

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

June 14, 2016

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 7:30am on Tuesday, June 14, 2016. Board Members Dave Schrader, Carolyn Marlowe, Dana Suiters, Joy Phillips, Rob Oman and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance. The May meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Kayak Launches - Status - The Kayak Launch at Frances Ave. Park is done; the ADA parking pad has been poured, it needs to cure and then it will be striped. The Kayak Launch at James E Grey Preserve is not finished yet; it will connect the 2 docks there.
- Special Event Fees/Approved by Parks & Recreation Advisory Board/City Council - These will go before City Council at the meeting on June 21st.
- Kids to Parks Day - Grey Preserve - 281 participants - This was a huge event; 80 cinch sacs were given out and gone in 5 minutes; people were literally coming out of the woods. We received good feedback from parents; everyone enjoyed the Nature Scavenger Hunt; and they got a free, one-day pool pass. The Youth Advisory Board had a nice display for the Recreation & Aquatic Center and handed out flyers for events.
- Walk in Sims Park with City Council - June 4th - There was not a large turnout; about 60-70 attended. The event was to highlight using the park, have opportunity to speak with Council members, and promote health & fitness (walk/run in the park). A young family was there that was considering buying a house in the City; one of their children was in a wheelchair and she took it onto the new playground; the new video board was up.
- Family Movie Nights - Sims Park - 600 plus attended - This event is very successful.

NEW BUSINESS:

- No Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting in July

- \$1,000 Donation from the Rotary Club of New Port Richey - The Rotary donated money for scholarships for children's memberships; applications had recently been received and the scholarships were used right away.
- Summer Camp Registrations - Camp is almost full; there is still a week here or there that has a few spots open; Open House will be held on Friday, June 17th for parents to do Q & A with Camp staff. *Joy mentioned that she had opportunities to speak with some parents and answer some of their questions about Camp at Family Movie Night.
- Skate Park/Open and Free - There have been no issues and no complaints; the fence is still up, but the gate has been removed.
- Youth Advisory Board Nominated for West Pasco Chamber Award - They have been nominated again for Most Outstanding Youth Organization.
- Managers are looking at other fees such as Park Shelter fees, Membership fees (not Peace Hall or Amphitheatre), and these will be brought before the P & R Advisory Board for input.
- Midnight Basketball brought in 250 players (171 were non-members); we may do separate time slots next time (one for younger players and another one later for older participants); there were a few incidents, but staff managed it well.
- There will be a Candlelight Vigil at Sims Park on Thursday, June 16th; and bio-degradable balloons will be released (one per victim) for the attack in Orlando.
- Rob commented that the new Splash Pad at Sims Park is broken more than it works (the switches keep shorting out); and also suggested that the grass be cut right before the weekend instead of early in the week.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Swim Lessons - Lessons begin Tuesday, June 14th - The first session is full; all lessons will be taught by the Parks & Recreation Lifeguards that are Water Safety Instructor Certified.
- Summer Camp Open House at RAC - Friday, June 17th: 6-7pm (already discussed earlier in this meeting)
- Father's Day Pool Party at RAC - Saturday, June 18th: 6-7pm - There will also be a movie shown.
- Summer Sunset Concert - Shawn Brown at Sims Park on Saturday, June 18th: 7:30-9:30pm - Jazz music; all are encouraged to help spread the word; downtown merchants have received a flyer (guitar fans distributed)
- First Day of Summer Camp - Monday, June 20th; We are a "Break Spot" for the free lunch program for children; the department of Agriculture/School Board provides free breakfast and lunch to anyone under 18 that wants to participate (no child goes hungry)
- Tennis Camp - June 20-24, July 11-15, July 25-29, August 1-5 - Has been very successful and had more participants than ever last summer.

- World's Largest Swim lesson at RAC _ Friday, June 24th - This program is to raise awareness that every child should learn to swim.
- Summertime in the City at Sims Park - Saturday, June 25th: 5-8pm - there will be 22 different booths with activities for children; different organizations and some of our instructors will run the games, give out prizes, and promote their class. The Mayor has agreed to be in the dunk tank; most prizes have been donated and are leftover from last year when the event was rained-out. Admission is \$5/wristband for children only. Volunteers will assist with the event and concessions.
- Family Movie Night at Sims Park - Saturday, June 25th: 8:30pm "Minions" - The movie will be shown right after the Summertime in the City event.

VOX POP

Carolyn noticed that the playground at Grand Blvd. is not shaded in the afternoon (when shade is needed the most); Elaine stated that it would be recommended as a CIP project.

Joy suggested that the Advisory Board members be given shirts to wear at certain functions in order to be recognized as representing the Parks & Recreation Department.

A new group photo will be done in September, when Justin Billings returns. There is one alternate position open.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 7:30am. A July event calendar will be sent out to all members.

The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe
P & R Adv. Bd. Secretary

BMB: dcf