

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

March 13, 2018

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at the Recreation & Aquatic Center at 7:00am on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. Chairman David Schrader, and Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Joy Phillips, Justin Billings, Greg Giordano, Rob Oman, Dana Suiters and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance.

The February 13, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- City Council Work Session on Event Guidelines – There were quite a few business owners and Special Event organizers that attended. They were very positive and supportive. There was discussion regarding the rental of the park during large events when the pavilions would not be available for private rental.
- Ethics Training and Government in the Sunshine Law – All Board Members received a copy of this in the mail from the City Clerk. A brief reminder was clarified that the meetings are Public and therefore items that will be brought before the Board are not to be discussed privately among the Members.
- Chamber Brochure Exchange at RAC – This meeting was hosted at the Recreation & Aquatic Center; businesses met here last week (they meet at a different location each month) and were given a tour. They were impressed by the facility.
- Quilt Show & Channel 13 News – Dave Schrader was here early for Charlie Belcher's visit to cover the Quilt Show. Charlie Belcher wants to come back during the Summer to highlight the RAC.
- Jasmin Park Improvement Project – There will be a proposal from the Landscape Architectural Firm.* They went to the Park; will meet with the Community, also staff, and will develop a design to present to City Council. Mailings will go out to residents in the Community to notify them of the meetings. *(Discussion & explanation of steps in process)
- Memberships-163 Sold during Open House & 55 Sold the next week – Thank you to all that assisted with Open House. Members had seen the facility during construction, but also came to the Open House. There were 300 items as giveaways and attendance was around 350.

- Simon & Garfunkel Concert – The estimated attendance was over 1,000; they were packed shoulder-to-shoulder, behind the circle, and on the circle. Marketing & Advertising has been very effective for these events. There are no alcohol sales, they are family-friendly, there is no noise from generators, there's a nice view of the River, and a small concession for snacks and drinks is available.
- Crosswalk Painting Project – The project went well, but the painted area got trampled during Chasco.
- Frances Avenue Park Lighting – Additional lighting is needed and has been recommended for the Park.
- Award for Chasco Fiesta Float – Joy has worked with the Parks staff to build the float. They then changed this year from "Going Green" to "Salute to the Flag" 14 days before the Parade. The float was built in 3 days, so the design and décor was kept simple. An award was received for Most Outstanding Float in the non-professional category. The float will be re-used for the Veteran's Day Parade.
- Dave was a guest Star on the "Your New Port Richey Show"

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2018/2019 Concert Series – We are currently working on getting 6 concerts for the next fiscal year starting in October, 2018. We have gotten requests to have them year-round. We are planning to have the Alter Eagles and Surfs Up again; also T. Michael as an Opener. We may add some new elements such as an "Art Walk" along the River before the Concert, some kids' music, a benefit concert (local) during the day with an adult concert at night (discussion among members), and more.
- New Application for Open Alternate Board Member – March 20th
Al Renedo – He has been involved with Chasco Fiesta. Approval for his Advisory Board membership will go before City Council on March 20th and he was invited to attend the meeting.
- Comments and discussion: 1. Frances Avenue Park – Besides the new restrooms, the park needs re-mulching in some areas. Some of the swings are broken (expression swing is missing the "child" part). There is graffiti at the smaller shelter. Also, patrons are driving right up to the shelter. 2. In downtown – the crosswalk signs are too low (a person ran into the sign/hit their head on the sign). 3. The early entry to the Fitness Center for members is not working for everyone. This is being addressed.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Special Olympics 5K at RAC – March 17th – The event is all set for this Saturday. There will be some street closures.

- Chasco Fiesta Boat Parade – March 17th – City Council will ride with Jeff Starkey on his boat.
- Pickleball Tournament – March 22nd *Benefit for Para-Pickleball and New Wheelchair purchase begins at 8am (RAC) – The Pickleball organizer wants to buy a Sports Wheelchair for those disabled that want to play. A new one costs around \$2,000 and a used one is about \$800. We want to get the word out to the VA and others about Para-Pickleball, and also the lift we have for the pool; maybe extend to Para-Basketball, Volleyball, and other activities.
- Easter Egg Hunt for Lighthouse of the Blind – March 24th at James E. Grey Preserve – The event is run by volunteers; they do an egg-hunt. The event will begin at 10am. The Youth Advisory Board will have a booth with sculpture-sand, and giveaways. The helpers/siblings of the blind children are given glasses that simulate the child’s visual impairment to wear during the hunt.
- Loquat Festival – March 24th at Frances Avenue Park – This is a very packed event. There are port-o-lets with handwashing stations there that are supposed to be cleaned out weekly.
- Family Movie Night – March 24th “Star Wars-Rogue One” at 8pm (Sims Park) – There will be a “surprise” giveaway (Lego sets).
- Dodgeball Tournament – March 25th (RAC) – It has been a few years since we had the last tournament. We had 22 teams the last time. It is a fun and popular event.
- Easter Events – March 31st (RAC) – The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board would like to be notified of the time of the hunts.

VOX POP

Fitness in the Park will begin in March. It is being coordinated through the Fitness Center Supervisors and will be introducing different types of activities and classes one Saturday morning each month. *(The Advisory Board would like a schedule.)

Rob is running for City Council. Elizabeth has a “Go Fund Me” Facebook account for donations to go to England for college.

We have 3 bi-lingual employees at the Recreation & Aquatic Center – 2 in Child Watch and 1 at the front desk.

It should be advertised that we have a Fitness Center Supervisor in the Fitness Center now.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 10th at 7:00am at the RAC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe

Carolyn Marlowe, Secretary