City of Pensacola

Parks & Recreation Board

Agenda

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

January 16, 2024, 10:00 AM **Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor**

The meeting can be watched via live stream at cityofpensacola.com/video.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 23-1160 MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2023, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Recommendation:

Sponsors:

Attachments: *Minutes of December 19, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. 23-1161 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Attachments: *Director's Report Parks and Recreation Board*

STAFF REPORTS

3. 23-1162 ATHLETICS - CHERYL FOX

Attachments: *None*

4. 23-1163 BUDGET - KENDRA WEEKLEY

Attachments: *PR Board Financial Summary Q1*
Youth Sports Lease Payments 2023

NEW BUSINESS

5. 24-62 PENSACOLA YOUTH SOCCER - PHIL NICKENSON

Attachments: *None*

OLD BUSINESS

OPEN FORUM

6. 24-79 PARKS & RECREATION BOARD REPORT - JANUARY 2024

Attachments: *PR Board for Agenda Conference 16 January 2024_*
Summary talking points for the City Council meeting regarding our board

ADJOURNMENT

The City of Pensacola adheres to the Americans with Disabilities Act and will make reasonable accommodations for access to City services, programs and activities. Please call 850-435-1606 (or TDD 850-435-1666) for further information. Request must be made at least 48 hours in advance of the event in order to allow the City time to provide the requested services.

File #: 23-1160 Parks and Recreation Board 1/16/2024

ACTION ITEM

SUBJECT:

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2023, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Minutes of December 19, 2023, Parks and Recreation Board

City of Pensacola

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

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

December 19, 2023 | 10:00 AM | ~~Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor~~ Whibbs Conference Room - 1st Floor

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Hicks at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rand Hicks, Renee Borden, Antonio Bruni, Leah Harrison, Michael C. Wolf, Kristin Brown, Jake Renfroe

Members Absent: Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, John Jerralds

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 23-1004 MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 21, 2023, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

A motion to approve was made by Parks & Recreation Board Member Renfroe and seconded by Parks and Recreation Board Member Bruni.

The motion Passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 Rand Hicks, Renee Borden, Antonio Bruni, Jake Renfroe, Kristin Brown, Leah Harrison, Michael C. Wolf

No: 0 None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. 23-1005 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chairperson Hicks welcomed and introduced the new Park and Recreation Director, Ben Heistein who comes from the city of Dallas, Texas. Director Heistein has many accomplishments to his credit. He attended and received his degree at the University of California Santa Cruz and has received training at Cabrillo College. He has a background in horticulture as an arborist and the maintenance and survey of structural issues within the Parks and Recreation system.

Director Heistein spoke briefly to board members and recognized Assistant Director, Byrd for serving as Interim for Parks and Recreation Department.

Director Heistein briefed the board with an update regarding the Wayside Park project. This project has been going on for many years with damage from Hurricane Ivan and Hurricane Sally and his understanding from a couple of meetings he attended is that some funding is available from FEMA in the amount of $600,000 for repairs to the seawall. The estimates received have been around $3 million dollars, but it does not address any needs for the park for rehabilitation to pavilions or amenities. Because we need another $2.5 million dollars, we are looking for other funding sources. The last meeting we had was with the county where we discussed the possibilities of Restore funds, which are locally available funds distributed by the county commissioner's office. We are looking for other grant opportunities. We may handle the project as a remediation project to do park improvements to mitigate against further diasters. The county is moving forward to repairing the fishing bridge. Construction will start this summer.

Chairperson Hicks spoke regarding the Sun Trail grant. He shared with board members the scope of the 1st phase, which would redesign Bayfront Parkway to begin around 14th Avenue and continue to Tarragonna Street. It would include putting a multi-modal path at least 10 feet wide to accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians, narrowing the median in the middle of the road, and putting in protected bike lanes. This would then pick up on the other side and continue to E Street. We will begin to see a complete street for the first time in Pensacola with the blessing of FDOT. This project may be a year away from funding. A number of organizations have come forward to stand with the mayor to say we fully support this. Along with this project, there will be the addition of a restroom built at Veterans Memorial Park.

STAFF REPORTS

3. 23-1006 ROGER SCOTT TENNIS CENTER - BROCK SAKEY

Brock Sakey, Tennis Director at Roger Scott Tennis Center brought before the board a presentation (on file with background material) providing an overview of the operation and programs at the Roger Scott Tennis Center.
Chairperson Hicks asked if the wheelchair tournament will be returning after the construction is complete. Tennis Director, Sakey responded, yes, our goal is to get it back with the approval from the United States Tennis Association. They have the circuit and the tour dates.

Some follow-up discussion took place with board members asking questions which Tennis Director, Sakey responded accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

OLD BUSINESS

4. 23-1059 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Assistant Director Tonya Byrd addressed the board to give some clarification on budget questions from past board meetings. Assistant Director Byrd reported that the fees collected for fiscal year 2023 from the youth sports organizations were: Bill Bond Baseball - $2,690.00 for Spring season, Pensacola Youth Soccer - $9,980.00 for Spring and Fall season, and NEP Football - $2,880.00 for Fall season.

Assistant Director Byrd addressed the question of why revenue was down for Community Maritime Park, explaining this is a result of fewer special events taking place due to scheduling conflicts with the Wahoos' baseball schedule.

Vice-Chair Borden asked what percentage of the organizations leasing the Community Maritime Park are non-profits who receive a discount on fees. Should we suggest another location for their events to try to offset the maintenance cost? Assistant Director Byrd responded she could get the data on that and bring it back next month.

Some follow-up discussion took place with board members asking questions to which Assistant Director Byrd responded accordingly.

OPEN FORUM

Chairperson Hicks announced to board members the Annual Report from the Parks and Recreation Board will go to the agenda conference meeting on January 16th. The Parks and Recreation board will be given a draft of the annual report at the next Parks and Recreation board meeting on January 16th. Chairperson Hicks read a summary of the annual report and summarized the details that will be included in the report. Member Renfroe asked if the annual report could be added to January's agenda packet. Chairperson Hicks stated he will concur with Council Executive Kraher.

Member Bruni asked if we could have the youth sports providers present to the board those that have a MOU with the city to give an update on their leagues and to get clarification on the fees required at registration. Chairperson Hicks asked Assistant Director Byrd for a list of the current youth sports providers to be given to him.

