

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

September 12, 2024

9:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Luke McCoy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

DEVOTION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT/ABSENT

Zone 1 – Amanda Glugover - Present

Zone 2 – Linda Smiley - Present

Zone 3 – Theresa Quattrociocchi -Present

Zone 4 – Carol Kilian - Absent

Zone 5 – Vacant

Zone 6 – DaVita Bonner - Present

At Large – Luke McCoy – Luke McCoy

OTHERS PRESENT

Vincent Terry-Manager Parks and Recreation Department

Dwayne Murray– Parks & Recreation Department

Lubna Nisa– Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from August 8, 2024, meeting minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Property 2010 Peninsula Drive for park:**

Dwayne: No updates. Only knows about 125 and 126 Hams Place, past Martin Luther King on International Speedway, was approved in last commission meeting. The purpose of approval is not available.

Linda said according to Monica the parcel in 2010 is not suitable for park, but David Waller said it is suitable. Monica needs to present it to the commission and somebody from this board should stand up there and say that we recommend this property for park.

- **Subcommittee Meetings:**

No updates. Only Carol was able to come for last subcommittee meeting.

- **Computer Classes:**

Dwayne said as of now, the Ms. Merrill Hether who have been responsible for organizing that class, she still plans on implementing that class in all our community centers. But her only issue is for having a facilitator to do the class. The previous instructor is still unavailable, but she's still working diligently to get a new instructor for the class. I don't have an exact timeline as far as when that will come back,

but I know that I've spoken with her maybe about two or three weeks ago that she's trying to get that class back up and running.

Linda said it is very frustrating that they had all summer to work on that, but they still cannot find anybody. I drove one time to the scheduled and advertised class and found out that the classes are cancelled because they cannot find anyone to teach, and the teacher was from Bethune Cookman University who left after graduating.

DaVita said that she will contact Computer Science department at Bethune Cookman for their students to teach our computer class especially who need hours for internships.

Vincent said that all volunteers need background check which takes a long time. For example, we get approval for hiring 20 employees for summer, so we start advertising in January.

Linda said it's very frustrating if we do not get the answer for the things listed in old business in agenda.

DaVita said that I will contact Ms Hether and then Dr. Bonnie and report back to board.

- **Progress in Breakers and Splash Park:**

Theresa asked that are they taking out the park area of splash park

Dwayne replied that we only know that was the part of conversations at one point, but it didn't go forward. At one point we had issues with the splash park, but it is up and running now.

Vincent said one of the issues that we have with Breakers Park, is the Splash Pad which is very costly. We've to get approval from Echo. I don't know which stage they are in, but I know there were several ideas about either putting a playground of some type with additional restroom facilities. Without Echo approval we can be penalized with millions of dollars bill from them.

NEW BUSSINESS:

Dwayne Murray:

- As of now, we have north Street restroom design that's currently out bid.
- 90 sports have been approved to begin basketball court resurfacing at Henry Lee and suburbia Parks. We're currently waiting on a date for that work to begin, but the projects are estimated to be completed by end of year, December, or beginning of the year, January 2025.
- Council on Aging has transitioned back to Mickel Brown Activity Building from the Dickerson Center. The work in those restrooms has been completed.
- We are also working to have an emergency generator installed at Dickerson. But we're still in the planning stages of that.
- The electric vehicle charging station has been installed in between the Cherry Center and the Cypress Park restroom. That's up and running now.
- The camera deck, roof replacement at Daytona Stadium, playground design has been developed for Cypress Park. We are working with redevelopment department for additional funding.
- Indoor pickleball will begin September 16th at the Cherry Center. That program will operate on Mondays and Fridays from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM.
- We've also implemented a Homework Heroes program at the Cherry Center that operates Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. That began this week. The hours are 5pm-7:30pm. That program was designed to provide supportive help for all our kids in the community, anywhere from ages 5 to 18, and just give a structured environment. The community center staff are there to help and assist with homework.
- Saturday, September 28th and October 5th, we have a new program that's called Elite Basketballs, Drills and Skills. That's going to be a developmental program from youth from the same age 5 to 18, where you can come in and learn about basketball and have your skills developed. So, we have two sessions on two consecutive Saturdays.

