, May 7th, the Recreation & Aquatic Center will close normal time and then there will be a Mother's Day pool party and movie beginning at 6pm. Moms will have free admission with a \$3 fee for children; and will be given a carnation. We will do something similar for Father's Day - maybe give a free drink coozie.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:30am.  
The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe  
P & R Adv. Bd. Secretary

BMB: dcf