

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 13, 2025

9:06 AM

CALL TO ORDER

Amanda Glugover called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

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 - Present

Zone 5 – Mary McCoy-Present

Zone 6 – DaVita Bonner - Present

At Large – Luke McCoy – Present

OTHERS PRESENT

Keith Willis: Director, Parks and Recreation Department.

Lubna Nisa– Secretary.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from January 13, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- The board welcomed Zone 5 representative, Mary McCoy.
- Mary McCoy introduced herself. She said she recently retired from Mason High School after 25 years serving as a tennis coach. She is currently on board with low-income housing for zone 5 as well.
- The board requested David Waller to attend the next Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting and the subcommittee meeting.
- Terry Johnson, the Athletics Coordinator, who represented Keith Willis in the meeting on his behalf presented Keith's message:
- I rode by Sickler Park, and I did not see anything wrong in the park.
- I spoke with Commissioner Parris about Shangri-La Park, and we are getting a quote on basketball court to be refaced and playground equipment.
- I sent maintenance to fix the down fence at Cypress Park, that's along the houses on Bartley Road.
- I toured Lenox Park where four trees are leaning and I spoke to David Waller, he said they will be taken care of.
- Pulled Rowing Club contract. They must replace the roof. They need to do renewal of contract. Original lease was 40 years. The rowing club wants to renew it for 50 years. The City Manager said we will not extend it to 50 years.
- David also said that there are few changes had to be made to the Master Plan Park survey. That's the reason for the delay.

- Phebe Fuqua is out on medical leave.

NEW BUSINESS:

Justin Vallejo:

- We have a few special events coming up.
- Our Midtown Motown Concert Series started; the first one was not the best to turn out due to cold weather. The second concert will be on February 22nd.
- Easter Beach Run is coming up on April 19th at Bandshell. It's a two-mile and four mile race on the beach.
- The Crab and Seafood Festival is on April 26th on MMB from MLK to Charles Street.
- The Bethune Point playground is getting ready to wrap up. They're addressing a couple of safety concerns with the playground. Once those are addressed the playground will be reopened to the public. They also painted on the skate park at Bethune Point Park.
- Lenox Park got approved for a fall zone on the playground through a grant. It's a rubber surface, used as ground instead of mulch. It's safer for the kids and easier to maintain.
- Cypress Park Playground received a grant for the playground or to have an additional playground there.
- The demo began at City Island Tennis courts for the Tortugas.
- The Baseball clinics are starting next month and then they're going to start their league afterwards. That's open for registration on our website.
- The youth basketball team is going to be having their championships March 1st, so that's going to be wrapping up coming up soon.
- Autism Safety Swim week is going to be March 17th to the 21st. It is closed as far as registration is concerned because we filled the class up.
- The summer camp registration opened this week on the website, so we're going to be promoting that as well.
- Spanish classes are underway, but we just had to click out on hold, because of the instructor, she's not able to teach right now due to being in a car accident.
- We have two programs at the Breakers Environmental Learning Center this year so far, one was on Right Wales; the other one was on ornithology or Bird Science. Those two programs run by Angie LeJeune have good turnouts.
- Daytona Beach Gymnastics competed a session couple weeks ago and they have another one coming up.
- Senior Oasis participants will be playing senior games in March.
- The Mayor's Fitness Challenge is in week six right now. There's four weeks left. I believe they're gonna be at the Cherry Center on Saturday with Dr. Stephanie.
- We have our Parks and Recreation booklet, which should be wrapping up very soon. We don't want to have that; we want to make sure that it's always going to be current information.
- 38% of people received their information from social media or the website. Obviously, word of mouth was number one, which was, I believe at like 61%. The answers that our selections could make, and they still chose as the top two to be social media and website. So, we know that those are two heavy lease spots that we're going to keep focusing on to be able to get the word out for our residents.
- We have now a new electronic sign at the Cherry center. The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board have doubts in the location of the sign at the Cherry center. They suggested that maybe Cherry center need two signs like Dickerson Center
- Melanin Rich Festival is going on at Daisy Stocking Park on February 22.

DISCUSSION:

- Linda Smiley: who provided money for Senior Oasis activities. Justin: Sheila Priester oversees all senior Oasis and arranges some scholarships for this purpose.
- Davita Bonner: We have some tennis courts that need to be resurfaced, how we can apply for grant. Justin: We have a grant writer, and she applies for the grants. I don't know how she can be approached but Keith might know.
- Amanda: Can grant writer help Senior Oasis as well?
- Terry Johnson: We allocate money for senior Oasis programs at Schnebly Center, YSG, Cherry and Dickerson Center. We spread that money, and the profit goes to each facility for each Senior Oasis group. Now each group has their dues that need to be taken care of by the corresponding group. They must go out and get sponsorship for themselves. A lot of the time, when the city has money, we only get a limited amount of money allocated for all our programs. So, they must raise money, and our job is to house them and make sure they're taken care of. Sometimes we help them when they are short. We'll find some type of funds to make sure they're all right, also, we provide transportation and a driver. Also, we have a sponsorship person who goes out to get money for them. So, our sponsorship person is supposed to go out and get money for all our programs including seniors and youth. Keith probably can explain a little more.
- Justin: As far as athletics development is concerned, we just know we have 600 acres of property out of PG. We would like to be developed into multi complex with basketball, soccer, football, baseball fields. We are still trying to look for investors.
- Amanda: I asked Keith Willis in the last meeting if the exercise equipment we are getting rid of from Dickerson Center can be moved to Schnebly Center? He said that one or two pieces at least will come here at Schnebly since the exercise room is very small.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Francis Chew:

