

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX
1395 DUNLAWTON AVENUE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 26, 2021 AT 5:15 P.M.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Bowling at 5:17 p.m.

Present: Mark Bowling, Chairman
Michael Navarra
John Cameron
James Richard

Absent: Shawn Holmes (excused)
Bobby Ball (excused)
Maria Mills-Benat (excused)

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

A. DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Consideration of Minutes - July 20, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes from July 20, 2021 with an amendment to mark James Richard as excused was made by Member Navarra and Seconded by Member Cameron. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Discussion on the Priorities for the Parks & Rec Board and How to Implement Them

Chairman Bowling opened the item for discussion. He would like to keep spotlighting the importance of these items to Council.

The Priorities are as follows:

1. Coraci Park Expansion
2. West side Community Center at Airport Park
3. Playground Equipment Replacement in City Parks
4. Public Access to Spruce Creek
5. More Trails

Member Cameron asked if any of these items were approved in the budget for FY22. Susan Lovallo, Parks and Recreation Director, responded the Airport Road Playground Equipment and REC Center were approved in last year's budget. The only thing approved in the FY22 budget was additional funds for the REC Center but the Coraci expansion is on Council's radar. There is money in the mitigation bank run through Public Utilities that could be matched with grant

funds to purchase park land. Ms. Lovallo informed the Board Council's priority this budget cycle was raising the minimum wage as required by Florida Statute.

Chairman Bowling informed the Board he has received direction from Mayor Don Burnette to investigate creating a disc golf course in Port Orange. He believes Bushman Park is the best option but that would require removing trees.

Ms. Lovallo discussed possible options for placing a disc golf course. There are not many feasible options currently, but staff is going to continue investigating. The Board does not see this as a priority currently as there are other courses in Volusia.

3. Funding Opportunities for Land Acquisition

Ms. Lovallo informed the Board the current funding options are the mitigation bank, impact fees, general fund, grants, and bonding. Bonds are only for finishing facilities and finishing recreation items on the list. Ms. Lovallo stated bonds are about a 2-year process, require voter approval, and staff is unaware if there is desire for that. Staff can investigate bonding as an option.

The Board would like information from the City Manager regarding the Coraci expansion. They are interested in trying to obtain a bond for this project.

4. Items for Next Agenda

Election of Officers

2022 Proposed Meeting Dates

Funding Opportunities, Bonds and Grants for Land Acquisition

Discussion on the Priorities for the Parks & Rec Board and How to Implement Them

B. PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Lovallo informed the Board the REC renovation is underway, and construction is moving along close to schedule. The park storage building on site is complete and they have moved their equipment in. In the next budget cycle, staff hopes to add office space to match the storage building.

The HVAC replacement has been completed at the Adult Center, Cypress Head roof replacement will begin in the upcoming weeks, and ball fields 1 & 2 at City Center will receive new lights after Thanksgiving.

Airport Road Park has been demolished and work will begin shortly on putting in new playground equipment. Tennis and baseball have both started, registration for soccer is Monday November 1, 2021 and there is an E-Sports tournament Friday, October 29, 2021.

The City's Halloween event is this Sunday, October 31, 2021 from 5-8 at Lakeside Community Center.

The playground surface at Riverwalk failed, it was eroding away, so staff worked with the playground equipment company and supplier to quickly and affordably replace everything.

The Democratic Club put in a butterfly garden at All Children's Park and oversees taking care of it. Ms. Lovallo noted they did a very good and it looks great.

Staff is aware of and continues to monitor the increasing homeless population at Riverwalk park.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Reinhausen, citizen, inquired about the railroad depot that the City now owns. He has been informed it is no longer on the city's radar.

Ms. Lovallo responded it is still on staff's radar and she has a meeting with the City Manager's office tomorrow October 27, 2021. There is a volunteer model train group that is interested in assisting the city with renovations. Ms. Lovallo stated since it was purchased with ECHO dollars and the initial plan was to move it to Riverwalk, but now they want to keep it at the train tracks, it must be approved by ECHO. It is important to the City to preserve the building; staff is just working on the best ways to do so.

D. BOARD COMMENTS

There were none.

F. ADJOURNMENT

5. Next Meeting Date: January 18, 2022
6. Board Report to City Council - November 2, 2021


Chairman Mark Bowling