

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

November 8, 2016

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at the Recreation & Aquatic Center at 7:30am on Tuesday, November 8, 2016. Chairman David Schrader, and Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Greg Giordano, Justin Billings, Joy Phillips, Rob Oman, and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance.

The October 8, 2016 Trolley Tour meeting minutes & comments were unanimously approved. The October 11, 2016 meeting minutes were also unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Parks Master Plan Steering Committee Kick-off Meeting - The first meeting will be held on December 5th, at 1pm at the Recreation & Aquatic Center. Other public meetings will follow; information will be collected regarding comments from users about what is wanted and needed in the Parks. (A survey flyer was distributed.) We want input from people and the survey is a good way to collect this information.
- Trunk or Treat - 5,000 people attended - This was the largest event ever seen at that park; drone pictures show how many were there. Next year, we will try to get more booths and spread them out in a way to get rid of people having to wait in long lines.
- Kids Zombie Fun Run - 80 participants - The event went really well; the kids had a lot of fun. Thank you to those that volunteered (Joy and Dave).
- Puppy Paddle - We had about 101 dogs participate; this is a very popular event, so another one is being planned for the Spring (before the pools open).
- Recreation & Aquatic Center & Park Shelter Fees - The new fees were revised a second time and re-submitted to Council. Daily rates, Adult 1-month, and Shelter rental fees all have been lowered. Thank you all for your input.
- Frances Avenue Park Restroom Project Status - The design phase is done for the permit; will be similar to restrooms at Sims Park.
- Alternate Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Member - Elizabeth Giordano has applied and will be presented at November 15th Council meeting; one more alternate position is still unfilled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Meeting Minutes - Approval process takes awhile due to when the meetings are held in relation to the Council meetings. At the October 11th Advisory Board Meeting, the September 13th meeting minutes were approved. October 7th was the Agenda deadline for the City Council Meeting on October 18th. The next available date was November 1st. That is why the September Advisory Board meeting minutes don't go to City Council until November.
- Meeting with Downtown Restaurants - November 17th (Change in Public Viewing Rights) - All 15 restaurants in downtown have been invited to attend the meeting at Peace Hall at 2pm. The meeting is to address having concessions at Movie Nights and during Concerts. For-profit businesses are now allowed to sell concessions.
- Assistant Parks & Recreation Director - Chris, the Aquatic Manager, has added responsibilities and an increase in pay. He will be helping Elaine with the RAC construction project, running the Coteeman Triathlon, and assist with grant-writing and other projects while continuing to oversee the Aquatic Center.
- Toys for Tots - This event will be run a bit different than in the past. Gym B will be closed beginning on December 10th, so the donated toys can be directly loaded and sorted in one place. Volunteers will be sorting the toys; shopping begins on December 17th with assigned time slots. Volunteers will escort shoppers through the toys in the gym.
- Veteran's Day - School will be in session; volunteers are needed to deliver boxes for Toys for Tots to distribution sites beginning 8am this Friday.
- Silver Sneakers - Classes will begin next week. (Free for Members)
- Grey Preserve - North Entry - Grant has been received to develop the new parcels* (\$485,000.00). The State Official is to present the check; professional services will propose a design. *(Question was brought up as to how much acreage will be added from the purchase of the parcels.)
- Sims Park - Proposals will be collected regarding changes/additions. *(Questions about repairs to the hole in the playground and adding more bench seats at the playground were presented.)
- National Adoption Day - Last Friday, Pasco County recognized the adoption of 15 children; the Fit Phantom represented the Parks & Recreation Department and the Recreation & Aquatic Center.
- Sims Park Playground was selected for the catalog of National Playground Company (pictures selected from the photo shoot at Grand Opening were distributed).
- Goals of the Parks & Recreation Department (distributed during meeting) - We want to have Excellent Customer Service, Marketing of the Recreation & Aquatic Center, Staff Development - Event Planning, Leadership, Budgeting & Financial Planning - Implementation of Sports Facility Study Recommendations, and Capital Improvement Projects.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- City-wide Clean-up this Saturday, November 12th.
- Coteeman Triathlon this Saturday, November 12th - Bike & Run will be in downtown early in the morning.
- Cardboard Campout will be held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center on November 19th. Collection for the Food Drive is through November 17th.
- Movie Nights - next one is November 19th: 6pm "Finding Dory"
- Dodgeball Tournament - Saturday, December 3rd - Has become a popular event; last year there were several rivals.
- Holiday Lights Boat Parade - Saturday, December 3rd in the evening.
- Public Meeting - Parks Master Plan - December 5th: 6-7:30pm.
- Holiday Street Parade - Saturday, December 10th.
- Winter Fest (RAC) - Saturday, December 17th: 4-6pm; the Movie will be shown at the Recreation & Aquatic Center "Frozen" at 6pm. Two live characters will be here : Elsa & Olaf.

VOX POP

There has been discussion about the over-use of Sims Park - the 2017 calendar has booked the Concerts, Chasco Fiesta, and has recommended one black-out date per month to allow for park recovery projects.

Discussion about being able to view the Council Meetings from home, and it being mentioned that Largo has 12,000 Members (Elaine emailed the Director of P & R in Largo - All of their facilities and all program participants are included in their Membership totals. *(The email will be included in the minutes.)

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, December 13th at 7:30am.
The meeting was then adjourned at 8:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe

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P & R Adv. Bd. Secretary

BMB: dcf