

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 – 4:00 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor Open Planning Area

Present: Michael Odum, Patt Sned, Perry Douglas, Kara Renne, Julie Hastrup	Staff Present: Leah Rockwell, Lorenzo Rivero, Lucy Morelos
Absent: Matthew Goldberger, Jacquelyn Taylor	Guest(s): Tina Thomson, Philip Tropani, Jake Leone, Kameron Glasgow, Dorothy Hazard

Topic	Discussion / Action / Follow Up
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by <i>Michael Odum</i> at 4:00 PM.
	Motion to approve October minutes made by <i>Patt Sned</i> , second by <i>Julie Hastrup</i> . All in favor. <i>Michael Odum</i> stated to have December minutes placed in records as there was no quorum at December meeting.

New Business	<p>Jake Leone – Storm of '28 Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jake Leone</i> introduced the presentation “Storm of '28 Memorial Park Monument” project, a collaboration between Storm of '28 Memorial Park Coalition, Inc., represented by <i>Dorothy Hazard</i>; Frisbie Group, represented by <i>Jake Leone, Tina Thomson, and Philip Tropani</i>; and Nievera Williams, represented by <i>Kameron Glasgow</i>. • <i>Dorothy Hazard</i> gave a brief overview of what was the Storm of '28 and the significance of it to West Palm Beach. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2nd deadliest national disaster in the United States behind Galveston, TX and should be recognized, having claimed 3,000+ lives. ○ Bodies were brought into West Palm Beach from Belle Glade, Pahokee, and the other western towns and dumped into a mass grave at the pauper’s cemetery. ○ September 16, 2023 will mark the 95th anniversary of the storm. • Frisbie Group and Nievera Williams were asked to join after the Storm of '28 Coalition had already progressed their design goals for the monument, which was designed by the late Ed Golson. • Frisbie Group is helping the Coalition progress their design into something that can be constructed, assist in fundraising, and helping move the design through the City process. • Along with Nievera Williams, design guidelines have been developed that honor the original design, optimize the visitor experience, enhance park landscaping without disturbing the burial grounds, and minimize future maintenance and landscaping expenses. • The hardscape design will represent the West African symbol for faith and hope, benches have been added, the berm work will symbolize the bands of a hurricane. The physical designs of the monument will include a quote from “Their Eyes Were Watching God” by Zora Neal Hurston, a “Field of Memories” Statement on the back along with a thank you list. The monument will be black granite with gold engravings, the base will be coral stone, and a kinetic hurricane emblem in the center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Dorothy Hazard</i>: In the novel, Zora Neal Hurston includes quotes regarding the storm in her novel. We were able to get permission from the Zora Neal Hurston group out of New York to be able to use the quotes on the memorial. • The landscape design will also include 2’ tall stone wall, 15 pigeon plum trees, green island Ficus hedge that runs around the exterior of the monument, and two pedestrian benches. • The project budget is approximately \$160,000, with most towards landscaping work. We’ve added a \$5,000 contribution to the Parks and Recreation budget to help fund ongoing landscape expense. • The timeline is currently to go to the Historic Preservation Meeting on January 24th, City Commission Meeting on February 1st; February to April: finalizing construction drawings and budget, bid out work and select a general contractor and work on City permitting; April to
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August: procure materials, 4–5-month fabrication process, 1-2 months of site work; September: grand opening.