- We've also implemented a volleyball program at the Yvonne Scarlet Golden Center. It's called Volleyball Nights. It's going to be started this week, and it will be every Tuesday from 5:30pm to 8pm.
- The dog park at Lenox Park has been temporary closed this week due to a shade structure being installed. It was estimated to be completed by the end of this week, but it may lead into next week based on the weather.
- The finale of the Midtown Concert Series will be this Saturday, September 14th. Divas of R and B will be performing.
- Both aquatic centers, Cypress and Campbell have new hours of operation due to the seasons changing. Cypress operates from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, Monday through Saturday. Campbell is 12 noon to 6:00pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and on Wednesday, September 25th.
- We have an upcoming program at Breakers Oceanfront Park. It's a cold-blooded animal meet and greet, and we'll have wildlife experts and animal handlers there with different cold-blooded reptiles such as Geckos Lizards, Dragon Snakes.
- Also Saturday, September the 21st, 10:00 AM we'll be hosting a presentation at Breakers Park called The Benefit of Bees. It is a presentation that's being hosted and to fulfill our Echo brand as well with some of that programming for the cold-blooded reptile. Ms. Angie Howard put that program together. She's had something like that in the past where she had a beekeeper come out and have a presentation like this. The presentation gave a more in-depth knowledge, how it affects all our ecosystem.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Rick Brown:

- I have submitted the copy of letter from Roberto Dini Colo regarding park situation on City Island, I agree with it. We're going to lose our FEMA funds if we don't do anything.
- I want to remind the board, That the city Island is a public property. We would like to see tennis court rebuilt. Also, we need more volleyball courts. I think the board needs to act and send a recommendation to the city commission.
- **Vincent** said that we have identified an area that we can build another volleyball court, our public works department is working on that. I'm not sure what their timeline is, but they've identified the space and made plans. There are conversations about possibly relocating the tennis courts that are at City Island over to the open green space at City Island.
- **Rick** said agenda for upcoming meeting should be posted before the meeting and I would also like to see directors report as part of the agenda. That would clear up a lot of the questions. The statute to the agenda within the public attend meeting should also be posted online.
- The park in 2010 has been discussed numerous times, I'm confused why this board is not making any recommendations to the city commission. Obviously, no action is taken. But I'd like to see the board being a little bit more proactive in presenting to the commission.
- **Theresa** said that the Ballpark is extending so the courts will be the part of it. We discussed City Island several times. I know that my commissioner knows all about this. I don't know what the timeline will be, but we did our part.
- **Vincent** said that we really need to remember when we talk about rebuilding those sports that they are in flood zone and storm is going to create a problem. We really must think twice to rebuild here and spend a lot of money over and over. This must be taken into consideration along with the public concern or opinion. I do realize that there are many people that love to play tennis at City Island. It's a great facility but if I'm going to spend \$1.3 million to put a new tennis court there and it happens to have a bad hurricane next year, now I've got to redo that. Does that make good sense when it comes to the way we're spending our money? And those things must be leveraged against the desires of the community.

- **Theresa** said that the county is redoing the bridges from the City Island, they are putting up new walkways from the library to the park.
- **Amanda** told Mr. Brown that When Mr. Brett and Mr. Waller came, we talked about building tennis courts over there. They pointed out that there's cost factor involved in maintaining those courts. We want them to be accessible and not stormed out and we would like to avoid rebuilding them constantly. FEMA also addressed that it's going to be 1.4 million to redo the courts and they're looking at funding to cover the expenses. It's not something that they're going to just flush down everything to the drain and not going to do anything in time. Everything is addressed. We are doing our job. I don't like that you come in here and insult us and say that we are not doing anything. It's offensive. We appreciate you coming here but we don't want to be insulted.

John Nickolson:

- In 1980s, Chris Travis, then Shelly and now after 20 years Monica is asking for park in zone1. There are six potential sites available for the park on beachside. Maybe we should involve Police Department, they move things lot faster since they have more connections.
- Splash Park is facing sand accumulation problem in splash pad, we suggested to put a signage to be cautious but even after 20 years they didn't put a signage. So, we think that before removing the splash pad, they should try the signage idea.
- The City Island tennis courts must go because they do not belong on the field. The field at Midtown has been taken out for drainage. There are five groups who use to do festivals over there. At least eight Tennis courts can be made near Ocean Walk.
- The volleyball court's location where David wants, is a terrible idea because you've got a bathroom there. It would touch both of those so the balls would bounce into both of those locations. The area in east is the perfect location because you can take away that third sidewalk. You don't need three sidewalks within 50 feet. So, if you take away that middle sidewalk, you have plenty of room for drainage. So, you can move that volleyball and have them side by side, which would be the ideal location.

