

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX
CONFERENCE ROOM
1395 DUNLAWTON AVENUE
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA
JANUARY 21, 2025

THE REGULAR PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING of the City of Port Orange was called to order by Chairman Bobby Ball at 5:15 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Roll Call

Present: John Cameron Jr.
Robert Ball, Chair
Maria Mills-Benat
Shawn Holmes
Michael Navarra

Absent: Mark Bowling (Unexcused)
James H. Richard Jr.
(Unexcused)

Also Present: Susan Lovallo, Parks &
Recreation Director
Jennifer Sisk, Athletics Manager
Christine Clowes, Administrative
Assistant

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Motion to nominate Robert Ball to remain Chair and Michael Navarra to remain Vice Chair was made by Member Maria Mills-Benat and seconded by Member Shawn Holmes. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Consideration of Minutes - July 16, 2024

Motion to approve the July 16, 2024 Minutes as presented was made by Member Maria Mills-Benat and Seconded by Member Mike Navarra.

Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

3 Bond Update

Susan Lovallo, Director of Parks and Recreation provided an update on the Bond projects. The improvements for Willow Run Park are currently in the design phase, bids are being received for the installation of artificial turf, and an architect is evaluating the potential impact on White Place Park.

Members discussed the condition of the pickleball courts. It was decided that the courts will remain but will be raised to prolong their lifespan and mitigate further defects. Bond funds are expected to be available in March. The objective is to complete all park design work by the end of the year, with the exception of Coraci Park, pending land acquisition outcomes.

Ms. Lovallo is working on the FPL Trails project and plans to extend the trail from Nova to Williamson. Community Development will apply to FPL for the necessary permissions. The sidewalk trail from Town Park to Willow Run is already underway.

Members also discussed the financial feasibility of the Trails project, potential sponsorship for artificial turf featuring sponsor logos, and the associated costs of banners.

4. Sensory Ideas

Member Maria Mills-Benat talked about communication boards for kids with sensory issues in parks. A citizen created 2x3 aluminum boards and wants to donate two of them to the City for use at the parks. Ms. Lovallo suggested a separate meeting to discuss how to proceed.

5. Residency Information on the REC Center

Ms. Lovallo reported twenty-seven percent of residents west of I-95 use the current parks and recreation facility. That's about 1,500 out of 6,000 people monthly. There was a discussion on the benefits of a recreation center on the west side of town. Robert Ball, Chair, inquired about City Council's support, and Ms. Lovallo confirmed Council is supportive of the new facility.

PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Lovallo provided an update on various projects, including Coraci Park, the Parks Office, Skate Park Lighting, and the potential disc golf course at Buschman Park. Members discussed the benefits of LED lighting and noted that citizens can sign up online to receive updates on various projects and events. Jennifer Sisk, Athletics Director discussed upcoming events and a spring baseball and softball invitation and mentioned the event calendar is available on the City's website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

BOARD COMMENTS

Mr. Cameron inquired about Kirk Collas and his role with the City. Members clarified that Mr. Collas is tennis professional who assists volunteers with the City in teaching children how to play tennis. There are no rental agreements involved. Mr. Collas collaborates with senior living facilities and sponsors activities with the City.

Additionally, members noted that there are donation exchanges involving other individuals, not just Mr. Collas. The City does not compensate anyone for these services. It was mentioned that Council has approved donation exchanges with the City.

Youth tennis is currently taking place at Airport Road Park. Mr. Cameron observed that the signage at the parks appear to be new and well-maintained, while the signage at City Center requires updating. He commended the Parks and Recreation staff for their excellent work.

Ms. Lovallo explained the signage matter is not within the scope of work for the Parks department but assured that the message would be communicated.

ADJOURNMENT - 6:15 p.m.

6. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 5:15pm
7. Board Report to City Council: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 @ 6:30pm



Chairman Bobby Ball