

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

August 11, 2020

The regular meeting of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was held at the Recreation & Aquatic Center and called to order at 7:00am on Tuesday, August 11, 2020. Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Joy Phillips, Al Renedo, Rob Oman, Kai Sonnenshein, Chairman Dave Schrader, and staff liaison Elaine Smith were in attendance.

The June 9, 2020 minutes were unanimously approved. (There was no meeting in July.)

OLD BUSINESS:

- Drive-In Movie at GHS – Thank you to Dave and Dana for handing out toys. There were a few obstacles to overcome, but the event was very successful. The PD, FD, and Library helped out/gave out information; the City was giving back to the community.
- Summer Camp – Camp went very well. We reduced the number of children in the program to stay within the Covid guidelines, and no field trips were taken. The children had swim time every day. There was no incidence of Covid. Everyone had to wear masks and all of the children had fun.
- No September Fireworks – There will be no fireworks this year. The City was going to have some over Labor Day weekend, but all events have now been cancelled through October.
- Renew Active – This program is similar to Silver Sneakers, and offered through United Healthcare Insurance. Participants with this health insurance may now use our facility at no extra cost to them.
- Question regarding Marketing – Answer: We are planning to hire a Marketing person very soon.
- Question regarding Special Events – Answer: Events with 50 people or less will probably be approved, but there will have to be a plan of how social distancing will occur if more people attend the event.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pasco County Mask Order – Pasco County and the City require all patrons to wear a mask inside. Exceptions are when you are eating/drinking and doing physical activity. We would like to get some with our Logo.
- Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Annual Report – (handout of page 1 was distributed) Dave will present the report to City Council on September 15th. Everyone is social distancing/spread out during the meetings, so it is not too crowded.
- Trails Feasibility Study – Chris has been working with the agency to identify existing bicycle/pedestrian trails, potential trails to connect with the City Parks, and what are points of interest for these trails. We want trails to bring people to and through the City.
- FRDAP Grant – Grey Preserve – (handout was distributed) This is for a matching grant of \$200,000 for the new parcel (7 acres) for development. A restroom, shell parking, a boardwalk trail, and a bicycle and walking trail that connects/gives access into the Grey Preserve. The park is considered environmental land, so you have to get permission to do certain types of activities there. (There will be no basketball courts.) The other 7 acres (not on the map) will be developed later; with possible amenities as a jogging boardwalk, kayak launch, shaded pavilions, observation tower – 60' high above the tree canopy. Another grant will be applied for; the Advisory Board is part of the grant approval process.
- RAC Update on Schedule and Recreational Classes –
 1. The pools have been operating at the reduced capacity of 75 people; this will increase to 100 on August 17th.
 2. Lap swimming by reservations will be expanded to include the Plunge pool.
 3. All program instructors have been contacted to submit a plan for their classes to resume, implementing their plans for social distancing during classes.
 4. Water Aerobics will begin again on August 24th, and class will be limited to 50 or less; they will have the entire Lap pool to themselves.
 5. The Fitness Center workout (by reservations) time has been proposed to expand from 1 hour to 1 ½ hours.
 6. Pickleball (by reservations) will expand from 2 courts to four (both gyms), with the possibility of having more time, if courts remain unreserved by others at the end of play.
 7. Tennis has resumed lessons; it is all outdoors. There were no swim lessons over the summer. We are trying to do as much as we can while adhering to Government guidelines.

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Elections will be held on August 18th at the RAC.

The September and October concerts have been re-scheduled to March and April, 2021. The November concert will probably be re-scheduled to May, 2021.

Question – Who maintains tree/debris in the river? Pasco County will clear away debris only if the flow of the river is impeded. The river has become impossible to navigate going upstream by kayak.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe

Carolyn Marlowe,
Secretary

CM:dch