Amanda said those are the excellent ideas and Brett and David also knows about them. Monica also discussed volleyball courts with them and that was one of her ideas too, putting the tennis courts over by the armory. This is the prime waterfront property that they're not going to use it. So, I would like you to email me the sites (6 of them) that you keep referring to.

- **John** said we can have a pocket park under ISB bridge with river access. The city and school board can create a park for dual use, it will be closed to public during school hours and will open after school and on weekends. Also, they are taking down water Tower.
- **Amanda** said we own the land next to it which is not in city limit. Monica is looking into it.

Tawana Hicks:

- Question 1: Is Daisy Stocking Park open to public? Or it is a locked still?
- **Vincent** replied that it is a public park and will be utilized for rentals as well. We are trying to come up with the plan to control homeless people. When it's going to be open will be the decision made by people above my head. We are waiting for the directive from the City Manager.
- Question 2: Why the handicap parking is far away from the entrance?
- Dwayne answers that that the big main entrance to it is further away from that space on either end, but on, I know that also there's more than one entrance into the park area too. There are three smaller gates, and the big gate is in the middle and there is an access on the very far end. That's a double gate, we use to bring vehicles in. But near that space, there is a smaller entrance gate as well. When that parking lot was redesigned, there was only certain areas that they would be able to utilize to make ADA compatible handicapped spaces.

Alice Handy:

- Can we park on the outside and come in, because I know there's a parking on the other side as well.
- Dwayne replied that yes, at the back of the amphitheater there is a gate. We use it at the time of concerts. That gate is open from where you can access the park area.

Roberto Dini Colo Letter

Dear Members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

My apologies for missing the meeting. I was planning on attending but contracted Covid. I was inspired to find the courage to write to you, by the fact that when you allowed me to speak on behalf of Tennis on City Island, both in May and in July, everyone was listening with interest. More courage came from the fact that while watching the US Open, this past week, I kept hearing the reporters say: "Tennis, the world healthiest sport!" It was not advertising, it's actually true.

A sport's complex on City Island and/or on Basin St. would be a great economic benefit to the City of Daytona Beach and to hundreds of tennis and volleyball players who feel that the city is missing sports facilities where people can play near home, without too much traveling. All this, at minimal to no cost to the City.

In the last few years, the east side of Daytona Beach has lost 8 tennis courts and 4 racquetball courts. We were told that new tennis courts would be built. The situation is dismal.

Many residents who live on the peninsula have been forced to give up tennis entirely. The tennis courts at City Island had historic value: they built red clay tennis courts in the 1930s and all the old photos, show the clay tennis courts right next to the ball park. They took them away without ceremonies or city wide studies, but now we need to wait for the results of a city wide study to even determine if courts are needed.

It's the equivalent of saying: since the water main supplying water to a particular area broke, before we fix it, let's do an 18-24 month long study to determine if that area really needs running water. That would be something you could hear on Saturday Night Live, not at a city meeting. But instead

Who plays tennis at City Island? Nobody can play tennis at City Island, Courts have been locked up for 2 years and leading up to that, the office, the restrooms/locker rooms, the hitting wall disappeared one by one over the course of at least 10 years of total neglect.

The community finds this unfair, especially because of the length of time that this has been going on. Residents of the east side of town are often inconvenienced with special events and tourism throughout the year. They hope that some of the revenue that is generated in the east could be put to use locally for a good and healthy cause, such as the building of 6 red clay courts east of the public library and two additional volleyball courts near the existing one.

There are many reasons for which our request is not only reasonable but quite beneficial to the city and its residents.

Firstly, the introduction of red clay courts will attract tennis enthusiasts from across the region, increasing tourism and boosting local businesses. Red clay courts would have a great positive impact on student recruitment by local colleges and universities. According to the International Tennis Federation, clay courts are known for their slower game pace and reduced impact on joints, making them suitable for players of all ages and promoting longer, healthier playing careers (International Tennis Federation, "The Benefits of Clay Courts"). Likewise, sand volleyball courts are much gentler on the joints, promoting longer play sessions, while avoiding trauma. Health benefits are not limited to less

injuries: they include lower prevalence of obesity, high blood pressure and heart disease, diabetes. Sports help mental health issues and make people happier and less anxious. These inherent benefits of sports could lead to reduced healthcare costs for our community, as regular physical activity is linked to lower rates of chronic diseases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Benefits of Physical Activity").

