

PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
DOROTHY L. HUKILL CITY CENTER ANNEX  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
1395 DUNLAWTON AVENUE  
PORT ORANGE, FLORIDA  
JANUARY 20, 2026

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  
Brian Syford

Absent: Jeff Brabham (Unexcused)  
Michael Navarra, Vice Chair  
(Unexcused)

Also Present: Susan Lovallo, Parks and  
Recreation Director  
Jennifer Sisk, Athletics Manager  
Christine Clowes, Sr.  
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 Brain Syford. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

DISCUSSION/ACTION

2. Consideration of Minutes - October 21, 2025

*Motion to approve the October 21, 2025 meeting minutes as presented was made by Member Maria Mills-Benat and seconded by Member John Cameron, Jr. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.*

3. Bond Project Update

## Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

January 20, 2026

Page 2 of 3

Susan Lovallo, Parks and Recreation Director, updated the Board on the citywide bond projects and answered board members' questions. Willow Run and the City Center expansion are 90% designed and awaiting electrical additions and final comments. White Place Park is approximately 20% designed. The City is pursuing ECHO grant funding to extend bond resources. Depot Park design is underway, with visuals expected at the next update. Coraci renovations are in progress, while Coraci North remains pending final purchase approval.

Susan Lovallo stated that Willow Run and City Center are priorities; however, City Center must first address a historic tree issue. The Environmental Advisory Board will consider tree removal and replacement, followed by City Council approval. City Center fields are ready to bid but will be delayed until the end of the season to avoid program disruptions.

#### 4. Naming a Park in Honor of Former Mayor Allen Green

Member John Cameron, Jr., proposed renaming a city park after former Mayor Allen Green, citing his decades of service and contributions to park development through volunteer efforts and resource support.

Susan Lovallo outlined the process, noting the Board must confirm the need, recommend a location, and present the proposal to City Council. Following discussion, including the suggestion of Lakeside by Member Mills-Benat due to Allen Green's role in its development, the Board unanimously agreed to recommend Lakeside for renaming in his honor, with Parks and Recreation assisting in advancing the proposal.

### PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Susan Lovallo provided updates on several projects and responded to board members' questions. The City Center playground has been completed, and construction of a new pavilion adjacent to the playground is underway, which will be available for events. The Causeway dock has been closed to begin renovations, with a barge scheduled to be onsite in March. New ADA-accessible restrooms are being installed At the All-Children's Park, and lighting has been added to the south field.

A nine-hole disc golf course is planned for Bushman Park, beginning in early February. This project will be completed in-house and located on the backside of the pond. The Memorial Park boardwalks and lighting have been replaced, and sidewalk repouring is now underway. This project is approximately 50% complete.

Susan Lovallo announced Parks and Recreation was approached by the County Nature Conservancy, and Volusia County regarding the return of the Gamble Place property to the City of Port Orange. The property consists of 145 acres with historic homes. This property includes restrictions on land use. The City's Forestry Department will maintain most of the acreage, while Parks and Recreation will manage approximately nine acres for public use, including walking areas around the historic homes, kayaking, fishing from the boardwalk, and similar activities. Additional uses like trails, disc golf, events, and rentals are being considered. Residential development is not permitted, though pavilions and a parking lot may be constructed. The land has been maintained but

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

January 20, 2026

Page 3 of 3

closed to the public. Structures are reportedly in good condition, and the Conservancy contributes some funding for maintenance.

Ms. Lovallo reminded the Board that City email accounts are the primary method of communication and should be checked regularly to remain informed and maintain account activity.

Robert Reinlagen, Resident, requested the status of Rec Center West. Ms. Lovallo stated the project, including the architect selection, is scheduled to go before Council in February. The project will be delivered as a design/build contract. Member John Cameron, Jr., asked if the board would have input on the project. Ms. Lovallo emphasized that both board and community input are important.

Jennifer Sisk, Athletics Manager, discussed upcoming programs around the City and answered the board members' questions. Baseball and softball registration is nearing its end. Opening Day is scheduled for March 7, 2026, at Coraci Park due to ongoing construction at City Center Sports Complex. Soccer registration will take place in February, with senior games beginning in March. America 250 events were also discussed, including the upcoming hometown heroes banner program and several activities planned around the Fourth of July celebration.

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA

- Bond Update
- Budget Update

PUBLIC COMMENTS


Robert Reinlagen asked if Port Orange has a historical trust and if there is a related role that could be used for Gamble place. Susan Lovallo responded that this would be discussed closer to the time and that no outreach has occurred at this time.

BOARD COMMENTS

Member John Cameron, Jr. attended an Embry Riddle game and complimented Rec Man for outshining the other mascots. Member John Cameron, Jr., expressed his appreciation of Rec Man's presence representing the City, noting it's a great way to promote what the City does. The ads and social media campaigns were also praised for effectively promoting the City's events.

ADJOURNMENT - 6:14pm

5. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2026 @ 5:15 p.m.
6. Board Report to City Council: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 @ 6:30 p.m.

  
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Chairman Bobby Ball