

PARKS & RECREATION BOARD MEETING

December 14, 2021

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, December 14, 2021. Board Members Carolyn Marlowe, Rob Oman, Al Renedo, Dana Suiters and staff liaison Kevin Adams were in attendance. Board Chairman, David Schrader was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- The October 12, 2021 meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Attendance Report – There was not a facility attendance report available this month, as Recreation staff has been focused on organizing and supervising many large events over the past few weeks. Reports for November & December will be made available at the January meeting.
- James Taylor Experience Concert (November 20th) – Attendance was estimated at 1,000. Kevin reported that it was a very nice night and a quality performance. Al agreed and commented what a nice event it was. Al commented that the Golf Carts are becoming a problem at the concerts, and suggested that caution tape be wrapped from tree to tree with just a space between in areas for foot traffic. He mentioned that there are signs for golf cart parking, but golf cart owners are not adhering to the signage, and that security was walking around, but not talking to the golf cart owners as to where they should park. Rob commented that maybe someone should also guide them out after the concert for safety reasons.
- Light Up the Night Event (December 3rd) – Kevin reported that it was an amazing night and great event. He mentioned how hard the Parks & Recreation staff worked on organizing, setting up, decorating, and overall running the event. It was well attended, with an estimate of 2,000 throughout the event. Kevin also mentioned how good the performances were from the Richey Suncoast Theatre and thanked Jillian Michaels for her efforts with that part of the

event. Thank you to all from the Advisory Board that attended and volunteered. Recreation staff should be proud of what they did to make it such a great event.

- Holiday Boat Parade (December 4th) – Kevin reported that the Recreation staff was assigned to decorate Councilman Peters' boat for City Council entry into the parade. The staff did a great job. Kevin attended the event as a spectator and said it was a great event with about 30 boats entered into the parade. There was very good attendance both at Sims Park, and in Cotee River Park.
- Holiday Street Parade (December 11th) – Kevin reported that the Recreation staff was assigned to decorate the new EV Shuttle as the City Council float entry into the parade, and they did a great job. Kevin thanked Al for driving the float. Al commented that it was a lot of fun and the parade was a huge success.
- 20% off Annual Membership Drive (Dec. 13-Jan. 16) – Kevin reported that this sale just kicked off yesterday and we will have some numbers for the Advisory Board at January's meeting. It was mentioned that the City Council had asked if there were numbers on renewed and new memberships we see from this drive. The numbers from last year's sales drive are, as follows: New = 77; Renewals = 208 (Total = 285) (New = 27%). It has been suggested that we come up with a way to attract more new members with this sale next year. Rob commented that those are not bad numbers of new members, as it stands to reason, since the sale has been running for 5+ years, that is what you would expect for renewals and new memberships.
- Holiday Photo (& Sign Card) – Determined by the group to do this after the meeting
- Golf Cart Shuttle – The EV Shuttle is here. It is almost ready to go into service. We need drivers. Kevin reported that after the departments collaborating on the details of this program had met, it was realized that there was a need for another shuttle. The City will be purchasing another one soon. Rob asked how much battery life you get from a full charge. Kevin responded about 5 hours. Al commented that when he drove it for the parade, and the length of time he had it out, the charge needle on the dash had dropped very little. Al asked if there was a specific certification that the drivers would need to strap in a wheelchair. Kevin responded no, but we will need to get a manual and maybe have someone experienced in that to train the drivers.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Holiday Hours for Christmas and New Year's – The Recreation & Aquatic Center is closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. On

Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, the Recreation & Aquatic Center is open from 6am-1pm. Rob commented that it is unfortunate for those employees that have to work on Christmas Eve Day.

- Frances Avenue Park Shelters Project – Kevin reported that this project was initiated originally in 2019, and that a grant was applied for through the Land & Water Conservation Fund back in 2020. The Grant was awarded for \$83,000 to fix 2 shelters, and the City needs to match that amount 100%, and fix the third shelter. Other improvements will include updated walkways, a new boat launch dock, and new picnic tables, benches, and trash barrels. The cost of the full project is expected to be \$300,000. This has been funded through CIP, and designed by Ayres Associates. The BID document has been posted and the project will begin moving forward in the next few months.
- Locker Room Renovations Project – This project is funded through CIP. Wannamacher Jensen has completed the design phase and the BID document has been posted. The project will entail all three locker rooms in the Recreation & Aquatic Center and includes removing the tile floor and replacing it with epoxy flooring, new bathroom fixtures, new doors, new stall doors, fresh paint, and updated lighting. It is planned to do one locker room at a time to try and minimize the disruption as much as possible.
- Pool Resurfacing Project – This is also a CIP item. The plan is to resurface 1 pool during each of the next four years. The pool this year will be the Activity Pool; it has become coarse over time and some non-harmful black algae has formed in the corners around the steps. The BID document is almost complete and will be posted soon in hopes to have the project completed before the summer season. Rob asked where we stood on hiring an Aquatics Manager. Kevin responded that we had interviews this week and next, and hopefully will have someone in place in January, 2022.
- New Skate Park Items – Kevin reported that there were two new items that were ordered for the Skate Park, and they are to be delivered this week. Once delivered, Public Works will put the items in the Skate Park. Rob asked how did you come to a decision on which items to purchase? Kevin responded that a gentleman that has connections to the Skate Community and has been published in news outlets on the positive effects of Skate Parks on communities, and is also connected to the Tony Hawke Foundation, had dropped in and met with Kevin awhile back and they discussed the potential of the Skate Park. There is funding through CIP to hire a firm to engineer and design an updated Skate Park, as well as future funding planned to construct it. There will be a BID document to try and hire a Skate Park design company within the first couple of months of the new year (2022).

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- Holiday Golf Cart Parade (December 19th) – The parade is organized by the owner of SIP. It has gone through the Special Event application process, and they expect 200-250 carts this year.
- Toys for Tots at RAC (December 20-22) – The load-in date is December 16th. Distribution will be December 21 & 22. There are over 600 registrations. Toys will be staged in Gym B. Al asked will this be a drive-through event like last year? Carolyn asked will they be handed a bag and not get to select their toys? Yes, drive-through to the back circle, and they will be checked in and handed a bag based on the age and gender of the children.
- Winter Sports Camp for ages 5-12 years – December 27-30, 2021 & January 3, 2022. As of last week, there were only 3 spots open. Rob commented that the facility is open on New Year's Eve Day, but there is no camp.

VOX POP:

The next meeting will be January 11, 2022 at the RAC.
The meeting adjourned and the Holiday photo was taken in the lobby in front of the Christmas tree.

Respectfully submitted,

Carolyn Marlowe

Carolyn Marlowe,
Secretary

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