- *Perry Douglas*: Is there anything you need from us? *Leah Rockwell*: Just to say that you're in favor of the design and okay with moving forward. Originally the berms were much bigger, and it was intended for us to use artificial turf, but we aren't allowed to use that here in the City. I believe that the berms are still going to be difficult to maintain since we don't have the manpower we used to have unless we hire an outside contractor.
- *Kara Renne*: Dorothy, what's phase 3? *Dorothy Hazard*: It will be a facility that is two floors, we will have a hurricane facility since there isn't a shelter in the Coleman/Pleasant City area. There will be a museum to honor the migrant farm workers and Black pioneers for the storm of 1928. We will also have a weather academy so people can learn about hurricanes, and we will have a simulation hurricane chamber. We also want to have space in there for people in the community that need it for office space, like 501(c)3s, and a small café since that area doesn't have a grocery store or a nutritious place to get a quick bite to eat. There will be a capital campaign coming out to get this phase done.
- *Kara Renne*: Did you have family members who died in the storm? *Dorothy Hazard*: No, but the founder of the Storm of '28 Memorial Coalition, Inc., Mr. Hazard is from New England and learned about the storm when he came to Palm Beach County in 1975.
- *Michael Odum*: What prompted the Frisbie Group to get involved? *Jake Leone*: We were asked to help. *Tina Thomson*: We have heart. *Jake Leone*: We're an investment firm, but a portion of the profits we try to put back into the community. There are four generations of Frisbie's in the community and they care about their reputation, so they are willing to put their money where their mouth is.
- *Julie Halstrup*: What is the timing for phase 2? *Jake Leone*: 1-2 months to get the drawings finalized, 4-5 months of fabrication process, and then 1-2 months of site work. A goal would be to have it finished by the 95th anniversary.
- *Michael Odum*: Leah, what's so difficult about maintaining a berm? *Leah Rockwell*: Mowers going up and over a berm like that, we must maintain the integrity of it. Since there are two of them, it may need to be a walk behind or a push versus a drive over. *Kameron Glasgow*: We're going to use some type of grass; it won't be too invasive. The berms right now are about 1½ feet, and we can lower them if we need to, but we want to keep the same aesthetic that's already there. *Leah Rockwell*: They were originally higher, but for maintenance and for safety, we wanted to make sure we kept everything as low as possible so you're able to see if anyone is hiding behind something.
- *Perry Douglas* made the motion to recommend moving forward with the project. *Patt Sned* seconded. All in favor.

Old Business **Cox Science Center and Aquarium**

- *Leah Rockwell* reminded attendees of the PowerPoint presentation that was given in December and sent out to all members that they can refer to. Since there was no quorum in December, you can now make the motion that you are okay with the project as is or wait until next month.
- *Patt Sned*: Their presentation was great and since then they've gotten a lot of press and money. It is a game-changer for them. It is going to totally change Dreher Park and what's there.
- *Julie Halstrup*: How will it impact parks and rec? *Patt Sned*: They want space from us. Their lease line is increasing, but they've artfully planned where the addition is going to be and even though we are losing greenspace, we are gaining activities in that space.
- *Kara Renne*: It could be a regional draw, more so than it has ever been, how is that going to impact traffic? And if we add the Boys and Girls Club, how is that going to impact overall? *Michael Odum*: Let's make a choice, don't choose Boys and Girls Club and go with Cox. *Kara Renne*: I'm not saying that but what's the timing of that finishing?

- *Leah Rockwell:* I just need to make sure that everyone here understands that you are an advisory committee. *Kara Renne:* I don't know how I feel about advising when I don't understand the outcome of the impact. *Leah Rockwell:* At the science center, people can pay to access, learn and educate and then they have all the green space Boys and Girls Club will be a closed-off facility except for those that are registered at the Boys and Girls Club.
- *Kara Renne:* There's going to be a lot more traffic on those little roads, with the buses and people using the park for lunches. Is this going to feel like the Fort Lauderdale-Miami draw?
- *Leah Rockwell:* The Cox family has agreed to pay for a master plan of the park to include all of the roadways and what they will look like. Hopefully, anyone that is putting money into the science center will also help pay for the necessary improvements to the ingress and egress to the park for the users. Dreher Trail is going to have to change somewhat to accommodate the traffic.
- *Kara Renne:* Did the Boys and Girls Club give any more thought to using the parcel that the Zoo hasn't? *Leah Rockwell:* So, the Zoo has started their renovations on that parcel and they're gutting the building.
- *Patt Sned* made the motion to support the Cox Science Center expansion. *Julie Halstrup* seconded. All in favor.