Other economic advantages are self-evident. The influx of visitors will increase tax revenue, support local hospitality and retail businesses, and potentially create new jobs. Moreover, local businesses will benefit from enhanced foot traffic on Beach Street. Regional and possibly national tennis tournaments could be held. Studies have shown that sports tourism can have a significant economic impact, with visitors spending on accommodation, dining, and other local services (Sports Tourism: An Economic Force).

In casual conversations, patrolling officers have told me that they would welcome the additional volleyball and tennis activities especially if protracted into the late hours. More sports on City Island would make the community safer.

The proximity of volleyball and tennis facilities on City Island would have a cooperative and synergistic effect. Volleyball players would unavoidably start playing tennis and tennis players would be attracted to volleyball. In short, a beneficial cycle would ensue. Park visitors would also get exposed to the energy and the enthusiasm and would want to join in. It would be a terrific resurrection for City Island. The American Sports Builders Association notes that multi-sport complexes can significantly enhance community engagement and participation in sports (American Sports Builders Association, "Designing Multi-Sport Complexes").

Cost would be truly minimal: the city already owns the park, the restrooms, the parking lot. FEMA would cover the cost of construction for the tennis courts. (FEMA already certified the hurricane damage to the old courts and agreed to pay for reconstruction). The cost of adding two volleyball courts would be truly minimal and likely covered by a variety of available grants from Volusia Echo, FEMA, American Rescue Plan and the Daytona Racing District and other organizations. Just a couple of feet of fill would place the tennis courts in zone X, outside the 500-year flood risk.

We believe this project will not only revitalize City Island but also foster a sense of community pride and well-being. I would like to meet in person with you to gain the necessary support and bring this issue to the agenda. While everyone seems to be in favor, we have not seen any movement forward. Please, help transform our city into a vibrant sports destination, where people can also play sports and not just watch.

For those seeking more information, before it was known to me that FEMA would cover building new courts, I have obtained construction estimates for hard and clay courts. Consistently, the clay courts are less expensive to build.

Also, consistently Clay courts are less expensive over the life of the courts, because while it is true that they need grooming, clay courts never need to be entirely rebuilt. Hard courts need complete rebuild every 10-15 years to the tune of \$120,000+ per court. From our own local experience, the City just spent \$1,000,000 to bring back to "like new conditions" 24 clay courts and all fencing at FTC. That is a cost of \$41,000 per clay court. In June 2023, (as a way to expedite demolition of tennis at City Island), the city quoted an estimate of \$1,000,000 to repair 6 hard courts at City Island. That is actually \$166,000 per court.

For those who may be interested, I have knowledge that only 1 out of 24 courts at FTC meets ATP or WTA tournament specs. That is one of the reasons why many cities with less tennis courts, still can hold prestigious tournaments. With 6 or 8 tournament level courts between City Island and Basin St., the City

of Daytona Beach could bring in millions every year, between the tourists, television broadcasting rights, tennis enthusiasts moving to the area.

Finally, it is a shame that the city own tennis club, FTC, is the priciest municipal clay court facility I could find in the whole State. Some facilities are entirely free. Some charge \$150 per year for adults, less for seniors. FTC charges each adult member \$732 +tax. There are no senior discounts. No profit and loss statement is available from the City for FTC, but I have heard they have a small membership and a big deficit. Those who want a list of all facilities surveyed, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Roberto Di Nicolo, MD

Allergy and Immunology

386-299-4455 (cell) text or voice

robix1958@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS COMMENTS:

Linda Smiley:

- Is there any update on meetings for Parks and Recreation Master Plan? Are we going to have more?
- **Vincent** said no, we are not going to have more.
- **Davita Bonner** said that One Voice Fellowship is going to have partnership with the city and some other people, they are going to have a meeting called Choice Neighborhood at Dickerson. They will talk about what public want in their community.

Luke McCoy:

- What should we do for the Little League Baseball for the city of Daytona Beach. What's happening in baseball? We should start working on it now. If we wait till baseball season started and then try to start with a camp, all the kids will be gone to South Daytona or elsewhere, then we don't have the kids.
- The reason why Baseball League held back and not started yet because they told me that the city personnel could only run it, and they must do basketball first. I met with Terry to discuss Baseball program.
- **Vincent** said that my confusion is that if you're volunteering for baseball program, how our participation affecting what you're doing.
- Baseball based on the stadium availability, not a lot of city staff is there to do things at the stadium. But if you can get volunteers to help you with your program, I'm not sure why you will not be able to present it.
- **Luke** said I presented a whole packet, I brought the staff in, but I don't want to start a Luke McCoy Baseball Association, I want to volunteer with the city, but I was told that it couldn't be done. I had to wait till basketball season will be over and city staff will be available. Baseball is a year-round sport, when I was fighting it two years ago, we put together a team that went to Bethune Point and played with a travel team where they were paying \$1,300 a month to play

for these people. The owner of that team offered me a job on the spot to coach his team, I said, no, I'm born and raised in Daytona. I'm trying to get something for Daytona.

