Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

September 20, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

City Hall Commission Chamber
401 Park Ave, South
Winter Park, FL 32789

Board Members Present

Michael Perelman, Leah Bonich, Krystal Dawkins, Shannon Sarkarati, & Craig Russell

Board Members Absent

Frank Baker, Robert Bendick (V – non-participating)

1. Call to Order

Meeting Called to order by Michael Perelman at 5:30 pm

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2023

Motion made by Shannon Sarkarati, seconded by Leah Bonich, to approve the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

Michael Dively, 1210 Raintree Pl, spoke on behalf of the Splash, Float, Swim Program and expressed his appreciation for everyone that played a role in implementing the program and making it such a success.

4. Action Items

a. Fee Waiver Request – Peace & Justice Institute Annual Conference

Mr. Seeley, Parks & Recreation Director, presented the request parameters. No representatives were present on behalf of the Peach & Justice Institute. Mr. Seeley suggested tabling the item until the next regularly scheduled meeting to ensure their purpose, intent, and need is properly and completely presented.

b. Fee Waiver Request - 18th Annual Fast Start Track & Field International

Mr. Seeley presented the request and informed the board that it is a free event that benefits local children and is within the parameters of the recreational goals of the Parks & Recreation Department. Staff recommends the approval of a full fee waiver.

Motion made by Craig Russell, seconded by Michael Perelman, to approve the full fee waiver. Motion carries unanimously.

c. Park Acreage and Comp Plan

Mr. Seeley provided a breakdown of the Comp Plan item by item. Board requested staff ask Commission to be consistent in their definitions in the Comp Plan in accordance with the EPA. Mr. Seeley asked the board to identify what areas they feel improvement and or redevelopment is needed. He will come back to the board with figures and photos of areas that have the potential to be redeveloped into multi-purpose areas. He also provided comparable data from surrounding cities as well as statewide showing how many acres per 1,000 residents they have in their comp plan.

No action was taken on this item.

d. Winter Park Chamber of Commerce Fee Waiver

Betsy Gardner-Eckbert, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, presented a brief history of the Chamber and synopsis of how the events in question benefit the community as a whole. Discussion ensued and all of proposed events were taken into consideration.

Motion made by Craig Russell, seconded by Shannon Sarkarati, to approve all of the events. Motion carries 3-2 with Michael Perelman and Krystal Dawkins opposing.

5. Non-Action Items

a. Parks & Recreation Land Assessment

Mr. Seeley provided the Board with visuals of which areas have park accessibility within a half mile along with comparisons for neighboring cities and counties. Some of those included City of Orlando, City of Maitland, City of Winter Springs, Seminole County & Orange County. Golf Courses were factored into the calculations as well. Mr. Perelman wanted clarification on what is defined as greenspace such as golf courses and cemeteries, etc. Discussion ensued on what should be included in that definition and what the Board's goal is as far as meeting greenspace goals.

Mr. Seeley covered a distribution map with the Board as well showing where larger parks are located, potential annexation parcels, and the impacts of doing so.

6. Staff Updates

a. Project Update

Mr. Seeley presented the Board with a brief update on the various projects:

- Cemetery Comps – Winter Park pricing is pretty fair in comparison to surrounding cemeteries, maintenance costs at Palm are about three times of those at Pineywood due to Palm being larger and encompassing more landscape to manage. The larger portion of income is coming from Palm vs Pineywood
- MLK Park – Unity Corner is at 60% construction plan completion. Goal would be to begin construction in January and tie in a groundbreaking event with MLK Day

7. Board Comments

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Perelman at 7:17 pm

Minutes approved by the board on: October 18, 2023
/s/ Laura Halsey