



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

August 16, 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, Frank Baker, and Shannon Sarkarati
Craig Russell(@5:53pm)

Board Members Absent

Krystal Dawkins and Robert Bendick (V - non-participating)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approve Regular Meeting Minutes - July 19, 2023

Motion made by Frank Baker, seconded by Shannon Sarkarati, to approve the minutes.
Motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no public comments

4. Action Items

a. FY23-24 Fee Schedule

Mr. Seeley, Parks & Recreation Director, reviewed the fee schedule and asked the Board if they had any specific items they would like to discuss. Discussion ensued pertaining to the cost of living and the resident vs non-resident rates and increases. Mr. Perelman inquired about the rate differences between the two cemeteries. Staff explained the two cemeteries have had different rates going back 30+ years, but were in line with fees for similar cemeteries for what is offered at each. Staff also mentioned that Palm has a higher cost in part due to the location and high quality of the grounds. Mr. Perelman responded to this response by asking why one cemetery is better maintained than the other. Staff then explained the longer history of the two site and that maintenance is the same level, but that the City investment into Pineywood didn't begin until the 70's when we took ownership while Palm Cemetery has been owned, operated, and invested in by the City for over 100 years.

Mr. Perelman inquired about the fees for kids under 12 playing tennis or golf. Mrs. Daus, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, clarified on the newly proposed golf fees and Mr. McCosker, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, clarified on the newly proposed tennis fees. Ms. Sarkarati feels the fees are fine as is. Mrs. Daus suggested changing the fees to read as: Ages 13 - 21, \$250.00 and Ages 12 - Under, \$150.00.

Public comments related to the FY23-24 schedule - Mr. Bill Schwartz, 2020 Taylor Ave., spoke in opposition of the cemetery fees differing between Caucasian veterans and ethnic veterans. He would like the fees to be the same for both parties at both cemeteries. Mr. Schwartz generally was requesting a lower fee for resident veterans and not strictly to the veteran section. Mr. Seeley addressed Mr. Schwartz's comment regarding race, stating the cemeteries are not segregated and race plays no role in the policy related to burial. He went on to explain to PRAB members that Pineywood cemetery was originally exclusive to African American families but that ended a very long time ago.

Mr. Perelman inquired where we are in comparison with other cemeteries and Mrs. Daus informed the board Winter Park cemeteries are cheaper than surrounding cemeteries. Mr. Perelman would like to know what the comparative costs are in the region for public & private, why we charge differently for each cemetery, and what deductions there are for veterans. Mr. Perelman feels veterans should receive a discount whether they choose to be in the veterans' section or not. He would like Staff to come back at the next meeting with additional information.

Mr. Seeley pointed out that due to time constraints on presenting the fee schedule to City Commission, staff will not be able to bring the fee schedule back to the Board for further discussion. He advised the Board to provide staff with direction regarding fees based on the information provided and staff would ensure their position was shared with submittal of the fee schedule to City Commission.

Motion made by Michael Perelman, seconded by Frank Baker, to approve the fee schedule changes in general with a couple of caveats: 1) Differential pricing for children 12 and under compared to kids 13 - 21 for golf & tennis, 2) Veterans section fee that was established can remain, and 3) Fee for Veterans on general cemetery spaces should receive discount similar to fee deduction we allot to Active Military and First Responders for other services

Motion carries unanimously.

b. West Meadows Restroom

Mr. Seeley presented renderings of the proposed restroom structure and site overlay for the proposed West Meadow restroom. PRAB was asked to provide feedback on projected project ranging from footprint size, location within the park, preference for pavilion structure rather than as presented.

Mr. Seeley shared several slides containing images and dimensions of the proposed structure and grounds. He informed the Board that if there a concern about shading, a temporary solution could be implemented until the trees and foliage are mature enough to provide shade through use of sails at a minimal height as to be subtler than sail systems used in other park

Discussion ensued regarding which events this would benefit, where the crosswalks are located, and what the timeline for construction is.

