



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Thomas Sims, Ginny Enstad, Ellen Wolfson, Lisa Tinker Marsh, Anne Mooney

Absent

Leah J. Bonich, Lawrence Lyman

Staff Present

Parks and Recreation Director Jason Seeley, Assistant Directors Cathleen Daus and Mike McCosker, Recreation Coordinator Laura Halsey

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Vice Chair, Thomas Sims, at 5:30pm

2. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve the minutes of February 19, 2025

Motion made by Anne Mooney, seconded by Ellen Wolfson, to approve the February 19, 2025 minutes. Motion passes 5-0.

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

None present

4. Action Items

- a. Cady Way Park Rules Update

Jason Seeley, Parks & Recreation Director, provided an update to the board pertaining to public concerns about traffic, parking, and noise. In the past, Cady Way and Ward Park were governed by the same set of rules. With the addition of the sand volleyball courts and secondary pool, staff have created a set of rules and regulations for Cady Way Park.

Mr. Seeley covered items that were amended to suit the needs at Cady Way, including the amplified noise ordinance, onsite food vendors, etc.

Mr. Seeley provided an example, related to overflow parking, stating if both pools are open and a rental inquiry arises, staff would need to take into consideration any other events or reservations taking place at Ward Park and or Showalter Field to ensure there is not an overflow of parking caused by multiple events. The board inquired if there is a threshold for a maximum headcount and if the application requires applicants to disclose their anticipated headcount. Staff responded that the application asks for an estimated attendance.

Section 5 covered Special Events deposits. Mr. Seeley elaborated on the deposit amounts and what happens in the event of inclement weather, damages caused to the park during the event, and events canceled by the applicant. The last section covered basic fee information, including events charging attendees an entrance fee while items in the general section are pretty standard.

Motion made by Lisa Tinker Marsh, seconded by Thomas Sims, to approve the updated rules and regulations as presented. Motion passes 5-0.

The board inquired how staff would handle events that applied to have an estimated attendance of 150 people but ended up having 250 people. Mr. Seeley stated that staff are onsite during events and should that happen they are there to assist with the additional attendees and any parking issues that arise but typically would not cause a disruption to a large event. This would, however, be grounds for forfeiting their deposit.

5. Non-Action Items

None

6. Staff Updates

a. MLK Playground Renovation Update

Mr. Seeley reviewed the presentation provided in the agenda packet, walking the board members through the progression of the MLK playground project stating the schematic design was created using the feedback gathered through multiple community meetings.

Although the public did state their desire to keep the playground the same, it was not feasible to do so with the current conditions of certain areas of the playground. The schematic shows that some of the wooden themes will be maintained, but elevation elements will be added along with rubber groundcover and a spray ground.

Both the Parks & Recreation and Community Redevelopment Advisory Boards will hear the final update in July 2025 for their recommendation to move forward with presenting the project to the City Commission.

The board stated they were happy with the progress and the schematics presented,

with the only concern being ample parking for the updated playground, and inquired if there had been any consideration for overflow or additional parking. Mr. Seeley informed the board that the city has an agreement with Valencia College to use their parking lot during the Friday night sports games and there will be additional parking on Harper St., along with the possibility of street parking nearby. There is also weekend parking availability at the Orlando Health facility. Mr. Seeley stated the adjacent field rentals will also be taken into consideration. The board recommended installing signage directing patrons to the additional parking and an improved crosswalk to ensure the safety of visitors to the park. Mr. Seeley mentioned the possibility of raised areas and increased lighting for crossing Denning Dr.

b. Board Member Park Tours

Mr. Seeley informed the board that the City Attorney advised against group tours in order to remain in accordance with the Florida Sunshine Laws. One board member inquired about holding meetings at different parks. The consensus is that it would not be feasible because it cannot be recorded. The last option to look into would be to hold work sessions in the parks. Staff will confer with the City Clerk's office on the guidelines for doing so.

c. Projects Update

d. SAP Action Plan Update

Mr. Seeley read through the list of projects, providing brief updates on each one to the board.

Some of the highlights were:

- The geothermal system is slated to be completed next week.
- The Cady Way Pool improvements are mobilizing and should be starting in early summer.
- The play court rebuild at the tennis center is slated to start in May.
- The WP 9 rain shelter on #4 should be installed before storm season.
- Ward Park pavilion and hardscape improvements will begin soon, prior to fall sports season starting.
- The accessibility loop is coming to completion.
- MLK Park basketball courts have been resurfaced and four pickle ball courts have been added.
- The Parks & Recreation Master Plan was updated in 2018 but is overdue for another update, so that will begin soon as well.

The board inquired about the restroom facility being built in Central Park. Ms. Daus, Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, informed the board that it must be completed no later than September.

Mr. Seeley informed the board that termed members will attend their last meeting in April with newly appointed board members beginning in May.

7. Board Comments

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

9. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm by Vice Chair, Thomas Sims.

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