

LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

October 11, 2018

9:00 am

CALL TO ORDER

John Huger called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

DEVOTION

Dwayne Murray

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT

Zone 1 - Amanda Glugover
Zone 3 – Tracy Marino
Zone 4 – Carol Kilian
Zone 6 - John Huger
At Large - Dwayne Murray

MEMBERS ABSENT

Zone 2 - Vacant
Zone 5 – Vacant

OTHERS PRESENT

Keith Willis, Interim Leisure Services Administrator
Betty Covington, Secretary
Vince Terry, Leisure Services
Joe Chirillo, Leisure Services

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Huger made a motion to approve July minutes, seconded by Dwayne Murray, approval was unanimous. Dwayne Murray made a motion to approve the August minutes, seconded by Tracy Marino, approval was unanimous. John Huger made a motion to approve the September minutes, seconded by Dwayne Murray, approval was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

The walking trail at Cypress Park has been widened. Previous comments from citizens asked that the trail be widened. The playground equipment at Schnebly Center has been installed. They started yesterday putting in the lighting in the basketball court.

The Schnebly Sr. Oasis went to DB Pickles last month, then on to Bishops Glen for arts and crafts. YSG Sr. Oasis took a field trip to Stetson Museum followed by a lunch at the Taste of Soul.

It has been announced that we now have 2 zone vacancies. We also have 3 zones that will expire on December 31, 2018. Mr. Willis will reach out to Betty Goodman to determine if there are any applications submitted for the vacant positions.

OLD BUSINESS

At a previous meeting, the board requested a report with the salaries of the Leisure Services staff. There is a delay in accommodating this request since there are various changes within the department as well as a pay increase. This report will be available at the next meeting.

There was a petition signed previously to fence off the ponds. There were concerns from the citizens that in some of the parks there were ponds that needed fences or notification of the danger of the pond. Mr. Huger mentioned it to the Zone 6 commissioner to look into it. There is no update at this time. Vincent Terry stated that there is no legal requirement by the City to install a fence around ponds in the park. Each pond is evaluated by Risk Management and then determined if there is a need.

Ms. Marino gave an overview of the topics discussed in the last commission meeting. Both Commission Reed and Henry discussed that the Leisure Services Department does not have adequate funding. They both spoke very highly of Mr. Willis. Mayor Henry echoed their comments.

Mr. Willis mentioned that some of the Cultural Services will be transferred over to Leisure Services. That would be some of the front office staff, athletics and the maintenance division. Mr. Murray asked if there was any staff allocated to cut the grass at the Cypress Park. Mr. Willis mentioned that there is a contractor in place to maintain the landscaping of the parks. We are now going through a transition. Any concerns with the grass can be addressed with Mr. Terry.

Ms. Glugover would like a breakdown of what Keith Willis is in charge of and what Chad Smith oversees. There is a Peabody Advisory Board to address those issues.

Handouts distributed to the board. A spreadsheet listing all the parks by zone. That way, each board member knows what parks are in their zone. Some of the LPGA offices have been moved into the Florida Tennis Center. A list of the general fund capital projects was distributed. This budget has been approved by the City with some adjusted for the coming. Signs in the parks are an immediate request. Leisure Services will be getting assistance from the PD. If we do not have signs in our parks, then the PD cannot take action.

Ms. Glugover asked for an update on the E-signs? The downtown merchants are not in favor of putting the e-sign in the downtown. There was only one sign installed that was approved. The location of that sign is on LPGA in front of the stadium. We need a sign installed on Beach Street as visitors cross over the ISB Bridge. Please follow up on the funds that were allotted for the other signs.

The City is looking for grant money to put playground equipment in Tuscahill Park. Ms. Kilian asked for an update on Zoom Air. The zip line is up and running but not as big as it was before the storm. The park will be growing in phases. There are plans in place to grow. The owners are requesting approval to put in some permanent steel structures.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dr. Jamison, President Dickerson Sr. Oasis:

1. Suggested putting money in the operating budget, rather than in the e-sign. We need money in the budget.
2. Fencing around ponds – the City is morally responsible for protecting our children.
3. Handicap van for the seniors should be put in the budget.

Mr. Huger commented that an added value as it refers to the fencing around the park is for the citizens to speak directly to your commissioners as well as attend the City Commission Meeting to voice their concerns. Make it a point of record.

Amy Pile – Candidate for Zone 3 commissioner. There have been previous discussions about tearing down the City Island Rec Center. There was enough discussion by the citizens that caused 5 of 7 commissioners to postpone the demolition. It is 100 year old building, but was closed after the last hurricane. If we want to keep it open, we need to determine what it can be used for. We need to determine if it is listed as a historical site. David Waller (Public Works) stated that it could be saved. What would the cost be to operate it?

Ms. Marino stated that all citizens can attend the City Commission meeting to learn what is going on the City. They are also allotted a few minutes to address the commission with their concerns. What would the department do with the Recreation Hall? Input from the department is needed.

Vincent Terry mentioned that we continue to open centers but do not have the staff to man these centers. Even if we did open the center, so we have the staff to operate it.

Shirley Bell – Request that the trees be trimmed from above the walking trail at Cypress Park.

Frances Chew – When will the trail be opened at Sunnyland. Also would like a children's gymnastic program at YSG.

Paul Daudell - Tuscawillia Park - Why should we invest money in a park that no one goes to?

Shirley Edwards – Appreciate all that this board and department does to maintain the parks.

BOARD COMMENTS

At Large: Dwayne Murray – none

Zone 3: Tracy Marino – Be sure to talk to your commissioners. Attend the City Commission meetings. You can watch the meeting on your computer as well as the cable channel 490.

Zone 1: Amanda Glugover

Zone 6: John Huger – Compliment the department staff for all their efforts. This is a hands on administration, they stay in contact.

Zone 4: Carol Kilian – We need to have an election of the Chair, hopefully at the next meeting. Need to speak with Betty Goodman.

STAFF COMMENTS

Joe Chirillo – Pickle ball class at Midtown on Tuesday, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. There are also 2 courts at Schnebly.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, motion was made by John Huger and seconded by Tracy Marino to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:55 AM.

Carol Kilian, Vice Chair
Leisure Services Advisory Board

Reviewed by: Carol Kilian
Carol Kilian, Vice Chair

Transcribed by: Betty Covington, Board Secretary