- **Vincent** said you say baseball was year-round and Mr. Johnson was under the impression that you were asking for his staff to work year-round. And I understand his hesitation.
- One of the issues we have when it comes to baseball, basketball, football is popular in this city as compared to baseball because the kids go to your other cities which has established programs for year-round. Most of those programs are run by community groups or volunteers not the cities. City may give them fields, but no city staff is involved in the running of those programs.
- **Amanda** said that we are staffing basketball and football, that sounds not fair.
- **Luke** said we are asking for fields and equipment which are not being used.
- **Vincent** said that I was not involved in the baseball matter, I'm the parks and recreation manager and I oversee 95% of our department, when it comes to staffing facilities and things like that. They report to me. If there's a problem, I need to know it. I can't fix it if I don't know, it's broke. I can address it and I can at least come back with what I feel will be a reasonable response whether we like it or not. At least you won't be left hanging, this doesn't make sense.

Linda Smiley:

- **Linda** asked Luke that have you been to the city commission to represent this? Because I would suggest that you do that because those commissioners have some money in their pockets.
- **Luke** said money is not the issue.
- **Linda** said when Cherry Center was originally designed, I heard Commissioner Reed say at one time there are supposed to be some baseball fields put there and we have a Tortugas team here. So, to ignore baseball is sort of ludicrous in my mind. It should be up at the top.
- **Linda** asked since we had public input meetings about the parks and parks around this city, where are we with that? Have we come up with any plans or anything like that? That was my question.
- Vincent said that is a public works project and I couldn't tell you. I can get an answer from David Waller and get it back to you but right now I do not have any answer.

Davita Bonner:

- I had somebody in my zone asked about the waters and the flooding and I did provide some resources to them, but they were very concerned, especially with the constant rain that we've been experiencing here recently. They were wondering what city is doing for that.
- **Vincent** said that the Engineers has been commissioned and they've been paid \$3 million to do a study on how to fix the problem because water has nowhere to go. They're going to come up with this wonderful, beautiful idea that's going to cost a hundred million dollars implement and we don't have the money. So basically, what they're doing is they are developing the plan and then we'll be lobbying the federal government to get the funds to make it happen. Now, just to be realistic we're not the only people in that situation.
- So, there are a lot of people going to the federal government saying we need help we got flooding issues. So it is, I hate to say it, but it's about who can tell the best story about why they need to be funded. But the issue is until we find a way to get the water off this and somewhere safe, because what happens now is the water flows over into the Halifax River. When the Halifax fills up, where does the water go? And that's the issue. So it's not that the

city is not trying to do something about it, it's just that from a financial standpoint, there's no cheap and easy fix.

Theresa Quattrociocchi:

- Are they putting new fence in Lenox Park?
- **Dwayne** said as far as I know, they were installing a shade structure over there it's going to be in between the small park and the large park.

Amanda Glugover:

- They're done with the community input for the whole master plan, when they're going to be done with the master plan. Can you tell us Vincent that is there a way or is there a recommendation from you that maybe this board needs to write a letter specifically talking about the tennis courts, the volleyball courts, that we could get some clarity on what they're planning and when that portion of the plan will be completed.
- **Vincent** said a letter from this board is not going to hurt but it would be more helpful even more if you all are able to put pressure on your commissioners.

MOTION BY AMANDA: Theresa second it.

I motion that I'll write a letter to address the tennis court and the volleyball and the baseball and send it cc to all of you and to the commissioners, this letter will be reviewed by the board prior to going to the commissioners.

- How do I make it public under Sunshine Law? Amanda asked.
- **Linda** said that what if you came to the commission meeting and read the letter out loud after we approve you. I'm going to amend the motion.
- **Amanda** said that I'll talk to the city attorney and see what I can do with sunshine laws.
- **Linda** said if you're not comfortable standing up there and reading the letter, I'll stand up.

ADJOURNMENT:

September 12, 2024, 10:16 am

Amanda Glugover-Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Reviewed by: Amanda E. Glugover 11-14-24
Amanda Glugover, Chairperson Date

Transcribed by: Lubna Nisa, Board Secretary