

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 – 4:00 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor Open Planning Area

Present: Michael Odum, Patt Sned, Matthew Goldberger, Perry Douglas, Mary Murphy	Staff Present: Leah Rockwell, Todd Snyder, Sherry Wilson, Lucy Morelos, Willie McNeal, Michelle Terebinski, Andrew Burnett, Randy Erysthee
Absent: Jacquelyn Taylor, Kara Renne, Julie Hastrup	Guest(s): Bo Huggins

Topic	Discussion / Action / Follow Up
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by <i>Michael Odum</i> at 4:04 PM.
	Motion made to approve May minutes made by <i>Patt Sned</i> , with a second by <i>Perry Douglas</i> . All in favor.

New Business	<p>No new business.</p> <p><i>Leah Rockwell</i> introduced <i>Sherry Wilson</i>, the new Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation overseeing the Recreation Division and Business Operations.</p>
Old Business	<p>BOND and CIP Project Update – <i>Leah Rockwell</i> gave a brief update on the below playgrounds before the presentation from <i>Michelle Terebinski</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed playgrounds: Brian Chappell, Alice Mickens, Sunset Park, Vedado Park, Fogleman Park, which will have a ribbon cutting once the new lighting has been installed, and South Olive Park, where the additional shade has been installed. <p>The following playgrounds are in process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Echo Lake is pending installation. George Petty, the playground structure has been delivered and is being stored until the end of August/beginning of September when we can get into the park. <i>Patt Sned</i> questioned if we will still have to wait another year to open the park due to the construction on Washington Road. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that we will be able to get into the park to complete the installation and then open it up to the public. <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> questioned if the shoreline restoration was completed at George Petty. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that it will be completed by the time we get into the park. Dreher Park, an initial quote was received but is over budget and staff is looking into what can be done to bring it back down. Osprey Park has a final design, and the colors need to be selected. <i>Patt Sned</i> questioned if we could just have standard colors. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that the feedback we receive is that adults want the playgrounds to be made up of more natural colors, greens and browns, especially at Dreher Park, but the kids want bright colors, such as yellow, purple, blue, or red. <i>Patt Sned</i> asked if PRAC could come up with a policy to streamline the process of color selection to make it consistent and speed up the process. <i>Michael Odum</i> stated that we’re building the playground for the kids and if they want the bright colors, that should be the standard. <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> stated that he understands the playground at Dreher Park, the one natural greenspace in the City, being more neutral colored but the other playgrounds being brighter. <i>Michelle Terebinski</i>, Recreation Manager, and <i>Willie McNeal</i>, Event Specialist, presented the members with before and after pictures of the following completed playgrounds: Brian Chappell, Alice Mickens, Sunset Park, Vedado Park, Fogleman Park, and South Olive. The final designs for these pending playgrounds were presented: Echo Lake, George Petty, and Dreher Park. And the color options for the following pending playgrounds were presented: Blum Park, Coleman Park, and Phipps Park with a QR code for the members to vote on their choices if they choose.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Michael Odum</i> asked if the color option had a bearing on the maintenance of the structure. <i>Perry Douglas</i> asked if there is a difference in cost. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that we aren't selecting any specialty colors so it doesn't have an effect on maintenance or cost. <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> proposed that they go with the brighter color options in these parks with the other members agreeing. • <i>Leah Rockwell</i> continued the BOND updates with the bids being returned for Howard Park Tennis Center and Gaines Park Community Center and Tennis Center. The bids came in over budget. We are working with Administration to see how we can fulfill the community's desires. • At the September meeting, we will provide you with a full report of the budget as we enter the new fiscal year. <p>Trash Cans – Dreher Park – Follow Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leah Rockwell</i> informed the committee that after the May meeting, where a resident that lives near Dreher Park was in attendance and suggested adding additional trash cans at each of the pavilions located at the park, <i>Todd Snyder</i> has placed an order for additional trash cans to help with the trash that is left behind. • <i>Todd Snyder</i> stated that the trash cans arrived on Monday, July 10th and the Parks Maintenance crews needed to assemble the swing trash cans before installing them at the pavilions. <p>Lift Station 4 Design – Dreher Park – Public Utilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Randy Erysthee</i>, Project Engineer with the Public Utilities Department, presented the previous design of Lift Station 4 which had received the feedback that it was taking up too much greenspace within the park. • After receiving the feedback, Public Utilities met with the consultant and asked if they could redesign and incorporate the lift station at its current location. • With the redesign, to meet the 100-year flood requirement, the platform will need to be elevated and there will be approximately 3 feet of the electrical cabinet that will be visible to the neighbors to the east of the lift station. There will also be the addition of a new driveway within the space and a new access gate. • <i>Patt Sned</i> inquired about the disadvantaged listed as "slightly more expensive". <i>Randy Erysthee</i> answered that the cost escalation is coming because of an increase in bypass cost. To complete the work and not impeded the use of facilities at home, Utilities will have to pump the sewage out during construction. • <i>Patt Sned</i> made the motion to support the new design with <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> as second. All in favor.
<p>Staff Comments/ Updates</p>	<p>Summer Camps – <i>Leah Rockwell</i> gave an update on where the department stands on summer camps.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This week started session 2 of camp and we are at capacity with some transportation issues, but we are working through them. The kids are having a good time. • On specialty camps, Administrator Johnson's grandson attended sailing camp. He was upset that he could not go back because he loves it so much. This is a sign of a successful program. • The summer basketball program has also been successful. • The only disappointing factor was that we could not take more children in the program because we couldn't find the staff to fulfill our ratios. <p>Budget – <i>Leah Rockwell</i> provided an update on the budget planning for the upcoming year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We requested some additional right-of-way maintenance money, increases to our field trip budget, and additional funding for tree trimming that we should be getting. • As we get closer to the budget going before Commission, we can let PRAC know everything that has made it through the first reading and then the second reading.