- I was asked by Jean Harding to comment on it and thank Keith for having that fence put back up.
- Originally the Citizens Acts work intended as a voluntary program. The city went along with it. They gave them the space. Sunnyland is also included in the Oasis program. The citizens were supposed to take care of it by themselves. The only thing that the city was to provide was the center where they met and everything else was on them except for the last thing that I heard was maybe one lunch a month. The rest of the lunches were supposed to be sponsored.

BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS:

- Luke McCoy: When you (Francis) were talking about Senior Oasis funding, you were talking about whole Senior Oasis or a particular event of it.
- Sheila Priester: Last year Mr. Martavius was retraining all of us so this year now I'm helping him with it. I have almost all sponsorship for breakfast for Senior Oasis Games event. If we go with Cracker Barrel, it's going to be almost \$2000 based on 175 to 200 people. I'm more worried about the lunch because if I don't have a sponsorship for the lunch, none of this can happen and so do the lunch. I picked Four Rivers, which is the city manager's favorite restaurant. I get with the presidents of the Senior Oasis of other centers. But it's going to be almost close to over \$5,000. Bring your cake. We'll probably need around four to five judges for the Bring Your Cake event. So, if you want to put your name in, that's great. This year, we will put the cakes in separate rooms and serve them. I don't know who will serve them, I don't have anybody so far.
- Amanda: Do you (Sheila) want to tell us about your budget?

- Sheila Priester: It's \$5,200 if we go within two weeks, and \$5,900 if we go within three weeks. But like I said, I really want to try to do this. My problem is that I'm getting donations, but I can't use them, that's why I was thinking about sponsorship. It goes into general funding. I have a \$500 check at the City Hall right now in Valerie's office in the safe. I don't know what happened, Valerie is the accountant. I've talked to Keith about it. I've had a meeting with the president. We just can't understand. So where does that money go to?
- Carol Kilian: We need to find out where this money is going because that was an earmarked check. We need to involve our commissioners to find out what's going on. We need to follow up with that.
- Sheila Priester: I have a thousand dollars, which I've had since February 17th. The one prior I think in January that was from the Hamptons, they really like us, and they always want to do something for the seniors.
- Amanda Glugover: I appreciate your information because that's all good until we get some answers from Keith and our commissioners. But thank you so much. I really appreciate your time.
- Davita Bonner: From my zone two things. The Melanin project is just a kind of community gathering to make cultural awareness on the ticket. But I did have a few other questions about the rental of Daisy Stocking Park. There were just some people in general that were asking about that because they were saying that they felt it was in a certain zone that the rental fee shouldn't be as high as it is. I refer them to the city manager's office to get further information on that. But that concern, it did come up in the last month a couple of times. They need to realize that this park has been refurbished, and there is some type of cost associated with it.
- Amanda Glugover: Is there anything that Keith could bring us that gives us a breakdown of the budget of each rental place so we could say that's why it costs so much. For example, we must hire custodial people etc. This is how we can defend the charges.
- Terry Johnson: I think we have very fair fees as compared to other counties; I think we did an excellent job. Keith is very good with the people; he makes sure and asks questions to accommodate everyone. Our prices are fair but other charges like police, fire, alcohol add on top of that. Everything due to inflation is going up. We cannot change the rates by ourselves, city commission require to approve them.
- Luke McCoy: According to my proposal, I was trying to bring little league baseball. A flyer is out now which is for Youth Baseball which means they will just play. They are not linked, but all the baseball players in the area or in other cities are playing. This starts in March, that's way too late to have little Baseball league.
- Terry Johnson: This is Cal Ripken Baseball. The league is for district in certain months. Like said, we haven't invested in trying to go year-round. He wants to play a league and little league goes from fall. You can do many leagues like fall, spring, and summer. We concentrate on the basics because we can only do certain numbers of kids. We just stick with the spring baseball, because we have eight on eight football. When playing baseball, you just want to stay in a certain window of three or four months. Even if Luke has his league we are not going to overlap. East Coast baseball is a travel team. They get the kids they pay for the services and train. I don't know on your magnitude; you just want to do a league where you can start kids from fall.
- Luke McCoy: I am not doing anything in terms of Baseball right now because when City approved, I was doing something else. The city didn't receive my proposal, I didn't start something against the city. I know that the city is not into baseball.