Motion made by Michael Perelman, seconded by Shannon Sarkarati, to support the plans as presented, with a shade structure over seating area. Motion carries unanimously.

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. Update on Smoking Ordinance from July 2023 meeting

Mr. Seeley informed the Board that City Attorney feels the adopted language is what they're moving forward with. It's going to be enforced by City staff so training will play a big part in making sure staff understands when an item is "medically necessary".

b. Project Update

Mr. Seeley presented the Board with a brief update on the various projects that are currently active or in the planning/design phase

- MLK Park - Unity Corner is going to City Commission by September, anticipating hardscape in January 2024.
- Showalter Field Conversion - The new field turf project is about two weeks out from completion and the concession stand is expected to begin around the last week of August, and the softball field conversion is anticipated to begin early September.
- Howell Branch Preserve - Awaiting a response from St. John's Water Management before the project can move forward. Hopefully that will happen in early September.
- Mead Gardens - Pre-construction has started and the project should be ready to move forward within the next week.
- Seven Oaks Park - Construction should begin late September
- WP Pines - Renovations slated to start in September.

7. Board Comments

Ms. Sarkarati requested the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce Fee Waiver item be heard again at the next regularly scheduled meeting, September 20, 2023. Board members Frank Baker, Leah Bonich, and Craig Russell were all in support of revisiting the item.

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

Winter Park Chamber of Commerce Fee Waiver Request for FY24, originally heard at the July 19, 2023 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Perelman at 7:37 pm

Minutes approved by the board on: September 20, 2023

/s/ Laura Halsey

MLK Playground Design Process and Tentative Project Timeline

June 2022 – MLK Playground Community Meeting

July, 2022 - MLK Playground Community Meeting

DESIGN STAGE

February 2022 – MLK Playground Community Meeting

March 2023 - CRA/PRAB Joint Work Session

April 2023 - PRAB and CRAB Approval

August 2023 – CRAA approval of conceptual design

Procurement and Pre-Construction

September 2023 – Preparation of solicitation document and pre qualifications

October 2023 – Solicitation document review by PRAB

December 2023 – Solicitation response period complete. Procurement staff review for pre-qualification standards; Selection of Vendor and negotiation of contract

January 2023 – Contract with selected vendor moves to City Commission/CRAA for approval

March 2024 – Initial design. Vendor completes initial design for playground with alternative equipment or structure options that are consistent with conceptual and budget where applicable for consideration by residents.

March 2024 – MLK Playground Community Meeting - Design presentation and community feedback. Vendor in conjunction with staff

April 2024 – PRAB/CRAB and Commission approve final design

Construction

May 2024 – Community Playground, Adjacent Parking Lot, Pavilion Area and Restroom Close.

May 2024 - Construction begin on non playground elements (new restroom, periphery sidewalks, new pavilion)

June 2024 – Construction and Site Work for playground begin; equipment ordered (apprx. 16 weeks)

December 2024 – Construction of all elements of Community Playground ‘node’ completed

Public Input and Communication

Public Meetings**

(CRA Advisory, Parks and Recreation Advisory)

****MLK Playground as advertised agenda item**

- **Wed, March 16th** @ WP City Hall - PRAB/CRAA Joint Work Session
- **Wed, April 16th** @ WP City Hall – PRAB Regular Meeting April 23
- **Thu, April 27th** @ WP City Hall – CRA AB Regular Meeting April 23

MLK Playground Community Meetings

- **Tues, July 19th** @ WPCC -Approximately 60 residents of various ages in attendance
- **Thu, February 6th** @ WPCC- Approximately 60 residents of various ages in attendance

APPENDIX A: PLAYGROUND & SPLASH PAD COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

“WHAT WE HEARD”

