

# DRAFT

## LEISURE SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

July 13, 2023

9:05 AM

### CALL TO ORDER

Malcolm Williams called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

### DEVOTION

Davita Bonner

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All

### ROLL CALL

#### MEMBERS PRESENT/ABSENT

Zone 1 – Amanda Glugover - Present

Zone 2 – **Vacant**

Zone 3 – Theresa Quattrociocchi - Absent

Zone 4 – Carol Kilian - Present

Zone 5 – Malcolm Williams - Present

Zone 6 – Davita Bonner – Present

At Large – Luke McCoy -Absent

### OTHERS PRESENT

Keith Willis – Director of Parks & Rec.

Sharonda Irvin – Secretary

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

June 8, 2023 – Approved approx. 9:41am

**Malcolm Williams** - Motion to move the Citizens Comments up first after the Commission Meeting notes. All in favor say AYE... All in favor. Motion carried. I'd like to also add a presentation from Kim Gorres after the New Business.

**Keith Willis - NO** Commission Meeting.

**Malcolm William** – The City Commission approved the purchase of a stage vehicle which will help with the numerous community events that we do. We'll be able to do more popup events. We won't be spending a lot of money with stages and stuff of that nature. So, I think that purchase is going to go a very, very long way. Most major cities have city logo on the back and stuff like that. They can take it anywhere. So, I think that's going to be a great, great addition to our city. Great for marketing purposes for community events.

## **BOARD /CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

**Percy Williamson** - I'm the senior principal of, uh, the Summit Governmental Strategies Corporation. I'm also the Chairman of the Midtown Community Development Corporation, of which its primary duty and focus is Midtown. I'm not here on any of those titles. I'm also the former Director of Leisure Services Dept. for the City for 15 years. So now having said that, I'm not here in any of those capacities. I'm here in the capacity of a citizen of Daytona Beach, who is concerned with history as well as the department. And so, I appreciate at the last minute that you are letting me speak about this. First let me say that I'm going to give some honor to the first African American Mayor, and she had a saying and a philosophy. The slogan was "It's all about respect" and that transition covers everything we are here about respect, respect to this body.

**Percy Williamson** - Since you guys are responsible for what happens in this, it's kind of hard for me to continue to say this Parks and Rec. since when I was here. It was not that. Anyway, the reason why I'm here is I'm advocating and it's just, the first kickout. I haven't talked to anybody else, but you guys are first so graciously, chairman Williams passed out some information that you see in front of you. There was a budget that was done, I believe in 2013 as well as our City Engineering Department giving you a layout and a schematic of why I'm here. I'm here advocating the Jackie Robinson Historic Little League Baseball Field that, in my opinion, needs to be built right on the historic spot behind the Cherry Center.

**Percy Williamson** - Now, some months ago, the Society for American Baseball contacted me. I directed them to the NAACP and other groups about them putting up a historic marker. That historic marker is up now, and it's in the front where it doesn't belong. It belongs where the actual field was to be built. And I would be advocating either to make a second marker for where the fields should go or move the one up front to where it should go. What am I talking about is Kelly Field. As it was known in the early forties. Jackie Robinson actually practiced there every day. We know that Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier on a professional game at City Island. That's where the history was made. But the other history is Jackie Robinson was in the community and practiced there every single day. When he came to Daytona, before he went to City Island, they brought him to Kelly Field.

**Percy Williamson** - Kelly Field, when we put out a Park master plan, there is a park master plan that exists approved by the Mayor and the City Commission for Midtown and it's called Midtown Complex. It's the Julia T & Charles W. Cherry Multicultural and Educational Center. It's the basketball courts with lights behind the center. And the final piece of that park master plan that was conceived in 2004 and launched in 2005. Jackie Robinson Little League baseball field I keep saying that because, the amount of space that's necessary our original goal was to build a regulation baseball field. When we had to move the building that we built at Midtown Cherry Center back and we had to put in a retention pond in order to build the building. St. John's River Water management district would not give us a permit unless we dealt with stormwater.

**Malcolm Williams** - I will say this, we are in the development stages especially with this board going over our park master plan. We have a subcommittee within this advisory board that consists of three members that are actually in the process of doing that. We'll make sure that they will have that information and that we will go back and make sure to see if those plans and ideas are in that plan. And if not, make sure that somebody reaches out to you.

**Keith Willis** - Since you've been gone, they've added a storage room because when the building was built, there was no storage inside so storage a room was added. So that took away the space for the baseball field. There were four phases. The Pool, the Building, Tennis courts and the Baseball Field. So, since we couldn't build the field where it was supposed to go, the Tortuga's gave us money to put a field at Derbyshire Park because there's no space for a baseball field. And we were going to put the marker back there, but nobody would see it. So that's why they put it front. But I don't think there'll be a problem putting another one back where you're talking about.

**Percy Williamson** - It takes 200 feet from home plate to the edge of where this field is going to be. I walked in with the city engineers the other day. We are within the area where you still have a sufficient amount of space for overflow parking. You know where home plate was when the original field was built? That's where home plate would be. It's right at the end of Parkway Street and it's in that corner. We are talking about home plate 200 feet out. The engineers walked with me the other day. There is no problem. We can even put up a little fence around the outfield and you will still have a sufficient amount of parking. But I don't want us to think that parking is more important than the history that we're talking about. If you need parking, there's two lots across the street on George Engram and Keech Street that you can make into overflow parking which are available and have been sitting there for years.

**Carol Kilian**- Our subcommittee could just meet with Percy and go over some of this stuff.

**Malcolm Williams**- I wouldn't be opposed to that. So, we'll, we'll have somebody reach out to you if they'll set up a separate meeting for you, but we value your input and your expertise, especially as a former director. So, we definitely won't have those conversations without you, sir. Thank you.

**Rick Brown**- Is there any update to the status of the comprehensive plan integration we talked about back several months ago? It's also referenced in the minutes we just approved. We still haven't had the meeting.

**Keith Willis** - We're going to have the meeting within the board. It will be rescheduled.

**Rick Brown** - Beach Access. As I stated before, there's no access anywhere along that beach park area. Is there any plan in place? And I know the county has rules but, is there any plan in place for getting access to the parks and areas near the bandshell area. I know that's not parks, but the park on the behind side is part of parks and the park on the south side is part of parks. Is there any plans to get any kind of access at all? I know when you want to walk there, you can't, you have to walk out the city streets. Is there any plan to repair any of those accesses?

**Malcolm Williams** – I don't think all of that is county. Do not quote me on that but, what I'll do is I will look up possible information on that and get it to you.

**Rick Brown** – The fence at Lennox Park, we've discussed that at great length. I still believe it's badly needed. I've talked to the residents over there and I'm sorry, a representative from zone three isn't here. I have talked to the residents that live there personally and they would like to see the fence up there as well. There's a lot of nefarious activity going on and they have free access from the east side of the park. Are there any plans in place to put a fence there? Because that's the only side that's not fenced.

**Keith Willis** - Are you talking about the east side?

**Rick Brown** – I'm talking about the east side of Lennox where it's up against the hotel, which should have code violation.

**Keith Willis** - We talked about this about two months ago. I said I walked with David Walker. They're going to put a new fence there. There is a schedule. I don't have a timeline. It's on back order.

**Rick Brown** - The other thing I brought up too, that remains unanswered is there was a tremendous amount of damage done by the contractor hired by the City of Daytona. They killed the trees, they did damage to the electrical systems and to the concrete and structures there. I had asked is there any chance that we're getting compensation from the contractor that the City of Daytona chose? There's lots of damage that has been done.

**Keith Willis** – I'm not sure sir.

**-Banter -**

**Ann Ruby** - Almost a year ago, I started requesting a lot of updates and upgrades there, including that east side fence. I understand that's in the works, which is great. I asked for new water fountains in the dog park. Those have gone in, although I'm hearing that it's the same kind that was put in there before and nobody likes the quality. So that's an issue. But one of the biggest things that was requested were sunshades over the benches within the dog park.

**Keith Willis** – It's In play now. I have spoken to the City Manager, and we are on it. We don't have a timeline for that as of yet.

**Shirley Edwards** – I'm here to talk about the park that we use over on George Engram and Nova. Thank you, Mr. Willis for taking care of the water problem we had in the past. You know, the trail, it was flooded with water. We seniors were having a very hard time staying on the path. I thank you for that. Also thank you for the lighting. It has really improved. I'm an early bird along with several others. We we're out there before 6:00 AM so we're thankful for the well-lighted part. The next thing I'd like to ask is, if you would instruct whoever does the maintenance there to give us a wider path. All of the trails are not too narrow, but we'd like to walk at least 2 x 2. Also, the south end, which is the fence area that's east and west and the back of the building in the back of the apartment, the south back of the end where the homes are. Make sure please, that they keep that clean portion of it clean now, but it's growing because of the rain and the sunshine is making it grow quite frequently. And we'd like to see where we are walking so that the critters won't ease up on us. There are sleepers there, but the sleepers don't bother us. Thank you very much.

**Carmen Williamson** – I'm here on behalf of the Senior Oasis group at the Midtown Center. We have a few questions as it relates to the Senior Bus that the City still has to acquire it. When we come back, we will be ready to roll. We also want to ask about the usage of facilities around town. There was supposed to be some sort of adjustment made as it relates to the rates for usage of the facilities because a lot of us go other places as a result of the costs being so expensive here in Daytona. There is a fee for the Gym and for the use of the Kitchen. It turns people away. We started our open Zumba program. My sorority Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Incorporated, gave money to the City for pool usage as it relates to that sport, as well as us giving money at the top of the year for free swims. So, we gave over a thousand bucks to the City. Now I don't know how many organizations give money like that, but we're small, but we're mighty. Swimming is a national initiative. We want our national office to know that we are engaged with our facilities and our community by providing these services. However, when we went there on Tuesday, our main concern was the cleanliness of the pool. The pool was not clean. It was cloudy. And uh, several ladies were really a bit concerned about it. It's an all-women exercise class every Tuesday at 6:30pm. It's a women's initiative but men are invited.

**Keith Willis** - We had something happen to one of the pumps. One of the pumps from the oils and all that from everybody in the pool. So, they had to shock the pools and the inspector said, we can either shock it or shut it down. We don't want to shut it down. So, we shocked it. So, it was going to take two or three days before it clears back up. So, the pool it should be ready now.

**Carmen Williamson** - I'll talk to you about personally as it relates to sponsorships and how we advocate for sponsorships. I think there's a little bit of inequity as it relates to how you recognize sponsors. For example, I'll just tell you my sorority's logo is on a pool swim flyer. It's about this big. And if you're not Greek, you don't even know what that little spot means. And so, it's an offense to the group that raised the money and gave the money and said, okay, we want this program. We'll pay for it. You know, that's what we did. We came with the checkbook and gave it to you.

**Malcolm Williams** – I saw that, and I wanted to thank your group for that it really blessed my heart.

**-Banter-**

**Francis Chew** – I brought my friend down this morning, and she thinks that this building should go in the History Museum downtown.

**Hortense Geter** - This was a high school that I attended here at the Dickerson Center. We started doing what we call all school reunions every two years for everybody that went to the high school here. So, I was just mentioning to Francis that we should put that information at the museum so at least they would know it was a high school here and I don't know why it's coming up now. But anyway, that was my suggestion.

**Malcolm Williams – Which Museum are you referring to?**

**Hortense Geter** – Beach Street Museum. We have a booklet every two years with information that has the history of the school, and I was just suggesting that we put that at the museum on Beach Street, so they'll know it was a high school here. Everything we have is gone. Is Dickinson Center next. It's no high school anywhere in here.

**Ann Ruby** - I was so busy getting excited about the Sunshades and I forgot to say the renovations at Collins Park are awesome. Thank you. Wonderful jobs driving by Sunnyland. It looks great. I haven't been in, but you guys are doing a great job at the time.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Malcolm Williams** - Collins Park Grand Reopening. I want to say this, I did have some citizens comments from that day, but overall, the Grand Opening was an absolute great event. My only downfall is, and I brought this up to the director to bring back to one of the main meetings. I have asked for this board to have a little bit of respect. The Collins Park Grand Reopening anytime we do anything with our parks that we're included, and we were not included in that one. I showed up anyway. I want to make sure that for the Dickinson Center Reopening, if we don't do anything but a welcome that somebody from this board be a part of the program. Second thing, from the citizens comment from Collins Park, we noticed that we have the dog poop bag, but there's no dog poop cans. The other note was something that we don't have to get into if we don't want to are, the conversation of a grill of no grill at the existing parks. Thanks, Ken Strickland for a great event!

**Keith Willis** – The Dickerson Center has been completed. We're going to give you guys a tour today. It was completed last week. The Grand Reopening, like I said is August 5th from 9a to 12p. We're going to have a backpack giveaway at that time. There'll be free ice cream. I got plenty of water. We're going to give free haircuts. We're going to do free physicals also. Malcolm, the City Manager put the agenda together for who's going to speak and he's going to keep it less than 20 minutes because of the heat. I would like you guys to be there. I don't know if we will get to speak, but he's controlling that. I want to thank you guys for bringing the kids out to Collins Park. The hot dogs were great. We brought the ice cream truck, and it was free. Gave out free hot dogs, free soda, Gatorade, water. The bus has been ordered, now we just need drivers to get certified to drive the bus. I don't think it'll be ready for September, October. Because the drivers have to take a driver's training class, and we're still waiting on the bus. It takes time to get it like police cars take a while to get them ordered. So, it's been ordered

though. July the 29th is the completion of Suburbia Park they're going to I don't know what the date will be, but they're going to do the parking lot across from Peninsula Club. So, there'll be additional parking at the club to the west of the building across the street. It's a vacant lot. Mrs. Geter, we're getting new curtains, new lighting and the stage is going to be redone here behind us so we can bring back shows and performances.

**-Banter-**

**Amanda Glugover** – What's the update on the Peninsula Club?

**Keith Willis** – We haven't opened it yet. We just secured the funding for it to be painted. I will get with David Waller for updates. We are going to see if we can do the painting inhouse.

**-Banter-**

**Carol Kilian** – We need to set a date for the meeting about the Comp Plan and with Percy.

**Davita Bonner** - The Juneteenth Celebration survived until the rain came. The parade was rained out, but the day continued to be great until the rain came again.

**-Banter-**

**Francis Chew** – What about security at Breakers Park?

**Keith Willis**- We are looking into that. We had an incident here the other week and it took the Police more than 12 minutes to get here. Mind you they were having a training across the street and none of them came to the rescue. This officer was from somewhere else. And we need to be mindful of how we talk to the young people as well as the homeless because respect goes out the window and anything can happen.

**NEW BUSINESS: - BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:**

**Malcolm Williams** – I would like to see is Keith, if you can go back to the City Manager and if he will partner with this board and help us do a community pool party right here at Dickerson Center Campbell Pool that's sponsored by the advisory board and the City Manager. And any commission that wants to, I would love to do that before school. If not before school, then sometime in September, October. It doesn't matter to me. I want to get this board out there and invest in the community. Who approved that metal slide out there?

**Keith Willis** – Public works ordered the equipment without checking with me first, so that won't happen again. Now everything comes through me.

**-Banter-**

Malcolm Williams - I also want to say this, I love the fact that we are getting a more cohesive plan across the city. All of the parks, marketing looks the same. It is very beautiful. It looks like we are