- Terry Johnson: Where would you have this program? If you were going to someplace you said you had shut us down.
- Luke McCoy: I would have to go to other parts outside the city.
- Amanda: Is there any room to have a little league started at Jackie Robinson because they are expanding?
- Terry Johnson: They're expanding for bullpens and seats. They're not expanding for things like that.
- Luke McCoy: In the presentation for basketball, they say we have over 300 kids in our basketball program. On the basketball team they have five on the court and 12 on the roster. For basketball and Football, you just must be born with certain abilities. Coaches can't pass the Pop Warner certification, so they start their own league. At the Salvation Army, they were behind. That's not adequate. It's just a danger for the kids. Baseball gave me free education however I was footballing all the way, came up through youth football. Daytona baseball, they can take strength, you could just run or have a strong arm that's all you need, and you can get a baseball scholarship. The average lifespan in the NFL is three to four years. You could play minor league baseball and one a two A three A and make more money than you're going to make in a whole career with a degree. That's why we're trying to push the Baseball league.
- Mary McCoy: We have a growing number of people that are playing Pickleball. Holly Hill has a whole big site, but we have four courts out there. They were originally set up for tennis for kids. We provide a free program. We partner with USTA, the City of Daytona and the Police Department to help us bring up children. We've had that program for years, strictly with volunteers. The older people are coming out there to play pickleball on those courts that we had developed for the 6-year-old kids. Those foot out there with the help of USSTA see after we go out and try to get the money to help offset whatever cost we can. We are just partnered with the city; they allow us to use that facility for that. What we would like to see is just the courts resurfaced out there for pickleball because we can use the courts for the kids, and the same courts can have the pickleball lines on them. I just want to make sure that we set up a record that I heard that from Justin that you are all trying to put rubber grounds on all playgrounds in all the facilities, parks and recreation areas. That would be amazing. Even one of those little things that keep the sun out that they have at the city island library, we're going to be focusing on. I have some people that will come in and be speaking on that as well.
- Terry Johnson: Being an Athletic Coordinator I must make sure to cover a whole lot of things that you are talking about. As a board your work is putting pressure on people and making sure that they make the right decision. So, I appreciate it and I'm learning a lot just by sitting here and listening to things. I must make sure I cover programs for the youth, seniors, men's basketball etc. I also must make sure that the parks are upgraded, the rustiness on the poles, the cracks and all what she's talking about. I can attest that needs to be done since we lost the tennis center over City Island. We need to probably focus more on Derbyshire Park. Now we partner with BCU, women's Soccer tennis so, they play at Derbyshire. We are a recreation facility; we are not a NCAA legitimate area. Now we must change our things a lot to adhere and help them out. We don't have the money to just allow BCU for trials. Now the courts are different. We don't have all the amateurs for it. We have a lot of things going on along with tennis. Derbyshire is like Mecca; everybody's starting to come and gravitate to that area. We have got footballs in that field. We got 7 0 7, and 8 0 8. We got six semi-pro football. I had post graduate football this year that we must house. We have one baseball field and one softball field. It is hard to run a program out there. What are you going to do with that?

So, it's my job to make sure it works for everyone. I've been here for a long time, so I'm just going to make sure I work hard for my community to make sure we get these games and programs for these kids.

Like Mr. McCoy was saying, the little league can work, but when you got youth jumping in all these different programs, it overlaps. It's just too much. Because if he starts his program in the fall, there's going to be three football programs out there trying to play football: the Sharks, the Bucks, Cowboys. So how do we fix that? That's why I try to evaluate my programs each year. Jackie Robinson started here. He wanted to make sure baseball works. I need to look at volleyball, and programs for girls. We don't have Volleyball team ever in this city. I must pick what's hot right now like Flag Football. You can get a scholarship for girls. I had 50 girls on my Flag. We need to get back into soccer. Also, Terry Johnson agreed with Linda Smiley that there is a plan for the Baseball field behind Cherry Center and Keith Willis can talk more on this matter.

I'm also over the Cypress and Campbell pool. I designed, raised money and run the Autistic Kids Swimming program. We also trying to create a swim program for 16-year-olds have a beach camp along with training them to become lifeguards and stay in our system. We have lifeguards' shortage these days; we have three lifeguards for two pools. I take my hat off to Mr. Willis, he is handling a lot of things at once. We are short on all kinds of staff with a lot of work, but we are trying to make it happen.

- Carol Kilian: Is only one person running the Senior Oasis games. Is Sheila doing everything by herself? It's shocking for me. What about another program, they are also handled by one person only? For example, baseball or Seafood Festival. Terry Johnson said that No, it's not like that; one person designs it and puts it all together but it's a team of people that does it together. Amanda also agreed with that and said that she has a team, she is not working alone.
- Amanda Glugover: I just want to say thank you to your staff for doing all what you do. We appreciate that. We just want to help. And I wanted to add a couple things. I would like to have a budget breakdown for everything, like before. I know it's probably old and we're about to be making a new one.

It was brought up last meeting about refinishing this floor as we all can see it really needs some love. That would be my request. If we want to keep having rentals and people come here, we need to make this a little bit better. I also want to revisit and talk about the weight room at Schnebly Center. I would like to have David Waller here at the next meeting with Keith.

ADJOURNMENT:

February 13, 2025, 10:20 am
Amanda Glugover-Chairperson
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Reviewed by: Amanda E. Glugover 3-13-25
Amanda Glugover, Chairperson Date

Transcribed by: Lubna Nisa, Board Secretary