

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX
1395 DUNLAWTON AVENUE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
JANUARY 18, 2022 AT 5:15 P.M.

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board was called to order by Chairman Bowling at 5:21 p.m.

Present: Mark Bowling, Chairman
Michael Navarra
James Richard
Bobby Ball

Absent: Shawn Holmes (excused)
Maria Mills-Benat (unexcused)
John Cameron (unexcused)

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

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion was made by Member Navarra to nominate Member Bowling for Chairman and Seconded by Member Richard. Chairman Bowling accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Motion was made by Member Navarra to nominate Member Ball for Vice Chair and Seconded by Member Richard. Member Ball accepted the nomination. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

B. DISCUSSION/ACTION

1. Consideration of Minutes - October 26, 2021

Motion to approve the minutes from October 26, 2021 as presented was made by Member Navarra and Seconded by Member Richard. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

2. Cast Netting Discussion

Susan Lovallo, Parks & Recreation Director, informed the Board the City has received complaints from a citizen regarding cast netting in City ponds, specifically when birds get stuck in the nets and are left to die. Ms. Lovallo asked the Board if this is something they would like to discuss or if they would like to wait until further action is taken by the citizen. The Board would like to hear from the concerned citizen before taking any action.

3. Funding Opportunities, Bonds and Grants for Land Acquisition

Chairman Bowling wants to continue efforts to acquire the land north of Coraci for more parks. He asked if the City's grant writer could come before the Board. Ms. Lovallo informed the Board the grant position in the City is currently vacant and the Finance Director is transitioning to a position outside the City, but the topic should be discussed at the spring workshop with City Council.

Robert Reinhagen, citizen, suggested the Board ask Council to direct Finance to apply for ECHO grants or Volusia Forever grants. Ms. Lovallo responded those grants often require matching money that the City would already need to have budgeted.

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

Chairman Bowling opened the item for discussion and asked if any new items of importance have come up. Member Navarra would like to keep the focus on the current items and believes that is the best way to ensure the priorities get addressed.

The Priorities are as follows:

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

Chairman Bowling asked about getting a roof over the Amphitheater or if that was ever discussed when constructed. Ms. Lovallo does not believe so and with estimated costs doesn't believe it is a priority currently.

Chairman Bowling asked for an update on the train depot. Ms. Lovallo informed the Board that staff added a sign at Depot Park, added a handicap parking space, and cleaned it up so it is open to the public now. Staff is working with Friends of the Train, officially the Railroad Society, to place storyboards on the property but you cannot currently enter the depot. Ms. Lovallo stated that per the grant application with Volusia ECHO the City was supposed to move the depot to Riverwalk and they are now trying to get a designation to leave it where it is.

5. 2022 Proposed Meeting Dates

The Board agreed to keep the meeting schedule as is with a Joint Meeting with City Council in March or April.

6. Items for Next Agenda

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

C. PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Lovallo discussed recent updates for a few city projects.

The REC is currently under renovation and moving along nicely at this time, the scheduled completion date is the end of July, and she only expects that to change a little. Ms. Lovallo stated Airport Park should be complete by the end of January and there will be a grand opening in February.

The clubhouse roof at Cypress Head Golf Course has been replaced and she expects to close out the project in the next few months. Ms. Lovallo stated the City went out to bid for fencing at Southwinds Soccer Complex and they are just waiting on materials now. The lighting has been replaced with LEDs at City Center fields 1 & 2.

Youth soccer numbers jumped from 490 to 720. Ms. Lovallo stated if baseball has the same turnout the item may come before the Board to discuss field priorities.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Miriam Mitchell, citizen, had a bad experience at the dog park and is frustrated there is only one available. She moved to another stretch of land near Coraci and was told by Animal Control she can't have her dog off leash there. She would like the Board to fence the area if possible so she can let her dog off leash in the area.

Ms. Lovallo responded the only off leash park in the City of Port Orange currently is off Spruce Creek Road, the city has an ordinance dictating every dog must be on a six-foot leash and dog parks must be a certain size. She has received a lot of interest in more dog parks and discussed possible options for new ones in the Coraci expansion or on the west side of town with a new community center, but any solution at this time will take time.

The board agrees a dog park on the west side would be a great idea.

Mr. Reinhagen asked if the new City Manager, Wayne Clark, is interested in solar for the REC Center. Ms. Lovallo responded they haven't discussed it, but Mr. Clark is interested in a 30-year plan for the City, and they are still figuring out what that means.

E. BOARD COMMENTS

There were none.

F. ADJOURNMENT – 6:10 p.m.

7. Next Meeting Date: April 19, 2022
6. Board Report to City Council - January 18, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Bowling', is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman Mark Bowling