Member Renfroe questioned why the city does not have or is trying to keep up with the demand for pickleball. Director Heistein spoke regarding his experience when deciding to capitalize on the demand for pickleball, and that there are pros and cons that need to be addressed before moving forward and installing the courts, e.g. noise, parking, location, conflicts with tennis players.

Member Bruni stated that Hitzman Park is a hot spot for professional disc golfers. World Champion Paige Pierce and Professional Disc Golfer Calvin Heimburg played at Hitzman Park last week.

ADJOURNMENT

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 16, 2024

PARKS UPDATES:

- Miraflores Park – Ground penetrating radar and historic human remains complete. Currently reviewing draft report.
- Roger Scott Tennis Courts – Construction Phase; Acrylic/Striping to begin mid-January. Shade and benches being specked out as supplemental project.

ATHLETICS UPDATES:

- Vickrey Center Youth Basketball League registration has closed. Ages 5 - 14 yr. Practices have started. Games start late January.
- Vickery Center Youth Girls Volleyball League registration has started & will continue through Feb. 23rd.
- Vickery Center Cornerstone Martial Arts, Yoshukai Karate & Shotokan Karate classes are all currently registering new students.
- Winter Break Camp for school age children was held December 21, 2023, through January 5, 2024.
- Adult Sports - Fall Season continues with Co-Ed Kickball, Men's Softball, Senior Men's Softball and Co-Ed Softball Leagues at Exchange Park; 650 Participants - 42 Teams.
- Adult Sports - Ultimate Frisbee League registration has started for the Spring Season at Exchange Park.
- Pensacola Youth Soccer League registration has started for the Spring Season.
- Bill Bond T- Ball & Baseball League registration has started for the Spring Season.

MARKETING UPDATES:

- Ongoing Promotional Advertisement Winter Activities and Programs

RECREATION UPDATES:

Bayview Senior Center

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 16, 2024

- United Way RSVP hosted Snacking with Senior: Tall Things Tax Aide - Friday, January 5th. Seniors enjoyed a snack and learned the necessary tax aide information. Mike Eveland, Financial Stability Manager at the United Way of West Florida explored the topics while snacking with seniors. Sponsored by the AmeriCorps Seniors Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In addition, the topic of securing a Power of Attorney was covered. Information was provided on where to go to get free tax preparation assistance for low to moderate income families through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

- Intergenerational Program: Sacred Heart Catholic School - Friday, January 12th. Developed to help mend the gap between youth and older populations. The more time spent together, the better everyone gets to know each other and understand where we are in life. The Silent Generation and the Gen Z/Alpha Generation quite possibly have the most dramatic difference in the world around the during their formative years. Youth periodically attend field trips to the Senior Center to interact with each other. This month's interaction will take place during Friday Picker's group.

- Pensacola Opera Trip - Sunday, January 28th. Held at the Saenger Theatre, tickets are offered for sale at a discounted group rate. Bayview staff provides transportation with department vehicles to and from the theatre.

Cobb Center

- Winter Break Camp- January 2-5. School age children can play, enjoy time with friends, and create memories while school is out for the holidays.

- City of Pensacola Alpha Elite Youth Basketball League- January to March. Teams range in ages from 6U to 12U. This is a recreational league.

- Reading Program-Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reading with a purpose is offered during after school hours. The program enriches and enhances the youth in 2nd to 5th grades in areas most needed. Emphasis is placed on comprehension.

Sanders Beach-Corinne Jones

- Rentals this month include weddings, banquets, awards ceremonies, Mardi Gras balls, and luncheons, with a total of 12 events.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 16, 2024

- American Creosote Workers Public Meeting- January 18 from 5:30-7 pm. The Sanders Beach Homeowners Association will host the annual meeting with the ACW as the main topic. Additional topics will include board elections, questions and answers about the neighborhood, and Peter Thorpe will be addressing ongoing topics with the ACW superfund site.

Bayview Center and Outdoor Pursuits

- Fishing and Archery Day Camp- January 15th.

- Yoga in the Park returns the first Sunday of each month at 9:30am starting in January.

Fricker Center

- The after-school program has started back.

- Pensacola Parks and Recreation Table Tennis Association Tournament - January 13th.

- City of Pensacola Alpha Elite Youth Basketball League- January to March. Teams range in ages from 6U to 12U. This is a recreational league.

Woodland Heights Center

- City of Pensacola Alpha Elite Youth Basketball League- January to March. Teams range in ages from 6U to 12U. This is a recreational league.

- We will be the host site for the Northwest Community Resource Council Meetings.

Gull Point Center

- The after-school program has started back up.

- Session three of the dance program has begun. Dancers are busy learning techniques and dances as they prepare for the end of the year recital that takes place around Mother's Day annually.

CITY OF PENSACOLA

Parks & Recreation Department

Athletics Division

Rec Board Presentation
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

PLAY PENSACOLA™ PARKS & RECREATION

ATHLETICS MISSION STATEMENT

- To provide exceptional community-based Athletic programs for all ages, by valuing integrity in our actions, providing quality service to all participants, and offering a safe and well maintained playing environment, where our customers can gather for a fun and enjoyable experience.

ATHLETICS STAFF

- Administration
  - Cheryl Fox
    - Athletic Superintendent
  - Maggie Lochas
    - Athletics Supervisor

- Vickrey Center
  - Justin Paul
    - Athletic Supervisor
  - _____
    - Program Specialist
- Exchange Park
  - Mike DeSorbo
    - Athletic Supervisor

25+ Support Staff:
Referees, umpires, rec-aides, scorekeepers, facility maintenance specialists, administrative assistants

FACILITIES & PARKS

- Athletic Fields (18)
  - Armstrong Park
  - Catalonia Square
  - Dunwoody Park
  - EPH Lions Park
  - Fairchild Park
  - Hollis T. Williams
  - Kiwanis Park
  - Mallory Heights #1
  - Mallory Heights #2
  - Mirralla Park
  - Morris Court Park
  - Park Circle
  - Pintado Park
  - Scenic Heights Park
  - Spring Dale Park
  - Tippin Park
  - Woodcliff Park
  - Zamora Square

FACILITIES, PARKS, & COMPLEXES

- Athletic Parks & Complex (8)
  - Bill Gregory Park
  - Hitzman Optimist Park
  - Legion Field
  - Lions Park
  - Magee Field
  - Michael J. DeSorbo Exchange Park
  - Roger Scott Athletic Complex
  - Terry Wayne Park
- Aquatics
  - Cecil T. Hunter Pool
  - Roger Scott Poll
- Resource Centers
  - Vickrey Resource Center

FACILITY PROGRAMS

- Exchange Park
  - Mens Softball
    - Spring, Fall, & Winter Seasons
    - ≈ 18 Teams per season
  - Adult Co-Ed Softball
    - Spring, Fall, & Winter Seasons
    - ≈ 14 Teams per season

- Adult Kickball
  - Spring, Fall, & Winter Seasons
  - ≈ 10 Teams per season
- Ultimate Frisbee
  - February – April
  - ≈ 8 Teams per season
- Senior Softball
  - Spring & Fall Seasons
    - ≈ 6 Teams per season
  - Tuesday & Thursday
    - Fun Play

FACILITY PROGRAMS

- Exchange Park Tournaments
  - Tournaments and Special Events
    - SPA Tournaments
      - SPA Spring Women's Nation Tournament
    - USSSA Softball Tournaments
    - Grand Slam Baseball Tournaments
    - League Joe Softball Tournaments & Events
    - 1-Pitch Single Day Tournaments

FACILITY PROGRAMS

- Vickrey Resource Center
  - Youth Sports
    - Youth Basketball
      - December – February
      - 275 – 300 per season
    - Youth Volleyball
      - March – May
      - 275 – 300 per season
  - Adult Sports
    - Adult Volleyball
      - June – November
        - Open Gym
        - ≈ 30 per night
        - League Night
        - ≈ 8 Team per season
    - Adult Pickleball
      - June – November
      - ≈ 25 per night

FACILITY PROGRAMS

- Vickrey Resource Center
  - Senior Sports
    - Senior Pickleball
      - August - May
      - ≈ 25 per day
    - Senior Volleyball
      - August - May
      - ≈ 12 per day
  - Body, Mind, & Fitness
    - Shotokan Karate
      - Ages 8+
    - Yoshukai Karate
      - Ages 8+
    - Yoga with a Twist
      - Ages 18+

SUMMER CAMPS

- Chip Boes Championship Basketball Camp
- Girl's Volleyball Camp
- Challenger Soccer Camp
- Pensacola Youth Soccer Camp

ATHLETIC PARTNERSHIPS

- MOU YOUTH SPORT PROVIDERS
  - Pensacola Youth Soccer
    - Spring & Fall Leagues
  - Bill Bond Baseball
    - Spring & Fall Leagues
  - NEP Football & Cheer
    - Fall League
  - SYSA Football & Cheer
    - Fall League
  - EPSAP Football & Cheer
    - Fall League
  - EPSAP Baseball
    - Spring League

AQUATICS

- Cecil T. Hunter Pool
  - Lap Swim
  - Slides
  - Zero Entry Pool
  - Swim Meets
  - New Pool House (2023)
- Roger Scott Pool
  - Slides
  - Zero Entry Pool
  - Baby Pool
  - Restroom & Pool House
    - Construction set to begin in 2024

PENSACOLA SENIOR GAMES

- 21 Different Events & Games
  - Tennis, golf, corn hole, pickleball, swimming, bocce, bowling, track & field, volleyball, basketball
  - New to 2023: Murbles
- Athletes 50+
- Annually every September
- Pensacola boasts numerous Gold Medalist for the Florida Senior Games and the National Senior Games
- First Pensacola Senior Games: 1990
  - Celebrating 32 Years of Games in 2024
    - Missing only 2004 & 2020 due to Ivan & Sally

PARKS AND RECREATION
REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT
Fiscal Year 2024, 1st Quarter
Period 3, December 31, 2023

	Fiscal Yr 2024			Fiscal Yr 2023			Fiscal Yr 2022		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PCT RCVD	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PCT RCVD	BUDGET	ACTUAL	PCT RCVD
REVENUES									
Culture & Recreation General Fund	$ 28,000	$ 34,685	124%	$ 28,000	$ 23,462	84%	$ 28,000	$ 13,226	47%
Golf Course Fund	798,300	200,422	25%	621,700	156,659	25%	534,700	159,070	30%
Recreation/Athletic Fund	959,600	201,769	21%	1,155,100	187,318	16%	1,148,300	142,424	12%
Tennis Fund	128,800	42,647	33%	128,800	42,627	33%	128,800	31,250	24%
Community Maritime Prk Mgmt Svc Fund	1,025,500	96,088	9%	752,300	(321,926)	-43%	782,400	46,350	6%
TOTAL REVENUE REPORT	2,940,200	575,611	20%	2,685,900	88,139	3%	2,622,200	392,320	15%

EXPENDITURES	BUDGET	ACTUAL (Exp/Enc)	PCT EXP	BUDGET	ACTUAL (Exp/Enc)	PCT EXP	BUDGET	ACTUAL (Exp/Enc)	PCT EXP
Parks and Recreation General Fund	$ 8,793,800	$ 2,335,739	27%	$ 8,162,568	$ 2,381,341	29%	$ 7,796,172	$ 2,101,048	27%
Golf Course Fund	1,048,300	311,625	30%	872,600	247,068	28%	810,709	222,834	27%
Recreation/Athletic Fund	998,800	283,126	28%	1,256,900	199,768	16%	1,314,423	219,107	17%
Tennis Fund	128,800	29,980	23%	128,800	26,848	21%	137,705	22,280	16%
Community Maritime Prk Mgmt Svc Fund [(a)]	870,000	427,268	49%	960,752	214,609	22%	1,348,550	214,400	16%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE REPORT	11,839,700	3,387,737	29%	11,381,620	3,069,635	27%	11,407,559	2,779,669	24%

NOTES: Culture & Rec Gen Fund Rev due to Special Event increase

Period percentage: 25%

Athletic Fees Collected in 2023 (Under New Lease Format)

