



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