TOP TAKE AWAYS

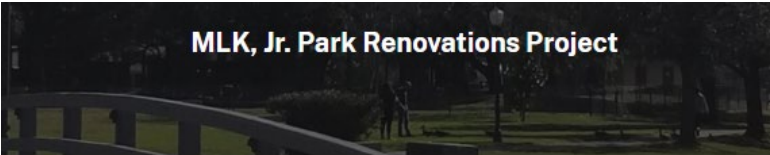
- Play:
 - Variety of equipment appealing to multiple ages
 - Naturalistic in material, aesthetic, form
 - Structure to be low maintenance
 - Multiple surfaces & textures
- Safe
 - Simple
- Splash Pad:
 - Incorporate multiple depths
 - Mimic nature
- Inclusive / accessible
- Multi-generational
- Clear surveillance from multiple seating points
- Improve parking lighting
- Provide more color & interest among surrounding plant material

PLAY & SPLASH PAD

- Include composite material or alternative to wood
- Incorporate different materials & surfaces
- Keep elements of play connected
- Relate to nature & natural elements when possible
- Provide ample spaces to foster imagination & creativity
- Incorporate more colors
- Pay homage to original structure with a modern update
- Keep visibility of structures & tunnels clear
- Love vertical elements that allow for climbing
- Incorporate elements for multiple age groups & levels of play
- Provide ample seating around playground for parents
- Love rope swing options
- Density over spread is key for play structures
- Incorporate stepping & weaving motions
- Scale play equipment to accommodate popular features
- Include multiple bridge access points to castle structure
- Improve upon existing castle with additional viewing & clear areas
- Include a variety of difficulty levels on castle bridges
- Love swinging areas being located away from main castle structure
- Provide seating in direct view of playground elements
- Include shade over areas of water interaction
- Provide variety of water depth levels for varying levels of difficulty
- Be sure to include accessible water interaction opportunities
- Include safe water interactions for a variety of ages

QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

- No proposed areas for dogs - should there be?
 - Dog run & water fountains
 - Keep existing dog bag stations
- Shade options need to be provided for all structures & amenities
- Reference other proposed and existing parks in the area for problems
- Provide enough trash receptacles to keep the park clean
- What type of fencing is used? How opaque should it be?
- Are there going to be auto-closing gates?
- Should a park attendant be hired to watch over the splash pad?
 - Summer months would be preferred to have a member on staff
 - Observation from watchtower building or office
- Ensure accessibility coming from the Memorial corner
- Incorporate ample lighting around edges of play & parking areas
- Questionable visibility with the longer tunnels - shorten?
- Is exercise equipment going to be incorporated anywhere?
 - Integrated on site or nearby?
- Are there designated areas for stroller parking? Bike parking?
- Is there a way to prevent / discourage people from sleeping in tunnels?
- How can sound be incorporated into equipment or plant material?
- Can we provide sensory elements along a designated trail?
 - Can these tie into the trail leading to the library?



MLK, Jr. Park Renovations Project

[City of Walter Park](#) > [Government](#) > [Projects](#) > [MLK, Jr. Park Renovations Project](#)

Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Park is anchored by a tranquil lake featuring a relaxing fountain and a community-built Unity Bridge. This peaceful setting encompasses 23 acres of beautiful scenery, sports and recreation facilities, and the popular Community Playground. The park is perfect for family picnics, fishing from the bridge, sports outings, or just walking along the half-mile trail surrounding the lake.

To further enhance MLK Park while honoring the legacy of Dr. King and the historic Hannibal Square neighborhood, this project is focusing on better neighborhood and internal connections, integrating recreational and cultural programming, and strengthening environmental sustainability.

MLK, Jr. Park Conceptual Plan

[Access full-size map](#)



MLK, Jr. Park Presentations

- [Revised Community Playground + Splash Pad Presentation by Dix-Hite](#) (04/07/23)
- [Community Playground + Splash Pad Presentation by Dix-Hite](#) (01/06/23)
- [City Commission Work Session Master Plan Presentation by Dix-Hite](#) (07/28/22)
- [City seeks public input on renovations to 33-year-old Community Playground](#) (00/13/22)

Updates and information publicly available on City website...