		FY23		FY23		FY24				
Youth Sports Organization	**Location**	**Spring Payment**	**Date**	**Summer Payment**	**Date**	**Fall Payment**	**Date**	**Total Collected YTD**		**Lease Renewal Date**
Pensacola Youth Soccer	Hitzman	$8,860	6/22/2023	$870	8/15/2023	$8,860	10/19/2023	$18,590		5/5/2024
Bill Bond Baseball/Tball	Roger Scott	$2,690	7/31/2023	0	NA	$2,130	10/11/2023	$4,820		4/3/2024
NEP Football	Roger Scott	0	NA	0	NA	$2,880	11/22/2023	$2,880		10/19/2024
SYSA -Football	Legion Field	0	NA	0	NA	$0		$0		5/15/2024
EPSAP-Baseball	Bill Gregory/Raymond Riddle	0		0		$0		$0		4/3/2024
EPSAP - Football	Magee Field	0		0		$0		$0		4/3/2024
		$11,550		**$870**		**$13,870**		**$26,290**		

File #: 24-62 | Parks and Recreation Board | 1/16/2024

PRESENTATION

SUBJECT:

PENSACOLA YOUTH SOCCER - PHIL NICKINSON

ATTACHMENTS:

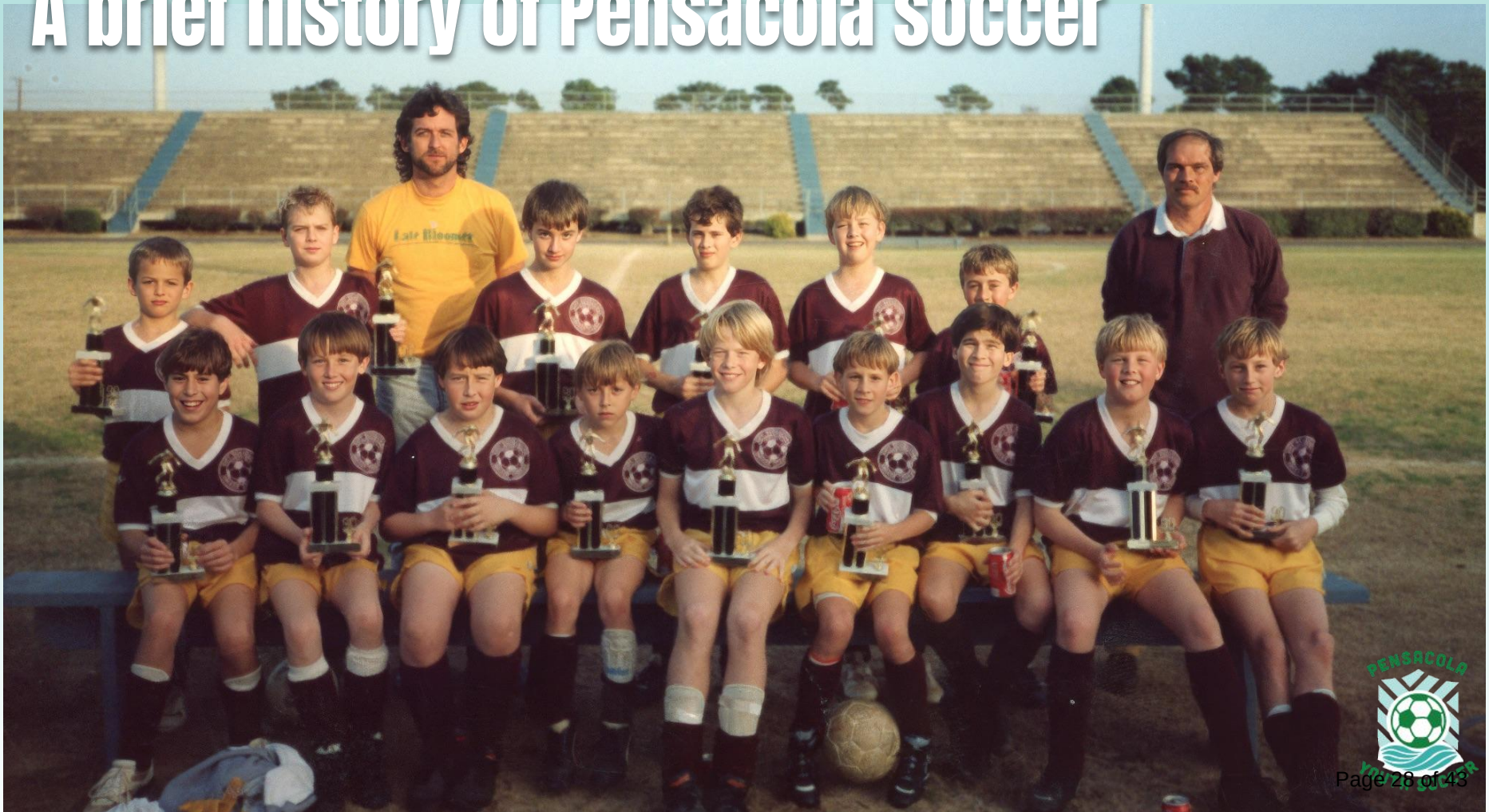
1. Pensacola Youth Soccer 2024

Pensacola Youth Soccer

Jan. 16, 2024 — Parks & Rec Board

PensacolaYouthSoccer.com

A brief history of Pensacola soccer



A brief history

- Led by Dave Werdung from 2010 until retiring from the league in the spring of 2020.
- Pensacola Youth Soccer, Inc. formed as a nonprofit in February 2019. Received 501(c)(3) status in February 2020.

The Pensacola Youth Soccer Board

The current all-volunteer board of Pensacola Youth Soccer:

- Phil Nickinson (President)
- Robert Jones (Vice President)
- Michele Coleman (Treasurer)
- Travis Peterson (Secretary)
- Josh Hadden
- Scott Jernigan
- Anne MacDonald
- Chuntell Patterson
- Trumaine Polk
- Ben Telega
- Jackie Weis

Pensacola Youth Soccer mission

- PYS provides safe and FUN recreational soccer for boys and girls in U5 to U15 age groups.
- League remains affordable.
- Introduction to the game and a stepping stone to competitive ball.
- Volunteer coaches with opportunity for education.
- Paid referees and Junior Referees

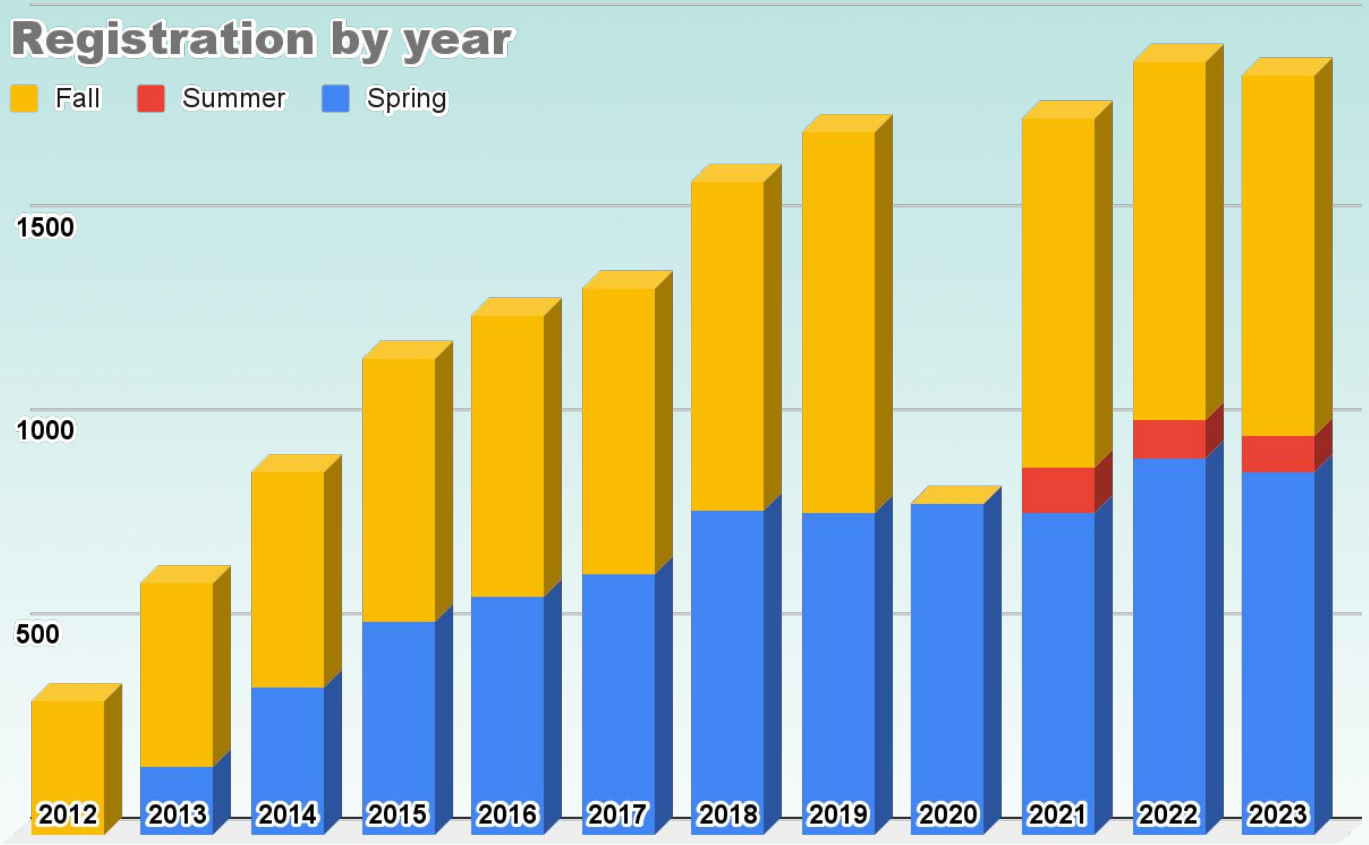
The basics

- U5/U6 co-ed age groups ($85).
- U10, U12, U15 gendered age groups ($100).
- Full uniform costs $35, can be used for multiple seasons
- Financial assistance available
- Donation boxes for gear, uniforms

