City of Pensacola

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

City of Pensacola
222 W. Main Street
Pensacola, FL
32502

April 15, 2025 | 10:00 AM | Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Borden called the board meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Michael Blankenship, Renee Borden, Kristin Brown, Bradley Boes, Justine Roper Williams, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Kirwan Price

Members Absent: Adella Cushing, Suzanne Lewis

1. 25-478 SWEARING IN OF NEW AND RETURNING BOARD MEMBERS

Assistant City Clerk, Robyn Tice, was present to administer the oath and swear in new and reinstated board members. New members were Shirley Lewis-Brown and Adella Cushing. Board Members Kristin Brown and Justine Roper Williams were reinstated.

2. 25-479 NOMINATING AND VOTING NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

ELECTION OF CHAIR
Vice-Chair Borden opened the floor for nominations for the position as Chairperson. Board Member Boes nominated Renee Borden for Chairperson, Board Member Williams seconded. Vice-Chair Borden accepted the position. Vice-Chair Borden closed the floor for nominations. Vice-Chair Borden asked for a vote all in favor to say aye, any opposed. Let the record show the vote was unanimous consent.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR
Chairperson Borden opened the floor for nominations for the position as Vice-Chair. Board Member Brown nominated herself, Board Member Williams seconded. Board Member Brown accepted the nomination. Chairperson Borden closed the floor for nominations. Chairperson Borden asked for a vote all in favor to say aye, any opposed. Let the record show the vote was unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3. 25-448 PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MINUTES DATED MARCH 18, 2025

A motion was made by Vice-Chair Brown and seconded by Board Member Boes.

The motion by the following vote:

Yes: 7	Michael Blankenship, Renee Borden, Kristin Brown, Bradley Boes, Justine Roper Williams, Shirley Lewis-Brown, Kirwan Price
No: 0	None

CITY COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

4. 25-473 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING – ARC GATEWAY FOR SENIOR ENRICHMENT PROGRAM OFFERED TO SENIOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.

Park and Recreation Assistant Director, Tonya Byrd, approached the board stating that there would be no presentation from ARC during this meeting. Assistant Director Byrd also mentioned that this MOU is something that will be brought before the council and offered to bring it back to the Parks and Recreation Board for review at the next meeting. Assistant Director Byrd informed the board that the program is one that has been ongoing but just needed an updated MOU in place.

Chairperson Borden inquired if there is an ability for ARC Gateway to expand their services outside of the Bayview Resource Center. Assistant Director Byrd responded by stating that there was opportunity to expand.

Chairperson Borden inquired to the board members if they believe a representative from ARC should come present at the next meeting. A discussion ensued. The board agreed on a presentation schedule for new and reoccurring MOUs.

OPEN FORUM

A member of the Woodland Heights Neighborhood Association, Walter Wallace, approached the board.

Mr. Wallace inquired about getting a clear understanding of why money was being moved from the parks' budget to accommodate needs at the community centers. Mr. Wallace also inquired about parking at the Woodland Heights Community Center. A discussion ensued. Assistant Director Byrd gave an overview of how the money was distributed.

Vice Chair Brown inquired if the information about the feasibility and parking had been shared with the neighborhood association. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

Board Member Lewis-Brown inquired if storm water is a function of Parks and Recreation. Assistant Director Byrd responded by stating that storm water is a function of Public Works.

An open discussion ensued. The board agreed to add Mr. Wallace's concerns on the agenda for the next meeting so they could discuss them further.

5. 25-472 PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

6. 25-450 PARKS PRESENTATION - BILL KIMBALL

Bill Kimball, Parks Division Manager, brought before the board a presentation providing an overview of the parks' functions and operations.

Members of the board expressed their appreciation of the upkeep of the parks and fields. Kimball responded accordingly.

Chairperson Borden inquired about the new employee on the parks' team. Kimball responded accordingly.

Chairperson Borden also commented on the budget increase for the department. Kimball responded by stating most of the increase was going towards the landscaping contracts. A discussion ensued.

Board Member Blankenship inquired about the updates on Granada Park. Kimball responded accordingly.

Board Member Lewis-Brown inquired about the duties of the contractors. Kimball responded by stating he could give Miss Stroman the information to provide to the board.

Vice Chair Brown inquired about neighborhood associations adopting parks. Assistant Director Byrd responded by informing the board of the Park Stewardship Agreement and volunteer program.

Board Member Lewis-Brown inquired if young students could collect volunteer hours through the Stewardship Agreement. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7. 25-449 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Interim Director Shanaghan opened the floor for any questions regarding the Director's Report.

No questions were asked.

Assistant Director Byrd stated that the Director's Report had a new format that allowed it to be more easily digested. Assistant Director Byrd also stated that the new style format will also be emailed out to the board members monthly before each meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

8. 25-475 DIRECTION '25 - PRIORITY LIST

Board Member Blankenship commented that Granada Park should be at the top of the priority list. Board Member Blankenship also inquired how the budget was spent for Granada Park to only have two swings left. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

Chairperson Borden inquired how the board/City of Pensacola could help appease the members of the neighborhood in regard to Granada Park. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

Chairperson Borden inquired about the deals on the playground equipment. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

Board Member Williams inquired about the press box at Roger Scott. Board Member Blankenship commented on the work being done to the top of the press box, without working on the bottom structure beforehand. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

Assistant Director Byrd also stated that an assessment of the wildlife in that area will be done soon.

Chairperson Borden inquired about the date of completion of the press box project. Assistant Director Byrd stated the project should be completed around June.

Board Member Blankenship inquired about the sun canopy for the bleachers. Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

Vice Chair Brown commented about seeing the funding sources on the list and how it helped clarify where the budget came from and where it would be applied.

OPEN FORUM

None.

CALL FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

WHEREUPON the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.
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