

City of Palm Bay, Florida
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Regular Meeting 2021-01

Held on Tuesday, the 5th day of January 2021, in the conference room located at the Ted Whitlock Community Center, 370 Champion Circle NW, Palm Bay, Florida 32907.

The meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law. The minutes are on file in the Parks Administration Office at 1150 DeGroodt Road SW, Palm Bay, Florida 32908. The minutes are not a verbatim transcript but a brief summary of the discussions and actions taken at the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Harris at 7:15 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRMAN:	Salvatore Ferranti	Absent
VICE CHAIRMAN:	Vacant	
SECRETARY:	Scott Duncan	Present
MEMBER:	Denise Bowes-Valcin	Absent
MEMBER:	Anthony Harris	Present
MEMBER:	Benjamin Aubin Jr.	Present
MEMBER:	Gabriel Capote	Present
MEMBER:	Jaclyn Bounauito	Absent

CITY STAFF:

Present was Fred Poppe, Parks and Recreation Director

REPORTS:

1. Parks and Recreation Reports – Fred Poppe, Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Poppe asked each board member to introduce themselves. Mr. Poppe also introduced new board member, Jaclyn Bounauito, who could not be in attendance.

Mr. Poppe made the following reports:

- An interlocal agreement had been reached with the Brevard County School Board for the purpose of sharing the use of sports and recreational facilities. A 10-year lease agreement had also been executed to use ten (10) acres adjacent to Fred

Poppe Regional Park for the development of a disc golf course. Staff would seek the use of impact fees to build the new park.

- The re-opening of the Palm Bay Aquatic Center was scheduled for January 25th. There would be a soft opening first, with a grand opening to take place once the pandemic was no longer an issue.
- The Fred Poppe Regional Park sewer transition project was awarded to Don Facciobene, Inc. and construction was scheduled to begin in the near future.
- The Greater Palm Bay Senior Center remained closed and would re-open when deemed safe to do so.
- The Wake Forest project groundbreaking would be coming soon, and an announcement would be made.
- The campground project was in the planning stages for the electrical engineering and would include adding the Holiday Light Fest capabilities for the future.
- Funding had been approved to add a dog park to Rivera Park. The playground replacements that had been approved were in the proposal process and updates would follow.
- The Brevard Mountain Bike Association proposal would be moving from concept to engineered drawings for a proposed course on land set aside for a Palm Bay park.
- The Holiday Light Fest was very successful and would continue next year. The Heritage Festival was in the planning stages and the Brevard Caribbean American Sports and Cultural Association (BCASCA) was a leading partner. This would be a great opportunity to come together as a community with partnerships between the City of Palm Bay, community organizations and businesses.

Mr. Duncan asked about the southern zoned facilities proposal specifically around the new homes being planned in the areas around the southern end of St. Johns Heritage Parkway and Interstate 95. Mr. Poppe said that plans were in the works, however, the City had no land in that area and would have to address funding in order to move forward with a new regional park or facility.

Mr. Harris asked about planning for a June Parade and First Friday Event in June to begin the Heritage Festival effort. Mr. Poppe explained it should be brought up at the event planning meetings and then presented to this board for comment or to the City Council for approval.

Mr. Harris remarked on citizen comments he had received requesting the feasibility of adding lights to the Cricket Field located at Fred Poppe Regional Park. Mr. Poppe explained the groups that partnered with the City of Palm Bay negotiated annually at a meeting to sign the annual agreement. He said the request for lights should be discussed at those meetings.

Mr. Harris brought up a citizen request to offer more programs at the community centers, such as guitar lessons. Mr. Poppe explained the process for a teacher to set-up classes and partner with the city. The teacher would set the fees for the course with a percentage going to the City to pay for the costs associated with the use of the building.

Mr. Aubin asked about the Haitian community developing a May program in honor of Haitian Heritage Month. He said it could be an opportunity to host a soccer or basketball tournaments and share the Haitian Heritage with the community of Palm Bay and its surrounding communities. He advised of an informational website - www.may18th.org. Mr. Poppe said that if they wanted to present to City Council for approval, they needed to do so as soon as possible. It took time to plan an event and get all the use of facilities and partnerships with other entities within the city. Mr. Poppe also recommended bringing the request to the next Recreation Advisory Board meeting as a proposal for board member comments, then final approval would be considered by City Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:45 p.m.

Anthony Harris, Acting Chairman

ATTEST:

Scott Duncan, Secretary