



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2024 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Craig Russell, Krystal Dawkins, Leah J. Bonich, Shannnon Sarkarati, Robert Bendick

Absent

Michael Dively, Michael Perelman

Staff Present

Director Jason Seeley, Assistant Directors Cathleen Daus and Mike McCosker, Recreation Coordinator Laura Halsey, Family Services Manager John Clarke

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:37pm by Vice Chairperson, Krystal Dawkins

2. Consent Agenda

a. Approve the minutes of March 20, 2024

Motion made by Krystal Dawkins, seconded by Craig Russell, to approve the March 20, 2024 minutes. Motion passes 5-0.

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

Mark Casey, 1216 Golfside Drive, was given three minutes to speak as Ted Hudspith, 682 Blairshire Circle, and Rob Hopwood, 1688 Cypress Point Lane, conceded their one minute each to Mark Casey. Mr. Casey inquired why Blue Dolphin's pool is going in next to the existing pool and about the removal of mature Oaks. He would like to know why the City is removing one hundred year old trees and if they will be replaced with saplings throughout the City. He also asked for clarification on the city's ownership of said pool. Mr. Seeley reiterated that approval has not been given at this point. Blue Dolphins came to Parks Board to discuss the possibility of a second pool and still has to return with a construction agreement and an operations agreement. As far as the trees, multiple options are being reviewed and they would have to meet mitigation requirements.

4. Action Items

a. Cady Way Court Rebuild Configuration

Mr. Seeley presented a list of three options for the court rebuild. The options consist of:

1. Keep the current configuration of 6 pickleball courts and 2 tennis courts.
2. Add 2 pickleball courts, bringing the total to 8 pickleball courts and 1 tennis court.
3. Go to an all-pickleball facility with 12 pickleball courts.

Mr. Seeley discussed the pickleball courts that are scheduled to open in neighboring communities, which may cause the demand for courts in Winter Park to slow down. He reminded the board that there is always the option to reinstate tennis courts when it's time for resurfacing should the demand shift. He reviewed the fee structure, current operational costs, capital improvements, and reminded the board that those numbers could fluctuate over time based on inflation. Mr. Seeley also mentioned the possibility of installing two smaller courts for pickleball alongside a basketball court at MLK Park.

Ms. Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Ave, while in favor of the courts, has concerns about parking issues. Especially on weekends when there are multiple events taking place. She would like to ask the staff to take that into consideration.

Ms. Rosemary Culhane, 160 Saddlewood Trail, spoke in favor of 12 pickleball courts without any fees as that inhibits those who are less fortunate. Bringing fees into the equation creates inequity.

Mr. Chris Schafer, 2953 Northwood Blvd, spoke in favor of 12 pickleball courts and believes that the sport is a great community builder.

Mr. Elliot Davin, 3316 Bishop Park Dr, spoke in favor of 12 pickleball courts without any fees.

Mr. Steve Heller, 200 E Reading Way, spoke in favor of 12 pickleball courts without any fees.

Mr. Todd Demetriades, 1951 Laurel Rd., spoke in opposition of increasing the pickleball courts and stated the tennis courts are definitely being used and feels there is a need for additional tennis courts. He asked the board to take that into account and do additional research on tennis court usage before making a decision.

Mr. Brian Mathison, 1922 Taylor Ave, stated he is an avid player of both sports and spoke in favor of keeping both types of courts and opposes removing all of the tennis courts.

Motion made by Craig Russell, seconded by Krystal Dawkins, to keep the current configuration. Motion fails 3-2.

Motion made by Leah Bonich, seconded by Krystal Dawkins, to go with Option 2: 8 pickleball courts and 1 tennis court. Motion passes 4-1 with Craig Russell opposing.

5. Non-Action Items

a. Winter Park's Heritage Market Trail Presentation

Forest Michael presented the proposed plan for the Winter Park Heritage Market Trail

to the board. He discussed fatalities in the corridor where the trail would be and believes adding the trail would remedy the issue.

Peter Gottfried, President of Natural Systems Analysts, Inc., is also a resident. He spoke about the level of safety the proposed trail would provide for those not only living in the area, but those riding their bikes to visit the area.

Mr. Michael stated they are committed to bicycle and pedestrian safety in Winter Park. They have presented to the Transportation board also and ask that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board provide their support to the City Commission. Mr. Gottfried stated FDOT has the funding for the project if the City commits to do their part. He provided the board members with a copy of their proposed resolution. They will submit the resolution to the City Commission tomorrow, April 18th, 2024.

Ms. Gigi Papa, 1440 Hibiscus Ave, does not feel the comparison of trails was sufficient,

6. Staff Updates

a. Strategic Action Task List Update

Mr. Seeley provided updates to the board on the newly renovated concession stand, the new Mead Gardens pavilion along with the internal loop map near the landscaping building. The picnic tables will be added once the concrete has had ample time to properly cure. Once school is out, the stadium light work will begin. He informed the board about the Thorguard upgrade in Ward and adding Winter Pines Golf Course. The system can be accessed by parents, leagues, etc. for notifications and warnings of lightning or pending storms.

b. Share mini park signage examples for PRAB feedback on design size

In the interest of time, Mr. Seeley requested the park signage be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

7. Board Comments

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:03pm

Approved by the Board on
/s/ Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator