

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX
1395 DUNLAWTON AVENUE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
JULY 20, 2021 AT 5:15 P.M.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Bowling at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Mark Bowling, Chairman
Michael Navarra
John Cameron
Maria Mills-Benat
Shawn Holmes

Absent: James Richard (excused)
Bobby Ball (unexcused)

Also Present: Susan Lovallo, Parks & Recreation Director
Shelby Field, Assistant City Clerk

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Consideration of Minutes - April 20, 2021

*Motion to approve the minutes from April 20, 2021 as presented was made by Member Mills-Benat and Seconded by Member Cameron.
Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

2. Discussion on Budget, Projects and Programs

Susan Lovallo, Parks & Recreation Director, discussed the challenges the city has faced trying to fill positions recently and the potential changes to come as soon as Council decides how to implement the \$15 per hour minimum wage mandate.

Ms. Lovallo discussed a few of the projects and programs the City is working on such as the REC renovation (which has been slowed due to difficulties acquiring materials), a new Parks & Rec building for admin offices and storage, flag football, and the 4th of July event the City hosted. Summer camp has had to close twice for positive COVID cases, but they are open again with more precautions in place. Ms. Lovallo also provided an update on the Airport Road playground.

Chairman Bowling revisited the top five priorities for the Board as discussed with City Council and they are as follows: Coraci Park expansion, Community Center on the west side of Port Orange, public access to Spruce Creek – Russell property specifically, more trails, and playground equipment replacement through the city. He would like to discuss each item at the next meeting. He asked for an update on acquiring the additional acreage for Coraci. Ms. Lovallo responded it is still being discussed.

3. Items for Next Agenda

Discussion on the Priorities for the Parks & Rec Board and How to Implement Them
Funding Opportunities for Land Acquisition

B. PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Lovallo discussed the increases in vandalism in the last few months, specifically to parks, golf carts and park facilities.

Ms. Lovallo informed the Board that rec fees will come before the Board in the future.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Reinhausen, citizen, asked what the new Parks & Rec building going up is for. Ms. Lovallo explained it is a metal building for storage and additional office space for those displaced by the REC renovation.

D. BOARD COMMENTS

Member Navarra asked what the topics for the next meeting are. Chairman Bowling wants to focus on the Board priority list to ensure the items get worked on or changed as needed. Member Navarra would like the City to get more land for parks. Ms. Lovallo suggested investigating funding opportunities as the budget is usually where things get held up.

Member Cameron inquired into the Mayor's Golf Tournament. Ms. Lovallo stated it was not a full field this year, but it went well. The net profit from the tournament was about \$6,000. Member Cameron urged each member to reach out to their councilperson to discuss the recreation needs of the community.

Member Holmes believes flag football is going well and he is excited to see the program grow.

Chairman Bowling asked for an update on the esports tournaments. Ms. Lovallo stated it is starting to pick up and they are going to join the state and national championships soon. There has been a lot of positive feedback from parents and kids.

F. ADJOURNMENT – 5:58 p.m.

4. Next Meeting Date: October 19, 2021
5. Board Report to City Council - July 20, 2021



Chairman Mark Bowling