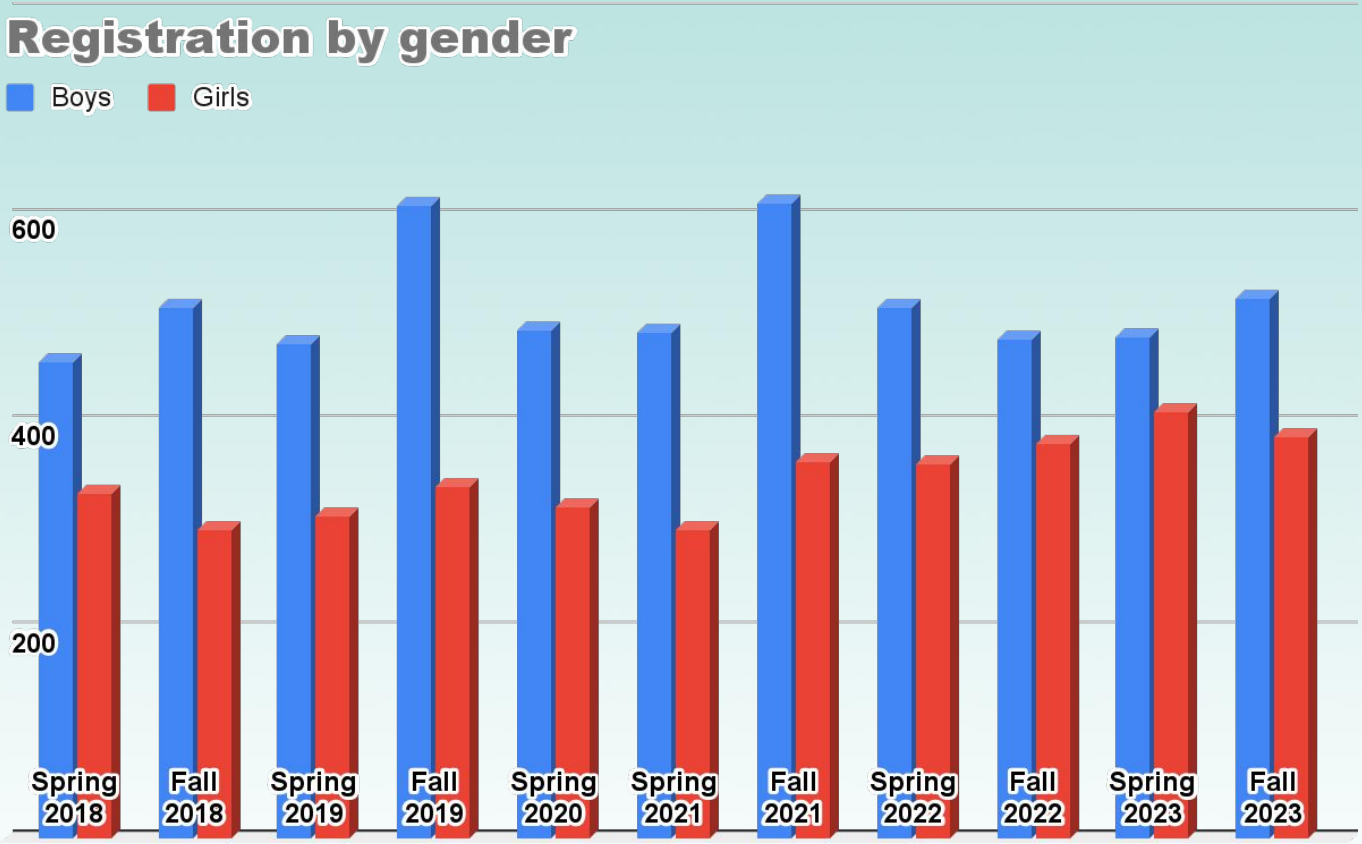
New in 2023

- Contracted with Chris Hester as League Manager for day-to-day operations
    - President/CEO YMCA in Tuscaloosa 2006-2010
- Participated in County All-Star Tournament
- CPR class for coaches in spring
- Purchased AED for Hitzman building
- Summer clinics at Bill Gregory
- Clinics at resource centers

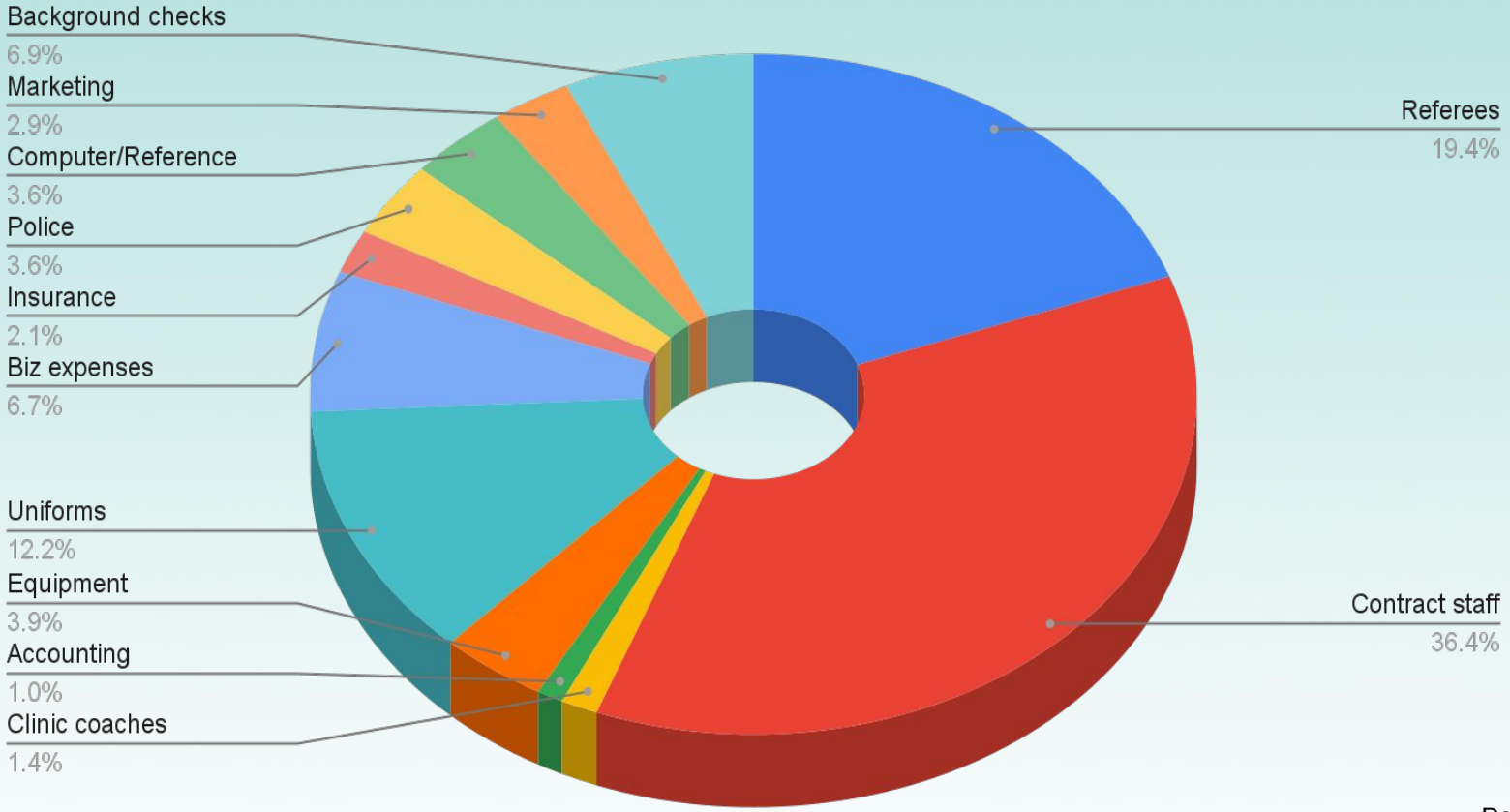
By the numbers

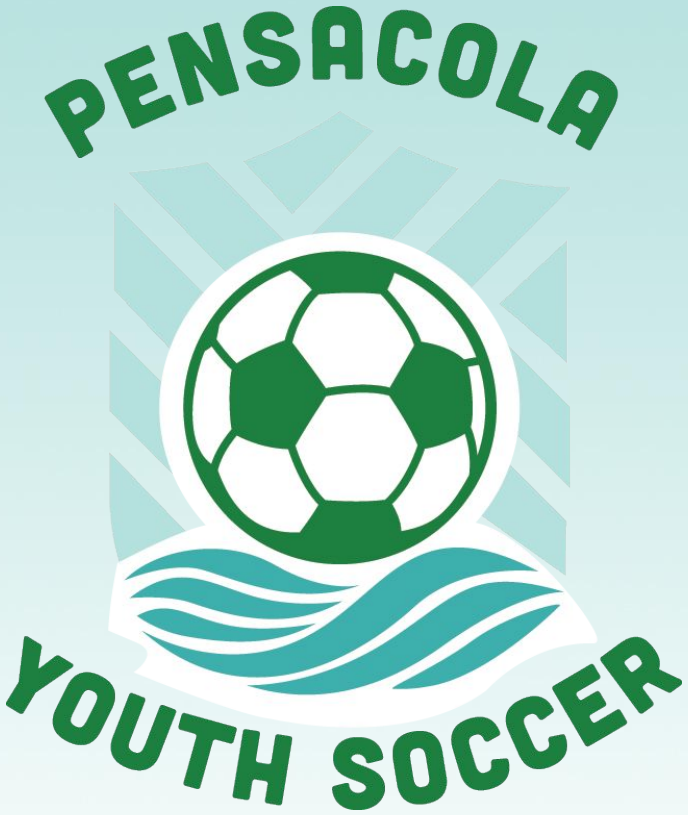


By the numbers



Major expenses in 2023

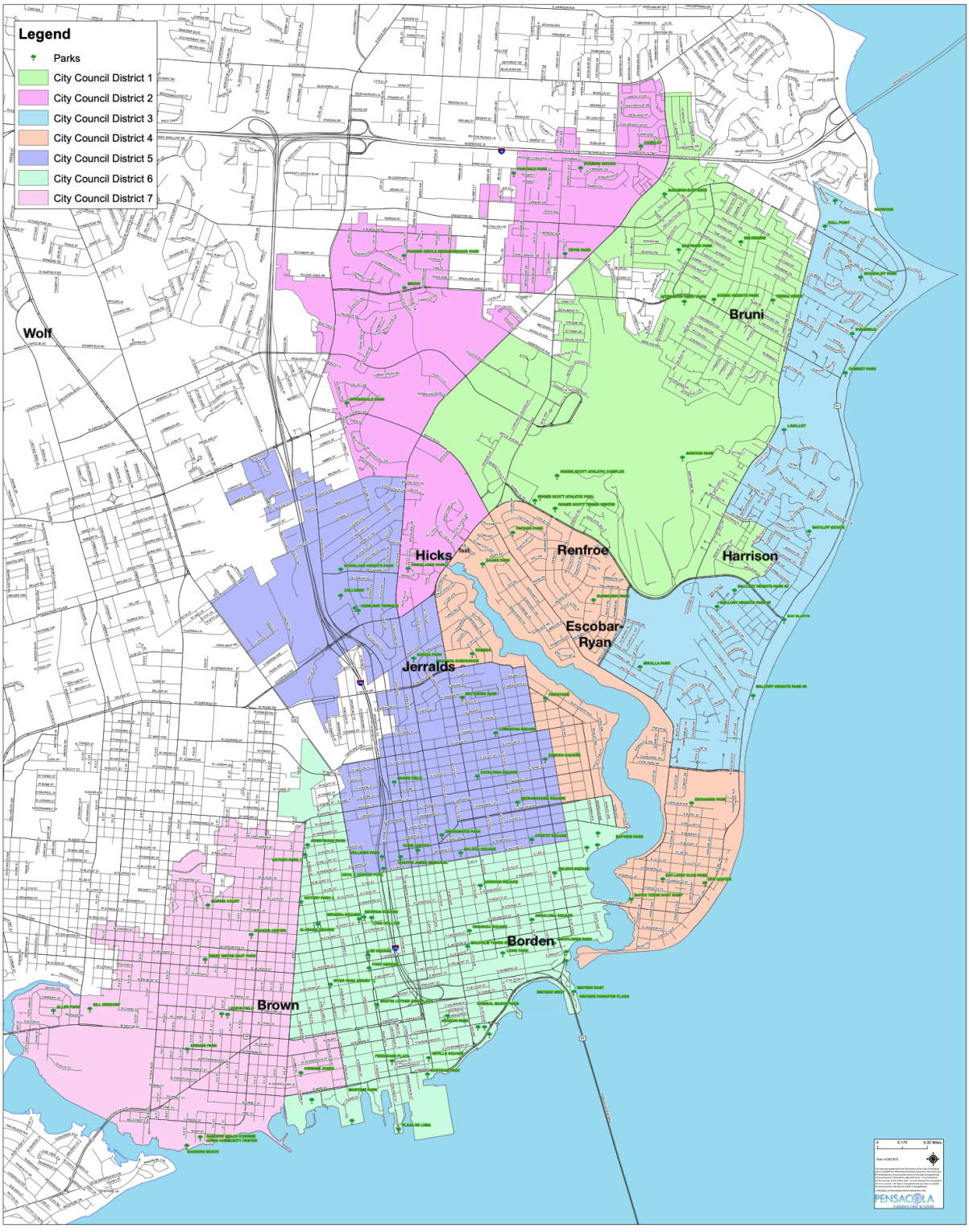



PENSACOLA
YOUTH SOCCER

Parks & Recreation Board Report

January 2024

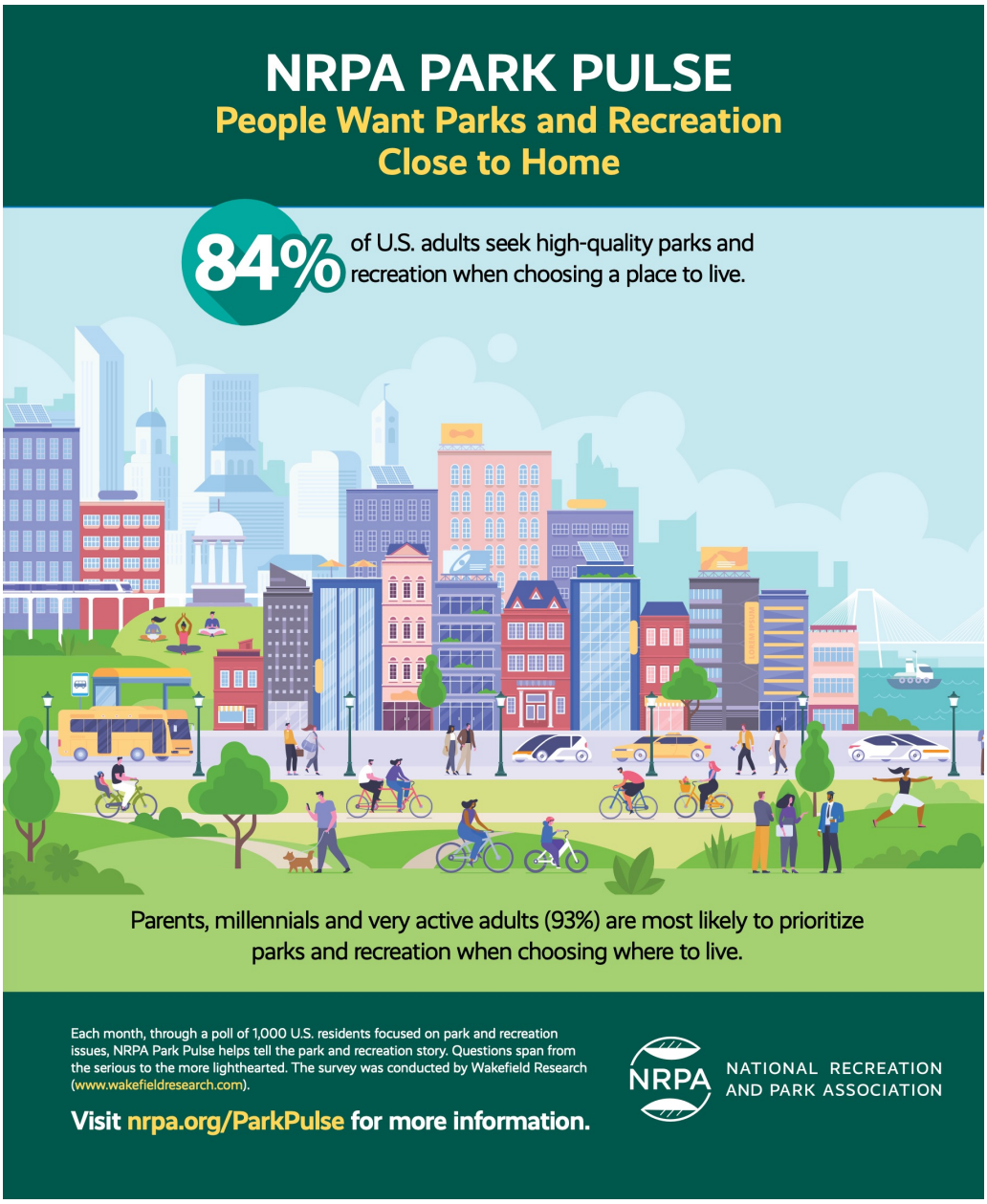
Districts, Parks, and Board Members



By the Numbers

$11.8 million dollar budget — 93 parks across 595 acres
10 resource centers
8 athletic facilities
maintenance of all facilities and amenities

P&R offers soccer, skateboard, football, baseball, swimming, golf, tennis, kayaking, pickleball, disc golf, dance, yoga, art, senior activities, outdoor expeditions, a wide assortment of special events, and Wellness in the Park! Check out Play Pensacola on our City website.



The P&R board in 2023 . . .

•received regular reports from all departments within P&R, reviewing finances, activities, the state of facilities and amenities, levels of participation

•reviewed the developing progress of youth sports providers and looked closely at existing M.O.U.s and noted the rise of newer sports (pickleball, etc.)

•in addition to our monthly meetings, we attended park dedications, met with our citizens in parks across the City, responded to their emails and phone calls, participated in town halls, and attended more than 30 neighborhood association meetings

•the board frequently focused on the equitable distribution of our resources and the maintenance of all our facilities

Where we're going . . .

•We endorse a master plan to comprehensively assess P&R assets and needs, engage the public, identify areas of growing interest and opportunity, put light on neglected areas, reassign and balance resources, and build equity. Its long vision could anticipate coming changes and put us a step ahead

Note that a master plan insures a broad and deep data-driven analysis of our park system, brings together and integrates all stakeholders—the Administration, the Council, the P&R Department, the P&R board, and most importantly our Citizens. A master plan lets them tell us what they want and need at around the cost of a playground

•Our park system will further build Pensacola's rising identity, improve our health, and add joy.

Summary talking points for the City Council meeting regarding our board's work

It should be a five-to-ten-minute presentation with questions after. Obviously, I'm leaving out from the notes the materials (visual/factual) we'd use from NRPA publications and data sets from reports staff made to us over the year.

•The Parks and Recreation Board consists of 9 members who represent the City of Pensacola. They are nominated by either City Council members or the mayor and are approved by a Council vote. Currently, each of the seven districts has at least one board member. [See map for the districts, board members, and parks.] Our board should consist of members who represent Pensacola as a whole and include minorities and those with physical disabilities.

