

City of Palm Bay, Florida

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Regular Meeting No. 2020-02

Held on Tuesday, the 4th day of February 2020, in the conference Room located at the Parks & Recreation Office, 1150 Degroodt Road, Palm Bay, FL 32908.

The meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law. The minutes are on file in the Parks Administration Office at 1150 Degroodt Road, Palm Bay, Florida 32908.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Donny Felix at 7:04 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRMAN:	Salvatore Ferranti	Present
VICE CHAIRMAN:	Donny Felix	Present
SECRETARY:	Scott Duncan	Absent
MEMBER:	Denise Bowes-Valcin	Absent
MEMBER:	Anthony Harris	Present
MEMBER:	Vacant	
MEMBER:	Randy Foster	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Fred Poppe, Director, City of Palm Bay Parks and Recreation.

ADOPTION of MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting 2019-12, December 3, 2019

Motion by Mr. Randy Foster, 2nd Mr. Donny Felix to adopt the minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

1. Parks and Recreation Report – Fred Poppe, Director Parks and Recreation

Mr. Poppe spoke about the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Outdoor Recreation in Florida 2019 Statewide Comprehensive Recreation Plan Central East Planning Region Report. Since the 1960s, Florida has undertaken a planning process that strives for a diverse, balanced, statewide outdoor recreation system. A major part of that process was the development of a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), a policy plan that was updated approximately every five years. The

SCORP offered guidance to recreation providers and served as a framework for evaluating and meeting the state's outdoor recreation needs. For the purposes of SCORP, the state was divided into eight planning regions. These regions were the same as those used by VISIT FLORIDA, the state's official tourism marketing organization. This report focused exclusively on the Central East planning region and presented information from the 2019 SCORP and its associated participation and economic studies. Individual reports for the other seven planning regions, along with the complete SCORP, the participation study and economic study, could be downloaded from the SCORP web page at FloridaDEP.gov/Parks.

Mr. Poppe highlighted the "Top Ten Desired Facilities" in our region. He noted the list mirrored many of the opportunities identified here in Palm Bay and many of the initiatives that had been proposed for planning in Palm Bay. The report also stated the estimated population growth for our region was expected to be around 20% by 2035.

Mr. Poppe expressed concern with the potential for growth in the soon to be developed lands surrounding the St. Johns Heritage Parkway. Thus far, no money had been set aside to include new facilities in those areas.

Four playgrounds were scheduled to be closed within the next two weeks because of age and safety concerns. A press release was planned to coincide with the closures.

As part of the county assessment, .60 mill had been set aside for parks and recreation in the county, which was slated to end in 2020. Mr. Poppe proposed adding a referendum to the next election to continue the assessment at the same rate, with the funds used as an enhancement to the current general fund budget. This could enable the city to update and maintain the facilities it currently managed.

Mr. Foster asked how the Board could assist in the process. Mr. Poppe explained the process that may assist for the referendum to be considered.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Felix introduced Mrs. Sherell Cummings and Mr. Benjamin Aubin from May18th.org. May18th.org was an organization that helped build youth development in Palm Bay through sports, music and finance. This organization was planning an event in celebration of Haitian Heritage on May 16th and 17th, 2020 and was seeking assistance from the city.

It was suggested by the Board that they come back with a formal proposal. It was also suggested that they meet with the Palm Bay Youth Advisory Board.

Mr. Poppe shared updates on the following topics:

- The city received insurance money for the playground that burned down at Twin Lakes Park. The Park was now re-opened.
- Unity in the Community: Black History month event would be self-funded and was no longer seeking co-sponsorship from the city.
- Improvements to the mountain bike trail were taking place.
- Bids were being submitted to repair the Palm Bay Aquatic Center and bidding to refurbish the Greater Palm Bay Senior Center would begin soon.
- The conversion of septic system to sewer at Fred Poppe Regional Park would begin soon.
- Four playgrounds were closed – Riviera, Oakwood, Liberty and Veteran's Park.

Mr. Harris proposed to have local artists perform at the First Friday Event. He also enquired about the bus rides to sporting games. Mr. Poppe answered that all bus rides to sporting events had been cancelled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion by Mr. Felix, seconded by Mr. Foster, to hold the March meeting at Parks and Recreation Conference Room, 1150 Degroodt Road, Palm Bay, Florida 32908, on March 3, 2020, at 7:00 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice Chairman Donny Felix adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm

Salvatore Ferranti, Chairman

ATTEST:

Scott Duncan, Secretary