

# **DRAFT**

## **PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

### **Minutes**

**November 09, 2023**

**9:08 AM**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Malcolm Williams calls meeting to order at 9:08 AM.

#### **ROLL CALL**

#### **MEMBERS PRESENT/ABSENT**

Zone 1 – Amanda Glugover - Present

Zone 2 – Linda Smiley - Absent

Zone 3 – Theresa Quattrociochi - Present

Zone 4 – Carol Kilian - Present

Zone 5 – Malcolm Williams - Present

Zone 6 – Devita Bonner – Present

At Large – Luke McCoy – Present

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Keith Willis – Director of Parks & Recreation.

Lubna Nisa – Secretary

#### **PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: ALL**

**PRAYER:** Luke McCoy

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

October 12, 2023 – All in favor. Approved.

#### **NEW AGENDA FOR CURRENT MEETING:**

Malcolm Williams made adjustments in meeting agenda. He said we would go straight to the citizen's comments today after the meeting. Then we will start our workshop that includes the Police Department presentations on safety and board discussion. All board members agreed to him.

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

Francis Chew: Just wanted to say thank you to the City for pulling us through the trunk and treat when we ran out of candy. Thank you so much.

## **BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:**

### **Amanda Glugover:**

I saw benches in many parks so thank you so much for that.

### **Malcolm Williams:**

I would like to give a special shout out to our zone 6 representative, Ms. Davita Bonner, who was honored as a Community Advocate of the Year with the NAACP this past weekend so; I wanted to make sure this board honors her as well.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

November 09, 2023, 09:13am

## **WORKSHOP**

### **Malcolm Williams:**

Welcome to the workshop portion of our meeting. Our agenda for this workshop is to be to have some conversation about the future of our parks and recreations in the city of Daytona Beach. I would like to pick up from our last conversation where we discussed that safety has been our number one concern. Many of our board members expressed that they would like to know what exactly our safety plan is. We are looking at some of our Park areas, which are badly affected and have safety issues, those includes especially beachside areas or we can say mostly zone one and three.

### **Captain Connor:**

- We are working on the safety of Midtown area specifically for Joe Harris Park. This area has a lot of crime complains.
- One of the biggest problems that leads to crime is people loitering in the area. We are creating new signs saying that upon the park being closed, vehicles are going to be towed.
- We have already made contact with Bethune Cookman University in this regard; we know that it is going to be some consideration as far as the students go.
- We put out this information well over a month ago, that there is going to be strict enforcement of trespassing. Therefore, once the park closes, everybody needs to clear out of the park.
- Our Goal is to protect the area and keep the students safe. We do not want the out of state students to have a bad experience of violence here.
- This is a residentially challenged area.
- Tuscawilla and Joe Harris Park are most problematic Parks in my area but if you have any questions, about other zones, I will try to answer them as well but I do not have complete knowledge about other areas.
- We cannot arrest anybody unless they commit a crime. If a homeless person is in the park during after hours, we can offer them a shelter but if they refuse, we cannot arrest them. However, if somebody agree to go to the shelter we have to transport that person to the shelter, which will take 30-40 minutes. . That officer who is doing all that has been pulled from the street where he has the responsibility to prevent the crime and protect people. This is the biggest challenge we are facing right now.

Theresa Quattrociocchi:

- We understand that homeless people have rights but as a taxpayer, we have rights as well. Who give them right to sleep in the bushes after sun down.
- City Island Park and Breakers Park are in mess. As a women, we cannot use the park bathrooms because men always standing there in the doorway doing drug deals, so it is completely unsafe to go. Drug issues are extremely high in these parks.
- Why aren't parks being patrolled? For example, Lenox Park used to be patrolled but not anymore. . People have right to have a safe neighborhood.

Malcolm Williams:

- We know that being homeless for certain people is not a choice, it happened. They are at least try to be out of the way. Therefore, what partnership we can create to put the bandage on the problem area. How we can find the solution of these problems, I am not asking you to cater the homeless people but how can we smooth out the situation?

Theresa Quattrociocchi:

- They do not just hang out in the park but they walk up and down on the street. Some tried to break in to the car and in homes as well. Can we get more patrolling in the area?

Carol Kilian:

- Are you aware of these problems and what Police Department can do to solve these problems? What are your regular operations for something like that? If you have staffing issues, how you are going to handle this?

Captain Connor:

- Police Department is aware of the problems at the parks in Daytona Beach, extra patrols are being completed. I will give you an example, Alpha Platoon may have 12 officers assigned, out of which 2 call out as sick. One of them might just had a baby. One of them might be attending school etc. Therefore, from those 12 officers I am down to seven. Out of those seven, I have three of them that are assigned to a car breaking; two of them are assigned to a domestic violence call. Therefore, that is the never-ending challenge of what we do day to day. In a perfect world, I would have 350 officers as opposed to what we have now.
- One of the benefits that we have in some of these parks do have surveillance cameras. However, Joe Harris cameras are down for a year. One of the nice thing about cameras we can do spot checks and if there is any problem we can send police over there.

Carol Kilian:

- Agreed that surveillance cameras are very helpful and all parks should have them.

Amanda Glugover:

- We talked about this before that Brown and Brown has security, and they are patrolling in the area. I am sure they must be helping in stopping crimes in that area as well which sounds very helpful.

- My suggestion is that the City should hire private security for the parks, which can be helpful in overcoming the problem of short staffing in your Department.
- Second suggestion is that maybe we can get extra help for transporting people from the parks to the shelters.
- We know that we have homeless people issue in the parks but we have bigger problems than that.

Captain Connor:

- We have transport people but it is not their only responsibility, they transport prisoners too.
- In a perfect world, we should have somebody for everything but that never happened.
- If they have calls for various kind of crimes like if a Police officer is in the middle of the fight and someone complains for domestic violence and I am asking for prisoner's transport for a homeless guy after handcuffing him, the prisoner's transport will go by the code.

Amanda Glugover:

- Could we have a separate unit that is solely just for picking up homeless people and transporting them to the shelter?

Captain Connor:

- You have my hope. Being homeless is just bad luck, it is not a choice. Some of them unfortunately suffering from addiction. Some people are actually seeking for help. They are the ones that are trying to get better and they are the ones that are actually trying to stay out. Then you have those who do not really care for the betterment.

Malcolm Williams:

- Thanks to Captain Connor and we will email you if we have further questions.

Carol Kilian:

- Asked Keith about the cameras in the parks and suggested that we should ask Police foundation because they raise money for stuff like this and may be they can help us. I will put you in contact with them.

Keith Willis:

- We do not have funding right now. Initially, we thought they are the part of Seabreeze but actually, they are not.

David Waller:

- My name is David Waller. I am the Public Works Director for Daytona Beach. We work very closely with Keith and his team.
- We are the construction and maintenance side of the City. We build all the new construction projects within the parks.

- We do all the ground maintenance work. We have a facility maintenance crew that does electrical plumbing, HVAC and, and roofing. We stay away from the day-to-day custodial work that's Keith's crew work.
- We are working on a couple projects now that are exciting for us.
- I am sure you all are familiar with the Daisy Stocking project. It is running on schedule. It is currently scheduled for completion in early March. It will be a very great addition to our park system and provide a better location for programming like Midtown Motown and other ticketed and non-ticketed events.
- We are embarking for kickoff starting in December with a yearlong effort for a Parks and Recreation master plan. It is something we have been advocating for years.
- It is critical for us to provide good services to our residents and visitors.
- Over the course of the next 12 months, we will go through different phases. The initial phase is identifying your current park system means what you have. We will be doing an inventory of existing parcels that the city owns that are not currently programmed.
- Then we will do a heavy look into our demographics of our community. We will see are we growing many kids on the north side or west side or whatever. Therefore, it will tell us the trends and our existing residents and users.
- It will give us an idea that what our neighborhood will look like in 10 -20 years.
- This will give us the knowledge of what recreational activities we should provide to all the folks who live in the community. We are talking about age zero to 100 years old who live in the community, not any specific target group.
- We are very focused on new sports, like baseball and soccer. The sports complexes is coming out with 15 baseball fields, a dozen soccer fields. When we did the study we found out that we have a large kids population showing that our community is growing in numbers. The people who are raising those kids still there. Therefore, recreation programming for kids and seniors is very important.
- We will start laying out a schedule and it will be shared with everybody.
- We got a national firm as a local partner coming in soon. Ballard King is the name of the group. They have done hundreds of master plans in the country and have a great resource that is coming here in Daytona Beach.
- We are going to have a new staff person in our planning department. She is going to join our team.

Theresa Quattrociocchi:

- Is it true that you are going to put white fence in Lenox Park? Why the kids' playground is shut down right now and a trailer is standing there?

David Waller:

- Yes, commission approved 8-foot tall, solid non-see-through fence on the East side and 6-feet in the backside. Maybe they are painting the playground structure and replacing the stairs that had some rust in it. Moreover, repairing the plastics will gain four years of service at the playground. A maintenance touch on that playground equipment combats corrosion to get another five to seven years of life.

Malcolm Williams:

- Mr. Waller, when you have community meetings, our board members can represent the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board in them. You can send a special invite for one of our members from the zone where the meeting will be held. They can introduce themselves and let people know that they represent their zone for Parks and Recreation, they have another outlet in addition to your department, and that they can bring their concerns to that representative or this board.
- I want to say thank you for your very well job on how you people handle homecoming of Bethune Cookman University in the Stadium. Our bus drivers were fun, and the police escorted us.
- It was advertised that a shuttle would be available from Speedway to the stadium and the stadium to whatever. However, that second shuttle was not available. Therefore, a lot of us had to walk from the school to the Daytona Stadium. It is my suggestion that if you can investigate a cost analysis for what it will look like, if we will be able to build a bridge from the end of the road that goes into the actual field area where we could just walk straight from High School to the Stadium.

David Waller:

- We are in the infancy concept phases of the four lane of LPGA and FDOT is not getting that. We are just on the feedback side from the City's perspective. In addition, some intersections improvements happen at both entrances of the stadium. The home side driveway goes away because Dun Avenue connects back towards a development that is going to be built behind the stadium. There are 12 sidewalks on both sides and the crossings will be improved at the roadway level.
- The stadium has way more potential than it does is being used.

Malcolm Williams:

- I just think that with all the improvements and the investment that we are making in the city, our Daytona stadium is going to be the hotspot for concerts and festivals in future.

David Waller:

- We made a significant investment in Stadium this year. We are replacing some of the seating in the locker rooms and restrooms. We are adding some air conditioning into the concession stands to improve their quality of life during the service period.

Malcolm Williams:

- Is internet service under your preview?

David Waller:

- No, it is not. We are working with a potential internet provider to add a cell phone tower in the back of the stadium parcel behind that service drive, the city owns an odd remnant parcel back there to add cell phone service because it is just not only needed for the game days, and it is for all days. They are also planning a tower at the Fire Station over by Timber Creek, another tower by LPGA, for that one vendor has been chosen. The providers are interested in improving the service in that area.

Theresa Quattrociocchi:

- Are we going to build a bridge from City Park?

David Waller:

- Yes, the big wide 12-foot bridge that goes under ISB, opened last week, is back in service. The only thing missing is three light poles. They are on the back order and they will be here in February. However, the trail is open in perfect condition. The small one behind the library to the park is in phase two; we are working on solutions for that right now. In addition, the narrow one, we have intentions to open, is structurally not ready and we are not comfortable opening it right now.

Amanda Glugover:

- Why they just cannot take it down and just not do it at all?

David Waller:

- The park needs that connection. It provide park the ability to do walk-a-thons and make a connection without crossing ISB and you do not have to loop back down the same path. That secondary path is important. Therefore, we are looking to get that one back open.
- We had a vendor out last week to look at it. The posts are too narrow, they are eight feet apart, and his barge is 10 feet, so he could not get through, he had to come up with another solution.

Malcolm Williams:

- I would like every board member this month to send a list of your ideas, your focus points to the secretary or myself so we can all get a uniform plan together. We can start with zone one. Amanda, anything for the discussion of the workshop?

Amanda Glugover:

- I would like talk about the development of Lenox Park. In addition, we talked about the subcommittee; I want to have with Sheila McCoy. Carol said that we already discussed in last meeting and it is in the minutes that we will try to have that meeting before or after Thanksgiving. That will be priority for us. Malcolm suggested that we should include Linda Smiley in this subcommittee. Carol said we should first find out what her thoughts and ideas are. Amanda said first she need to attend our meeting than we can go forward. Malcolm said he would send a communication to Linda Smiley including everybody in it.

Theresa Quattrociocchi:

- Asked Keith Willis that what is going on with the Dog Park? Keith said he would give the date next time for putting up the fence.

Davita Bonner:

- It was interesting to hear about the Joe Harris Park and the Daisy Stocking Park infrastructure. I do agree that the Joe Harris Park has been a point of attention for a while. We have been lucky that there has not been a fatality for the students. It is so close right across the street from the residence hall. The students park their cars right there. Malcolm said that the Park never close, I personally do not agree with the Park shutdown and move the parked cars. I would rather let them park the cars and put

cameras there. Carol said it would be Police Department question. Theresa said we need to have another workshop. Can we make it a little longer next time?

Luke McCoy:

- Closing the Joe Harris Park gate should not affect students because they park outside the gate on the streets and they are closing the gate to secure the inside problematic area.
- Suggested that the captain who attended today's meeting was from the West side, we should invite an officer from Eastside to discuss the problems of Lenox Park.
- Keith Willis said he would arrange that.
- Amanda said people who would like to use the football field over Derbyshire, what would be the process? Because a High School wants to access for their football team to play there. The time available for them was between 3-5pm, which is impossible because by the time kids will be picked up and dropped off at the field, it will be 4pm already!
- Keith Willis said that the problem we have out there is that it has real grass. Pop Warner and Halifax Academy play over there, the games sometimes lined up like that the grass does not have chance to breathe. Therefore, if you are scheduling too many teams, the grass will turn into mud in about 6 weeks. However, we found some properties by Strickland, where we can put some fields.
- Amanda asked, does City owned some empty lots on the beachside or they all belong to County. Can we put some fields on one of the beach sites? There are so many empty lot sitting over there, somebody will put million dollar condominiums. We do not need more condominiums there. We would rather be happier if we see football fields there instead of condominium buildings.

Justin Vallejo:

- We are busy with the marketing of Christmas Parade. We have many banners it. Therefore, instead of just doing the typical George Ingram and Nova Road banner we are going to do at the stadium as well. That is going to be right in front of fire department. So that everyone should see. We are also doing messaging boards just like the boards that we had along the media on Nova for the truck retreat. We are going to work on getting the branding out there for our events, which are coming up next month. Therefore, that is a huge focus right now in our department.
- Malcolm asked are you also in charge of the weekly schedule that come out on social media. That has been working out very well.
- Justin said yes to it.
- The Weekly Programs or today's programs is something that we are doing right now. I do that every day now. We have a meeting about this for keeping me informed about our programs. In this way, I can make sure that we have accurate information going out to the public.
- We are also probably going to do weekly programs just for a week to show people what programs we are offering.
- Then if you click on the link for that, it takes you to our page that has a list of every single program offered at our Community Centers.
- Malcolm recommended everyone to follow those links and said they are very useful.
- Justin said I always promote not just, what is happening, but what will happened after a program ends too means what is coming up like next year and which event will comes back.

- Malcolm recommended that we should put Keith staff like coaches and other staff, weekly on highlights.
- Amanda asked are you putting more electronic signs.
- Justin said yes to it.
- I think all the centers are getting digital display boards as well but I do not know what the timeline for that, whatever programs we have here at the centers, we can just put them on.
- Amanda asked could we put them in front of City Hall as well.
- Justin replied that it will be a challenge but I will bring it up.
- Carol said Amanda has been pushing for it for 5 years.

**WORKSHOP ADJOURNMENT**

November 09, 2023, 10:12am

Malcolm Williams- Chair  
Parks & Rec. Advisory Board

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Malcolm Williams, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

Transcribed by: Lubna Nisa, Board Secretary