Bond and CIP Project Updates

- *Lorenzo Rivero* gave an update on the Park Bond and CIP Projects.
 - Phipps Park Concession and Restrooms - currently out for bid and we should be receiving all bids back by February 8th. The plan is to have a contractor and break ground by the end of March.
 - Howard Park Tennis Center and Gaines Park Tennis Center – we are working with the design teams on permitting and should have that out for bid by the end of this month.
 - Currie Park – still under design. *Leah Rockwell:* We got our permit from DEP. *Lorenzo Rivero:* Our intent is to have that project underway at the end of this fall.
 - South Olive Tennis Center – we are expanding the tennis center and are working with Leah and the tennis pro there to approve the conceptual plans and then we can move forward.
- *Leah Rockwell:* SPOHN Ranch started the Skate Park design and will get us some preliminary designs to take back to the kids and community.
- *Julie Halstrup:* I read in the notes that a survey would be created to get community input about Jose Marti? I thought that was already done. *Leah Rockwell:* It was, we already received a lot of input from the community regarding the fitness equipment. It was thought to go back out to them one more time, but I'll be selecting the equipment based on previous input and sending it to the neighborhood for comment.
- *Kara Renne:* When is George Petty Park coming back? *Leah Rockwell:* Hopefully the park will be back to a park in March.
- *Patt Sned:* There has been some confusion with some of the young mothers in that neighborhood that were told that it was no longer going to be a park. *Lorenzo Rivero:* The playground is already approved and paid for; we're just waiting for Engineering to turn the park back over to us. Once it is, it'll take about 4-5 months to have the new playground shipped, installed, and going. *Leah Rockwell:* It may have been about the swings. We took the swing set from Coleman Park and are seeing if we can reinstall it at George Petty. We're still waiting to find out if Risk will allow us to reinstall it or if a playground installer will need to do it and certify it as safe.
- *Kara Renne:* In that area since it's so close to the smaller islands, could we put a place to store kayaks where you can get a lease for the year? *Leah Rockwell:* We can look into that. Palm Beach County has done something similar, but it's only been in parks where there is staff present.

Staff Comments	<p>Boys and Girls Club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> The Boys and Girls Club did their soil borings as mandated and required for them to move forward, and the borings came back clean. They know now that they're going to have to remove the mound to create more green space. <p>PBC – Homeless Count</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> The Palm Beach County Homeless Coalition, on the 26th and 27th of January, will be going around with their municipal partners to do a “count in time” of the number of homeless in the area. It's so they evaluate the situation and how they can move forward with funding resources. There has been a large uptick of those without shelter in our parks and the City's HART team (Homeless Action Response Team) goes out to the parks every day to meet and speak with the people and tell them about the available resources.
Board Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Kara Renne:</i> Are the community centers as we are redoing them, going to be hardened facilities? <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> They are not going to be hardened for shelters since we are east of I-95 and it's not a recommended location for hurricane shelters to be east of I-95. <i>Julie Halstrup:</i> So people are supposed to migrate west? <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> Yes, all the hurricane evacuation routes head west. Most of our buildings will be rated a 3 at the most, but not more than that. <i>Kara Renne:</i> As we're redoing them, can we marry it with additional federal funds to make them stronger and elevated? <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> Gaines Park would be the one we would consider but it's too close to the Intracoastal, the ocean, Lake Mangonia, and Clear Lake. <i>Kara Renne:</i> How high would it need to be elevated? <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> For the build the structure at Currie Park, we have to go 12 feet up so we would need to have double the funds that we have for Gaines Park. <i>Patt Sned:</i> There is 3.5 million dollars for Currie from the approval of the 15-story towers? <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> I think this has to do with the extension of Northwood Road, which would come directly into the park. Joel T. Daves park would become more linear and be more of a promenade. <i>Leah Rockwell:</i> Years ago, there was a discussion about impact fees that would come back to the parks department for the replacement of equipment because of wear and tear, but it never went anywhere.
Public Comments	<p>No public comment.</p>
Next Meeting	<p>Tuesday, February 14, 2023</p>
Meeting Adjourned	<p>Motion made to adjourn by <i>Perry Douglass</i> at 5:15 PM. Second by <i>Julie Halstrup</i>. All in favor.</p>