

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 – 4:00 PM

City Hall – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Room 519

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| <b>Present:</b> Michael Odum, Patt Sned, Jacquelyn Taylor, Mary Murphy, Phil Growick | <b>Staff Present:</b> Leah Rockwell, Suzanne Berglund, Michael Todd Snyder, Tarelle Goldwire, Anjali Ganesh |
| <b>Absent:</b> Perry Douglas, Niels Heimeriks, Matthew Goldberger                    | <b>Guest(s):</b> Louise Barnett                                                                             |

| Topic         | Discussion / Action / Follow Up                                                                                              |
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| Call to Order | Meeting called to order by <i>Michael Odum</i> at 4:14 p.m.                                                                  |
|               | Motion made to approve March 12, 2024; minutes made by <i>Michael Odum</i> with a second by <i>Patt Sned</i> . All in favor. |

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| <b>New Business</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Introduction of new P.R.A.C. member <i>Phil Growick</i>.</li></ul> <p><b>Discussion – Green Burials</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— <i>Leah Rockwell</i> introduced guest <i>Louise Barnett</i> who advocated for the implementation of Green Burials within Woodlawn Cemetery. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> added that the current rules for City of West Palm Beach cemeteries state that burials are required to have a vault and a casket or an urn to be placed in a cemetery.</li><li>— Provided was a packet of documentation consisting of locations that offer Green Burials in the state of Florida. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> mentioned that six out of the seven listed locations were privately owned, whereas Brooksville Cemetery is a municipal-hybrid cemetery.</li><li>— The packet also consisted of a series of photos including what City of West Palm Beach’s cemetery vaults currently look like as well as two examples of green burials.</li><li>— <i>Louise Barnett</i> proposed three options for Green Burials in Woodlawn Cemetery and provided statistics on a Green Burial survey done by a magazine publishing company. <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> and <i>Michael Odum</i> inquired for further context on the survey being referenced and the depth at which Green Burials are placed.</li><li>— <i>Leah Rockwell</i> mentioned that the ground above the green burial may settle as opposed to a vault. Headstones could become uneven over a green burial due to the lack of stability provided versus a vaulted burial.</li><li>— <i>Mary Murphy</i> asked if the ownership of the lot would be the same as a traditional burial lot purchase and if there is a risk of the lot being buried over? <i>Louise Barnett</i> added that appropriate documentation is assumed to be kept up to date and followed in the future. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> mentioned that there have been cemetery sextons from years ago who may have not kept an accurate documentation for lots, however, the City Clerk and the Parks Division have been diligent in keeping accurate records.</li><li>— <i>Todd Snyder</i> further explained the process for creating and maintaining the lots in Woodlawn and Evergreen Cemeteries, while referencing photos provided to attendees. The probing process is how the Parks Maintenance Division locates vaults in the ground and mentions that without a vault or liner, a green burial would be undetectable unless placed in a designated area. <i>Phil Growick</i> asked if there is a problem operationally with implementing Green Burials? <i>Todd Snyder</i> reiterated the probing process and brought up the limited space available in Woodlawn Cemetery.</li><li>— <i>Phil Growick</i> shared that he has observed Woodlawn Cemetery having available space around the perimeter and possibly using this space for green burials. It could lead to possible positive publicity for the City of West Palm Beach.</li></ul> |
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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> asked if the request for green burials is in high demand, locally? <i>Louise Barnett</i> said she has not conducted a local survey but has received positive responses so far from those who she has spoken to on the topic of green burials.</li> <li>— <i>Leah Rockwell</i> mentioned that it would be preferred if green burials are implemented to have them in a separate, designated spot that is not associated with vaults or liners.</li> <li>— <i>Patt Sned</i> supported the stance that cemeteries are at capacity. <i>Jacquelyn Taylor</i> added that she would like more local outreach and responses from City of West Palm Beach’s residents and their opinions on the matter. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> reiterated that <i>Louise Barnett</i> would investigate more information to provide to the PRAC board members and reconvene.</li> </ul> |