•From the Code: "Members of the parks and recreation board shall engage with the citizens of Pensacola and be liaisons to the public, participate in city events, attend neighborhood meetings, and encourage recreational activities across our park system. The parks and recreation board shall review developing plans and budgets and advise and make recommendations to the city council with timely reports and shall advise the mayor on matters concerning the establishment, maintenance and operation of parks and recreational activities within the city. The board, based on informed review, shall also provide input to staff, council and mayor on master plan updates and improvements, and policy development for the use of recreational facilities." [Emphasis added.]

•So to engage, review, and then report to Administration and Council is what we do. Under engagement, beyond attending the monthly board meetings, we connect with the public by attending neighborhood association meetings, visiting our people in the parks, attending park dedications and town hall events, and being generally available to citizens by phone and email.

•We receive monthly reports from different supervisors and staff, including the Director, Assistant Director, various Supervisors. In that way, every aspect of the park system is regularly reviewed from upkeep to state of facilities and amenities and how our finances are running. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) are also reviewed regularly. Questions and concerns from board members and citizens are addressed during these monthly meetings.

•The board has an existential interest in maintaining our facilities and amenities and balancing the needs of the whole community. Equity in the distribution and placement of our assets is key. In the last year, we have benefited hugely from the print and online publications of the NRPA (and each board member is now a member of NRPA). Those resources establish nationwide context and better enable us to evaluate where we are.

•A recurrent theme in our board meetings is the City's need to develop a master plan with which we can assess where we are and where we are going. Master plans have a price tag, but they enable us to see where we are missing engagement, where the rising sports and recreational activities are, how we can best deploy our dollars for the health and happiness of our community. The administration and council have both indicated their interest in moving dynamically towards a master plan.

•We note that 2023 has been a year of change for the Parks & Recreation Department. With the placement of a permanent director, Ben Heistein, we anticipate galvanized action on all fronts.