



City of Pensacola

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

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

February 20, 2024

10:00 AM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Rand Hicks, Antonio Bruni, Jake Renfroe, Kristin Brown, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Leah Harrison

Members Absent: Renee Borden, John Jerralds, Michael C. Wolf

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 24-109 MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 Rand Hicks, Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Antonio Bruni, Jake Renfroe, Kristin Brown, Leah Harrison

No: 0 None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. 24-110 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Heistein addressed the board highlighting the Roger Scott Tennis Courts. He commented the project is complete and held a soft opening on February 9th. There will be a grand re-opening ribbon cutting event tentatively in May pending

the installation of permanent shade structures. He asked the board if they had questions regarding the Director's Report.

Member Esobar-Ryan remarked that communication has not been available for the public to understand what is to take place after the demolition of the Malcolm Yonge Gym whether it is to be developed as residential space or keep it as green space. Director Heisten commented that these conversations are happening in the CRA meetings. A discussion will take place at the next CRA meeting regarding the use of the park and these meetings are open to the public.

Member Brown commented she had received feedback from the Westside Garden District Neighborhood Association that there is concern regarding a drainage issue for the splash pad at Legion Field. She questioned if the work to address the issue would be a neighborhood project and/or in conjunction with parks and recreation. Also, there are concerns about security and undesirable behavior occurring on the playground equipment. The neighborhood association would like to have more public activities available at the center, e.g. yoga, a fitness center. Director Heisten responded we could have a meeting to discuss with SYSA and the neighborhood association regarding the issues and opportunities available.

STAFF REPORTS

3. 24-128 GROUND PENETRATING RADAR PROJECT AT MIRAFLORES -
ADRIANNE WALKER

Historic Preservation Planner, Adrienne Walker brought before the board a presentation (on file with background material) providing a historical timeline and report on the Miraflores Burial Ground Study and the Ground Penetrating Radar Survey.

Member Bruni asked if additional surveying would be needed? Historic Preservation Planner, Walker replied they were able to survey the entire park. The survey is complete.

Member Escobar-Ryan asked what the findings were under 16th Avenue? Historic Preservation Planner replied it did not appear to have any burials there.

Member Esobar-Ryan asked what is the best practice for a situation like this? Will there be removal or a way to honor the burials? Historic Preservation Planner, Walker replied that the best practice for archaeology of a city owned property that is open to the public that preservation and protection would be the utmost importance. At this time, the City does not intend to dig to determine if the burials are there.

NEW BUSINESS

4. 24-126 BILL BOND SPORTS LEAGUE, INC - STEPHEN CLARKE

Stephan Clark, President of Bill Bond Sports League, Inc., brought before the board a presentation (on file with background material) providing an overview of the Bill Bond Baseball League.

Member Bruni thanked Stephan Clark for coming in and presenting to the board providing transparency and explaining the revenue and expenditure breakdown to run the league.

5. 24-108 EAST PENSACOLA STUDENT ATHLETE PROGRAM - KENDRICK JOHNSON

Kendrick Johnson, President of East Pensacola Student Athlete Program, brought before the board an overview of the East Pensacola Student Athlete Program. He introduced Vice-President Deathera Forbes to the board, who has been with the East Pensacola Student Athlete Program for 15 years. This is the first year that President Johnson has served as president. This is where he played baseball as a young boy, and coached for 4 years, beginning in 2021. President Johnson stated the program's mission is to provide the students with the knowledge and skills to excel in sports as well as educate, mentor, and assist them in everyday life skills. Currently, the program offers football and baseball, and is experimenting with basketball but is having a hard time finding access to a gym.

The East Pensacola Rattlers Football Team has 5 teams ranging from ages 5 to 14. Mighty Mites is the youngest age group, 5-6, and then Mini Mites, age group 7-8. Next, the Mites age group 9-10, next, the Midgets age group 11-12 and Juniors age group 13-14. The goal is to have up to 8 coaches per team. Registration fee for football is \$150.00, which will include the uniform, the MOU to the City, miscellaneous expenses, and food for the students.

The East Pensacola baseball program will play games on the fields at Raymond Riddle and Bill Gregory. This program is new and is growing. It has only been around 4 years. Registration for baseball is \$145.00, which includes the uniform, the MOU to the City, miscellaneous expenses, and food for the students.

The program anticipates to scholarship 80% of the 270 students this year. Past sponsorships to the program have been through the Goodmans, the Levins, Ray's Soul City. To help raise funds, the program will have several fundraisers throughout the year e.g., shake the can, popcorn fundraisers, and on-line fundraisers. Last year the Escambia County Sheriff Department put on a kickball Tournament. The East Pensacola Rattlers Football Team participates in the Pensacola Soul Bowl which is their biggest event for the program.

President Johnson referenced the house that was purchased three years ago by the City near Magee Field that was to be renovated for the program as a place to tutor students on life skills and teach different components of sports.

Member Bruni thanked President Johnson for coming in and providing transparency to the board.

Member Escobar-Ryan asked if they had applied for grants from organizations. Vice President Forbes commented that the program has put together a fund raising committee to help with apply for grants. Member Esobar-Ryan asked what the board can do to help. Vice President Forbes commented that the house that was purchased for tutoring to get it up and running would help.

6. 24-245 DISC GOLF INITIATIVE - CHAIRPERSON HICKS

Chairperson Hicks brought before the board a presentation (on file with background materials) regarding the possibility of implementing a number of disc golf test holes in the City Parks. Director Heistein added that after a couple of preliminary discussions, the next step would be to formalize an agreement with Cyclovia and bring the proposed agreement and proposed layouts to Mayor Reeves.

OLD BUSINESS

OPEN FORUM

Sherri Myers: Referenced Coach Johnson's comment regarding the field house at Magee Field that the city had purchased is still not being used and made a recommendation that this become a top priority of the board. She then addressed the board regarding the Tippin Park community and schools. She has been working on Tippin Park for over 15 years to try to get that park improved and for it to become a venue for children with disabilities. There are two public schools in the vicinity of Tippin Park: Holm Elementary and Workman Middle. She indicated both schools have a high population of minorities who are eligible for free lunches and who have severe disabilities. In the vicinity of these schools, there are no community centers and no athletic fields.

ADJOURNMENT