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| <p><b>Old Business</b></p> | <p><b>George Petty Park – Beach Stabilization</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Suzanne Berglund</i> gave a brief overview of the storm water systems throughout the city in terms of drainage issues and beach stabilization. George Petty Park has a lower elevation level and sea wall in comparison to the businesses and residences surrounding the park. A storm water pipe and drainage system along with turf mats were installed under George Petty Park a few years ago, however, eroded due to the high tides.</li> <li>— <i>Michael Odum</i> asked if some of the surrounding construction is causing aftereffects from the sea walls at the park? <i>Suzanne Berglund</i> answered yes, however, homeowners are entitled to Florida’s Riparian Rights. <i>Patt Sned</i> added that elevation heights for properties bordering the sea wall are enforced by the city, insurance, etc.</li> <li>— <i>Suzanne Berglund</i> stated that the city will install a fence immediately where there are hazards to the public. Also, installing title valves and an additional structure over the grates to make them more visible while assisting with deterring erosion so the rest of the park can remain open. A long-term goal is to build an elevated sea wall.</li> <li>— <i>Phil Growick</i> asked if this project will include the northern region of Flagler? <i>Suzanne Berglund</i> answered that the water main, sewers and storm water infrastructures are stable in that area as of right now.</li> <li>— <i>Patt Sned</i> asked about the timeline for the short-term fixes at George Petty Park? <i>Leah Rockwell</i> answered that the Playground is installed and we are waiting for the swing set to be installed. <i>Todd Snyder</i> added that once irrigation and sodding is completed, the park can be opened.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bond Projects Update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Leah Rockwell</i> updated that Blum Park is open as well as the playground. Research is being done for a vendor to renovate the splash pad.</li> <li>— Coleman Park’s playground is estimated to start installation mid-April.</li> <li>— Fitness equipment for Jose Marti Park will be shipped by the end of May. Installation will take place shortly after the equipment arrives.</li> <li>— Osprey Park playground is finishing up with punch list items and should be opened shortly. <i>Todd Snyder</i> added that fixes were made recently and fencing around the playground will be removed by the end of the week.</li> <li>— Phipps Skate Park Concession Stand will be completed sooner than anticipated. A shade structure is being installed along the west side of the Concession Stand by the end of the month. The playground inspection was held at the end of March and passed inspection.</li> <li>— Gaines Park held a groundbreaking ceremony last week.</li> <li>— Howard Park Tennis lighting structures are in the process of being completed with tennis courts to start construction soon after.</li> </ul> |
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|                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— South Olive’s Tennis Court and parking lot project is currently working through a variance concerning the parking lot and tennis courts; however, the project will be going out to bid soon as documents are finalized.</li> <li>— Currie Park’s Invitation to Bid (ITB) went to the State of Florida Commerce Department two weeks ago for review.</li> <li>— The Grant for FIND was submitted for Brian Chappell by <i>Leah Rockwell</i>.</li> <li>— <i>Mary Murphy</i> asked about the sailboat that collided with the dock at Brian Chappell. <i>Todd Snyder</i> answered that a police report was done, and the city’s risk management team is handling the matter. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> added that the process can take up to six months.</li> </ul> <p><b>Penny Sales Tax</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Howard Park Community Center is working on final plans to prepare an ITB. Hopefully the project will be ready to advertise for bids later this summer.</li> <li>— <i>Michael Odum</i> asked about the opening of the gym at Coleman Park? <i>Leah Rockwell</i> responded that estimated completion is July or August and all amenities at Coleman Park will be opened to the public at the same time.</li> </ul> <p><b>Boys and Girls Club</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Patt Sned</i> asked about Dreher Park’s bathroom renovations and their elevations? <i>Todd Snyder</i> answered that he is waiting for an executed contract and permitting, then installation can take place. The bathroom nearest to the Cox Science Center is included in the 100-Year Floodplain and will need to be elevated.</li> <li>— <i>Leah Rockwell</i> stated she has obtained the Draft of the new Leasing Agreement for The Florence DeGeorges Boys and Girls Club with updated terms. It includes a 25-year term with two additional ten-year extensions. Maintenance and lighting of the building interior and exterior is the responsibility of The Boys and Girls Club except for a small green space with hedging that the City of West Palm Beach will maintain. There is discussion regarding the responsibility of the foundation and roofing of the building as it is city-owned, however, no decision has been made yet.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Staff Comments / Updates</b> | <p><b>Program Updates – Spring, Summer, Athletics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Spring Camp went exceptionally well. Summer Camp registration is currently ongoing. South Olive Community Center’s waiting list is full.</li> <li>— There are an estimated forty children registered at Pleasant City Community Center, including children from Gaines Park, while it is closed for renovations, but is expected to reach full capacity. Summer Camp registration for teens is also filling up quickly.</li> <li>— Beginning Level of Sailing Camp is almost fully booked. Intermediate and Advanced are also open for registration.</li> <li>— Phipps Skate Park is estimated to be completed in May before Skate Camp opens.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Board Comments</b>           | No board comments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Public Comment</b>           | No public comments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Next Meeting</b>             | Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Open Planning Area, City Hall.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Meeting Adjourned</b>        | <i>Michael Odum</i> made a motion to adjourn. Second by <i>Patt Sned</i> . All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:29 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |