



City of Pensacola

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

MINUTES

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

May 21, 2024

10:00 AM

Hagler-Mason, 2nd Floor

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bruni called the board meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Renee Borden, Antonio Bruni, John Jerralds,
Suzanne Lewis, Jake Renfroe, Kirwan Price

Members Absent: Michael Blankenship, Kristin Brown, Leah Harrison

OPEN FORUM

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 24-477 MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

A motion to approve was made by Parks & Recreation Board Member Lewis and seconded by Parks & Recreation Board Member Price.

The motion by the following vote:

Yes: 6 Chairperson Bruni, Vice Chair Borden, John Jerralds, Suzanne Lewis,
Jake Renfroe, Kirwan Price

No: 0 None

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2. 24-478 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Heistein, updated board members that Bruce Beach Phase I had opened on April 27th with a ribbon cutting. One of the concerns is parking for park visitors. Designated parking will be available when Phase 2 of the project is complete. Visitors may park at Community Maritime Park. Phase 2 will tentatively open at the end of 2024.

Director Heistein asked board members if they had questions regarding the Director's Report.

Vice Chair Borden commented that trash had been accumulating along the shoreline at Bruce Beach. She asked that the area become a priority to keep clean. Director Heistein responded that crews did go out and clean up the area before the opening and is monitoring and establishing the level of frequency that will be needed for maintenance of the waterway. Maintenance of the area will be contracted out to a vendor to keep the park and the shoreline clean. There is an opportunity for volunteer groups to provide some stewardship around the banks and shoreline.

Member Bruni asked for updated information regarding Miraflores Park. Director Heistein informed the board that there was a Community Advisory Meeting last Friday, May 17th and asked Adrienne Walker if she would like to come up to speak to that.

Historic Preservation Planner Adrienne Walker, updated the board members stating that the ground penetrating radar at Miraflores Park is complete and 80 possible unmarked graves were identified. The graves are not contained in an isolated area, but they do take up the majority of the park. Some areas of the park could not be surveyed because of paved parking and heavy tree coverage. A Community Advisory Group meeting was held last week to update the community. We will be applying for a grant with the Florida Division of Historical Resources of Abandoned African American Cemeteries for the possibility of up to \$50,000 of unmatched funds to be distributed in 2025. We will meet with University of West Florida to discuss a partnership and the possibility of a graduate student taking this on as their thesis project. She offered to answer questions.

Some discussion followed among board members regarding a partnership with the University of West Florida and other organizations for maintaining and protecting the property.

Member Price asked if the utility of the park will be impacted. Historic Preservation Planner Adrienne Walker, commented no discussion has been made to restrict the facility or any activity at the park.

STAFF REPORTS

3. 24-474 SUNSHINE LAWS - VANESSA MOORE

Assistant City Attorney Vanessa Moore, came before the board to give a broad overview of the Sunshine Law, Ethics Law and Public Records Law. The Sunshine Laws can be found in Florida Statutes 286.011; these laws provide a legal right of access to government proceedings, public boards, and records. She indicated she or the City Attorney is available should they have additional questions. She asked if the board had questions. No one responded.

4. 24-476 LOST FUNDING - AMY LOVOY

Finance Director Amy Lovoy, came before the board and gave an overview of LOST funding relating to Parks and Recreation projects. Material provided at meeting (attached): Local Government Infrastructure Surtax, Section 212.055(2), Florida Statutes. She asked if the board members had questions.

Member Price asked whether the portion of funds that is available to Parks and Recreation is a decision made by city council. Finance Director Amy Lovoy responded that it is recommended by the Mayor and his staff, and taken to council for approval.

Member Lewis asked if city council had increased the funding allocated to Parks and Recreation in the past 5 years. Finance Director Amy Lovoy responded in the original 10-year project list that was established a lot of the money was spent in the first two years, which is typical. The current Mayor has made it a major priority to bring the parks back up to standards by adding another \$1.6 million to the fund.

Chairperson Bruni asked when there is a shift in line items is there a different procedure when shifting LOST funds vs General funds. Finance Director Amy Lovoy responded that the shifting of LOST funds must be taken to council for approval, but general park improvements do not.

Chairperson Bruni asked if LOST funds can be used on sidewalk projects. Finance Director Amy Lovoy responded that general maintenance to sidewalk projects would be expensed through the general fund, whereas if there are projects such as building a new sidewalk or adding ADA curb cuts, then LOST funds would be used.

5. 24-475 STRATEGIC PLAN - ADRIANNE WALKER

Historic Preservation Planner Adrienne Walker, brought before the board a broad overview of the Strategic Plan Vision. The strategic plan process started in January 2024. The City is partnering with Gehl Consultants, who are a renowned urban design planning team. The target end date is late October 2024, this is when Gehl Consultants will provide the city with a strategic plan deliverable. The six core pillars for the future of Pensacola are...equitable, livable, resilient, healthy, innovative, and action-oriented. Pillars are broadly defined topics that impact the quality of life for the Pensacola community...attainable housing, complete neighborhoods, arts & culture, active mobility, economic development, and environment & climate action. The strategic plan will take a systems approach — blending together the pillars into catalytic projects that will realize Pensacola's vision. The Public Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26th 4-7pm at City Hall — and the Second Vision Group Workshop will be June 27th.

Some follow-up discussion took place with Board Members asking questions which Historic Preservation Planner Adrienne Walker answered accordingly.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

6. 24-472 RFP NO.: 24-031 PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES CONDITION ASSESSMENT

Chairperson Bruni asked board members if they had any questions pertaining to the RFP for the Facilities Condition Assessment.

Director Heistein commented that the RFP was advertised on May 3rd and the solicitation closes May 23rd. There is a schedule of events in the addendum that was issued that goes over the evaluation process and the project schedule.

Chairperson Bruni commented he would like to see CNAPP and local neighborhood associations engaged as those are the people who are most supportive or against anything that may come up.

Director Heistein commented that the proposal requires the vendor to submit a public participation plan for public input. The plan will try to target the community to consider the physical things in the parks, and the things that are related to parks and parks facilities. Also, input on programs they would like to see at the facilities, so we can then use that data to lead into the master planning effort. This plan does include a key stakeholders meeting, which would include active user groups, partners, operators that we've worked with on a daily basis, such as youth sports

providers, and it would include neighborhood associations. The key stakeholders' meeting will be those that have a vested stake in the park that have been participating in our parks and programs over the years. So we can use that group as quasi experts as to what they see is needed in this assessment process that the consultant should be focusing on so we don't lose sight of those as they conduct the assessment. We will then have a follow-up meeting at 60% of the process for the public, which will be an update meeting after we have gathered some presentable data and then bring that information to the board and present the draft and get feedback from the Parks and Recreation Board and then convert that into a final assessment. The final assessment will be brought back and at that time will ask for the board's recommendation to accept the report and then take it to council with the park board's recommendation for the council to accept the assessment. We can then use the assessment going forward and master planning, parks planning, maintenance planning, and capital improvement planning.

OPEN FORUM/FUTURE BUSINESS DISCUSSION

Chairperson Bruni asked board members if they had ideas or any items that they would like to go on the upcoming meeting(s).

Member Renfroe commented that John Soule, who built Bay Bluff Park and Sanders Beach, would like to come present to the board regarding the repair projects.

Member Lewis suggested having a baseline history of every park as we move forward with master planning. She suggested using a graduate student at UWF. She reported that Professor Jamin Wells heads up the public history program for students.

ADJOURNMENT

WHEREUPON the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 AM.