	<p>Adult and Youth Sports Providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Leah Rockwell</i> informed the committee that we had the legal department draw up a Youth Sports and Adult Sports Providers Agreement because everyone wants to use the fields, but we only have so many in the City. • This is a way to control the usage and make sure the groups that are on the fields are those that we have an agreement with, and we can control how they are using the fields. It also gives us a means and a method to have them compensate the city if they break the agreement. • <i>Patt Sned</i> asked if that means there is someone going around to all the fields checking to make sure they have their permits. <i>Michael Odum</i> asked if we had park rangers doing the checking. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that yes, there is someone going around checking and that we have park monitors, two of which were changed from on-call employees at 19 hours a week to 30 hours a week which allows for more consistency. • <i>Leah Rockwell</i> also added that individuals are still able to get permits for up to two hours and that this agreement applies to leagues wanting to come in and use the fields. <p><i>Leah Rockwell</i> announced that July is National Parks and Recreation Month and last night at the Commission meeting the Mayor proclaimed July as National Parks and Recreation Month. This year the theme is <i>Where Community Grows</i>.</p> <p><i>Michael Odum</i> asked where did “<i>It Starts In Parks</i>” come from. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that it comes from the Florida Recreation and Parks Association and as an agency in the state of Florida, we’ve taken on that tagline as we believe that health, wellness, economics, sustainability, and resiliency starts in our parks.</p>
Board Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Patt Sned</i> asked about the bathrooms at Dreher Park. <i>Todd Snyder</i> updated that the restrooms have been ordered and the contract for the site work is in process with the last update that the plans are at 30%. • <i>Perry Douglas</i> asked if there was an estimate of when the work will actually begin. <i>Todd Snyder</i> answered that we don’t have a date yet, just the latest update. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> added that the modular restrooms are actually completed and are being held by the manufacturer because we don’t have the site work completed. • <i>Michael Odum</i> asked about a ribbon cutting at Pleasant City. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that she needs to follow up on the floor in the gym. • <i>Mary Murphy</i> asked if the outreach program that went into the parks and helped the homeless was still running. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that it is still running and the members can reach out to us or to <i>Todd Snyder</i> and we would let the team know. They are allowed to be there during the day, but the outreach team will visit and let them know of services available, see what their needs are, and remind them of the rules and regulations.
Public Comment	No public comment.
Next Meeting	Tuesday, August 8, 2023, at 4:00 PM
Meeting Adjourned	<i>Matthew Goldberger</i> made the motion to adjourn with a second by <i>Mary Murphy</i> . All in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 4:59 PM.