



City of Pensacola

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

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

March 19, 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, Renee Borden, Antonio Bruni, John Jerralds

Members Absent: Alejandra Escobar-Ryan, Jake Renfro, Kristin Brown, Leah Harrison, Michael C. Wolf

Quorum not present

OPEN FORUM

Barbara Albrecht: Addressed the Parks and Recreation Board regarding the water quality issues at Bruce Beach. Stating that during rain events with a high water tide, the outfalls carry water containing enterococcus, known as a human pathogen, to surface waters around Bruce Beach.

The Bream Fisherman Association, which has conducted water quality monitoring in Northwest Florida since the 1960s, shares the Miraflores Building along with other associations for meetings. Ms. Albrecht stated the building is in need of basic building maintenance.

To the east of Bruce Beach Park at Washer Womens Creek, she helped the Florida Native Plants Society and Audubon Society develop an environment of native trees and plants where students could learn about the environment and expressed concern over limited access to water. Volunteers would carry 5 gallon buckets of water to water the plants. She requested to be given access to water to help the volunteers with this task.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 24-257 MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 20, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. 24-258 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Heistein: Addressed the board, highlighting two new sections in the Directors' Report. The first new section is Highlighted Events. It lists upcoming events at a glance at the community centers. The second new section is Parks Planning Updates. It is to report initiatives the department is working on as well as the early stages of projects and assessments.

Vice-Chair Borden: Asked to have discussion items added to next month's agenda for the Skatespot Initiatives and the RFP Assessment.

Member Bruni: Commented he would oppose having a skatespot at Cordova Park due to the fact there are no bus stops and would want a discussion.

Director Heistein: Commented he does not have a concept design yet for the skatespots. Once we have a little more detail, we will share with the board.

Chairperson Hicks: Shared with board that in the Director's Report regarding the Skatesport Initiatives it gives the location to be considered as Cordova Park. It should state it as Cordova Square.

STAFF REPORTS

NEW BUSINESS

3. 24-272 SOUTHERN YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION, INC. - TAMMIE MAY

Lumon May: addressed the Parks and Recreation Board with an overview of Southern Youth Sports Association, Inc., a youth sports program. Mr. May shared with the board that at one time, the football program was run by the City of Pensacola but the City could not afford to run the program and supply the uniforms. Therefore, the youth sports providers had to acquire their own funding. This program is not only a sports program, but a youth development and youth delinquency program. It is a great partnership with the City for the use of its facilities. We also have collaboration with community health partners. One that we work with daily is Community Health Northwest Florida. Mr. May introduced Chandra Smiley, CEO of Community Health Northwest Florida.

Chandra Smiley: addressed the board and shared that Community Health Northwest Florida has a long-standing relationship with Southern Youth Sports Association. Community Health Northwest Florida takes care of individuals that have limited access to healthcare services. In addition to educating on the importance of healthcare.

Mr. May introduced next Dr. Joyce Hopson, Professor at Pensacola State College who coordinates the tutoring for the children.

Dr. Joyce Hopson: addressed the board and shared that she has been involved with the Southern Youth Sports Association for the past 40 years. She has helped children in the sports program through tutoring and mentoring and has coordinated volunteers with help from Pensacola State College, University of West Florida, and some high school students.

Mr. May introduced next Al Henderson, Executive Director of the Escambia Pensacola Human Relations Commission

Al Henderson: addressed the board and shared a brief overview of his long standing partnership with Southern Youth Sports Association with coaching and mentoring in the the basketball program.

Mr. May introduced Pastor Marcel Davis, Adoration For A New Beginning Church

Pastor Marcel Davis: addressed the board and shared that his partnership with the sports program is faith based to provide a healthy mindset for the youth that maybe going through difficult issues.

Mr. May introduced Apostle Bobby Watkins, Southern Youth Sports Association Board Member who has coached the sports programs for over 31 years.

Apostle Bobby Watkins: addressed the board and shared that he has sponsored 61 youth this year by paying for uniforms, providing transportation, and offering free food. He helps oversee the welfare of the youth in the sports program.

Mr. May introduced Tre Bonner who has coached the youth programs since 1999.

Tre Bonner: addressed the board and shared that he got involved with Southern Youth Sports Association following the Navy to help young people. He is involved in the ReachBack Program.

Mr. May introduced Shirley Cronley who has been the financial backbone to the organization.

Shirley Cronley: addressed the board and shared that she became involved about

26 years ago when she heard of a team who could not afford to go to regionals or nationals after winning championship. She helped raise the funds so they could attend and they did win. When the team wrote thank you letters thanking her for raising the funds for them to go she seen first hand the disparity in the community.

Mr. May concluded the presentation announcing to hopefully have the new Rafferty Center Gymnasium at Legions Field completed by next fall.

Vice-Chair Borden: Asked how long the Southern Youth Sports Association has been at the Theophalis May Resource Center?

Mr. May: responded about 15 years.

Vice-Chair Borden: Asked if the the new Rafferty Center Gymnasium will be built on city property next to the Theophalis May Resource Center?

Mr. May: responded yes, that is correct.

Vice-Chair Borden: Asked how will you accommodate the general public access to either the Theophalis May Center or the Rafferty Center.

Mr. May: responded with our partnership with City of Pensacola the City has presidence to the Theophalis May Building. We do not come into the building until after 3:00PM. It is always open to the public. We have open gym where people come in and the neighborhood association schedules the classroom next to the library. The library also runs reading programs. Most of our stuff happens on the evenings and on the weekends. The Rafferty Center will be handled the same way to be outlined within the Memorandum of Understanding.

Vice-Chair Borden: Asked if Southern Youth Sports Association paid the fee of \$10 per child per season associated with the Field Use Lease Agreement this year or in the past.

Mr. May: responded they have not. We have been in discussion with administration that we scholarship 50-60% of our kids. We get the philanthropy of donations from individuals. We just need some clarity do we still pay the fee for the ones that we scholarship. We do not ask the donor to cover this cost.

Vice-Chair Borden: Is the revenue that is brought in from the Soul Bowl games distributed out to all the organizations.

Mr. May: responded yes that is correct. Blue Wahoo quarantees a certain amount of money that is split between the two fields and whatever is raised on sponsorship, they keep that pot of money.

Vice-Chair Borden: thanked Mr. May for coming in and presenting and explaining all that is involved running the youth sports program.

Director Heistein: thanked Mr. May and his team for coming in today. He commented that we value your partnership to help run programs for the community. The new agreement we are working on will address the scholarships

and balance the services provided by our partners and have clarity for us to be able to cover the cost of maintaining the facilities and fields.

4. 24-274 NORTHEAST PENSACOLA WILDCATS FOOTBALL, INC. - SHAUN CUNNINGHAM

Cortell Cunningham: Northeast Pensacola Wildcats Football, Inc., President, brought before the board a presentation (on file with background material) providing an overview of the Northeast Pensacola Wildcats, a youth sports program affiliated with USA Football and the Heads-up Football program.

Vice-President Borden: Asked if the current number of kids is around 300? President Cunningham responded, yes, it does vary from year to year but usually between 280-300. Vice-President Borden asked how many of those 300 are scholarships? President Cunningham responded about 10-20.

Member Bruni: Asked for clarification on the cost of cheerleading. President Cunningham responded that last year we charged each child \$325. Our numbers show that each child's outfit actually costs us \$410. We were actually losing. So we increased the cost for a new cheerleader, coming in to \$440, and for returning cheerleaders, it is \$400.

Director Heistein: Addressed some issues of maintenance at Legion Field.

OLD BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT