

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

May 8, 2018

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at the Recreation & Aquatic Center at 7:00am on Tuesday, May 8, 2018. Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Joy Phillips, Justin Billings, Greg Giordano, Elizabeth Giordano, Dana Suiters and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance. Chairman Dave Schrader attended the latter part of the meeting.

The April 10, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Jasmin Park Improvement Project – There was a Community meeting and the residents don't want much done to the park. There will be a simplistic design for the sidewalk, park benches, signage (part of Way-Finding sign project), and updating the dock. The project is expected to be done by the end of the year.
- Grey Preserve BID – There have been 6 requests for plans; it is very encouraging to have so much interest. The goal is to have it complete by the end of the calendar year. We have asked for an extension on the grant to change the deadline from November, 2018 to January, 2019. This is the 1st Phase; at the end of Congress St.; the Urban Trails Connector project.
- May the Fourth Be with You – Event – Star Wars Laser Tag and games; there were 121 in attendance (children & adults). Dave volunteered, Dana was there, and everyone had a great time. It was a very successful event and was inexpensive to have, since toys were donated.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 50th Anniversary Celebration/Parks & Recreation Month – Prize Patrol – The month of July is National Parks & Recreation month; the mayor will do a Proclamation. We are planning to do a Prize Patrol all month (picture frame cut out displayed); the volunteers (Youth Advisory Board, Advisory Board, Library staff, Recreation staff) will wear a bright yellow t-shirt and go to the parks to give out prizes to patrons using the park at random

times and take a picture. We would like to go live on Facebook with the photos in the parks. All of the toys/prizes have been donated.

- Summer Camp Registration – Camp is full with a waiting list.
- Sports Wheelchair Donation - \$2400 – There was a Pickleball Tournament with 48 participants; donations were collected to purchase the Sports Wheelchair. Tom has taught over 157 beginners how to play Pickleball, and is reaching out to Veterans and others that are interested in playing Para-Pickleball. 2 patrons are now using the wheelchair to participate.
- Youth Scholarship Fund Donation - \$2880 – We have scholarships for 21 youth to use our facility (1 yr. Memberships). Applications may be picked up from the front desk.
- Parks & Recreation Brochure for May, June, July & August (distributed) – We need to do a new Advisory Board photo. Let's come up with a day and time that all can meet to do this; KC wants to do something fun; maybe in the Fitness Center or at the pool. (Donna email everyone and let KC know the date and time.)
- Promotions for the RAC are proving to be effective; one of the Recreation Supervisors stated that this past Sunday was the busiest day he has ever seen. Child Watch attendance has picked up; 65 children in February, 219 children in March, 241 children in April. Silver Sneakers also continues to grow with 49 new members in April and 934 visits reported.

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Fitness in the Park (Sims) May 19th; Zumba – This free class should help with attendance at RAC after 5pm classes. Last month, there was a Pilates class and had 9 participants. Soon there will be free YMCA classes at the RAC; these are geared toward Seniors and will be held during the day.
- National Kids to Parks Day (Grey Preserve) May 19th: 9-11am – All are invited to assist with the event; be there by 8am and wear your green Advisory Board shirt. There were 280 participants last year and we are expecting at least 200 this year. It's a way to get Kids and parents out to the park and enjoy spending the day together. T-shirts will be given out, there will be Scavenger Hunt Bingo, Tree Cookie craft, Animal Prints, and more. Pasco County recycling has been invited and may bring tree saplings. We will have an information booth there regarding the extension project for the 2 parcels of the Grey Preserve.
- Family Movie Night (Sims) May 19th at 8:30pm; Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. The Youth Advisory Board will be doing some surprise giveaways (Bobbleheads).
- Neighborhood Clean-up (Frances Avenue Park) May 19th: 8am-5pm – Public Works is doing a neighborhood clean-up day. Please let us know if you would like more information.

- RAP River 5K Run (Sims) June 9th – All are invited to assist; assistance will be needed with the children’s obstacle course and other things. The Youth Advisory Board has been invited to be a part of this event. It is nice that they are recognized and invited to do more Community events.

VOX POP

Enjoy the new Program Guides. We need to put in a new Youth Advisory picture, too. We may use a photo from the May the 4th Star Wars Laser Tag event (14 of the members were present).

Agenda for June – We don’t want to skip having the July meeting; possibly August – let’s talk about it at the next meeting.

Facebook – We need to get people to comment and share; responses need to be more than 3 words. KC is doing giveaways for those that take a picture while in the park and sending them to her/sharing them to our FB page. Everyone is eligible.

Some people are still amazed by the improvements in Sims Park. KC and Elaine are working on a matching grant with Florida Heritage. Clientele interested in Florida History is different than ones typically using the RAC. We want to partner with the Historical Society, as well as the Library.

The new photo needs to be taken very soon; Justin is going back up North until November.

Dave commented that the bike racks aren’t being used properly; Elaine let everyone know that we are getting 4 more racks because there are so many people riding their bicycles to the RAC. (2 bike racks will be put at the Grey Preserve. In celebration of National Bike Day, bicycles will be given away to encourage biking in the parks.

Next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 12th at 7:00am at the RAC.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe

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Secretary