

# **PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING**

May 9, 2017

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at the Recreation & Aquatic Center at 7:30am on Tuesday, May 9, 2017. Chairman David Schrader, and Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Dana Suiters, Justin Billings, and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance.

The April 11, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

## OLD BUSINESS:

- Easter Event at Recreation & Aquatic Center – The event went very well and was well attended. The egg hunts were free, and patrons could swim and use the inflatables for a reduced daily fee.
- Earth Day Event at Frances Avenue Park – Flowers were planted, trash was picked up, and graffiti was removed from picnic tables. Students from the middle school are being encouraged to take care of their park (the Principal of the school is also working with the students).
- Parks Master Plan – Thank You for Efforts on the Project – The final document will be brought before City Council this week. (Members on the Steering Committee thanked Elaine for providing food at the meetings.)
- Recreation Center Expansion Project – Construction is scheduled to begin on May 22, so this is the last meeting in the Conference room. Construction Brochure (hand-out) was created to disseminate information to the public. (Rob Oman entered the meeting.) The front of the building will be fenced off, existing offices will be moved, the side gate will be opened for easier access to the pool for the Aquatic Exercise class, the parking lot will remain open, and classes will be held in the Birch room only. Camp has been capped at 80 participants. Operating hours will remain as normal. The next P & R Advisory Board Meeting will be held at Peace Hall. The bike racks will be moved. Construction is expected to be completed by the end of the year (offices by 6 months).
- Kids to Parks Day Event – Carolyn and the Mayor were at the event held at James E Grey Preserve. There were approximately 200-300 in attendance; a Scavenger Hunt through the park, crafts, making bird houses and some healthy snacks. There was information on display regarding the new park expansion; received positive comments; and plenty of volunteers on hand for the event.

- Whales Tales (7 Schools) – This is a program geared for younger children that introduces them to pool safety; throw, don't go. 7 Schools have/will come here to learn and practice these water safety skills and enjoy the pool afterwards. We also have the older children attend field trips from school to the RAC; some of the instructors do mini-classes or demos for the children, staff will also lead in some activities, and the children learn about the RAC (All of this is usually done in May each year).

### NEW BUSINESS:

- P & R Web Page Demo – The IT Department is not here to do the demo. We will go live with this soon.
- Department Budget – There has been a 2% cut in the budget for operation & personnel.
- “90 Days of Summer” Sale – 3-month Memberships are on sale through the end of June.
- \*Winners were invited to the Future of the Region Awards by the Tampa Bay Planning Council – Sims Park won an Award for Design and 1<sup>st</sup> place for Built Environment.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- NPR Rock Painting Event – May 20<sup>th</sup>: 6-8pm
- Family Movie Night – May 20<sup>th</sup>: 8pm
- City Clean-up Day – June 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Summer Concert (Beach Boys Tribute)– June 3<sup>rd</sup>: 7-8:30pm The theme is Surf's Up Tour. Beach Balls and sunglasses will be given away.
- First Day of Summer Camp – June 5<sup>th</sup>
- RAP River Run – June 10<sup>th</sup>

### VOX POP

Members were reminded to hand out the Construction Brochures. Justin reminded everyone that he would be gone until after Labor Day in September.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am at Peace Hall. The meeting was then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe  
P & R Adv. Bd. Secretary

BMB: dcf