

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING 2023-08

Held on Tuesday, the 1st day of August 2023, at the Ted Whitlock Community Center, 1951 Malabar Road NW., Palm Bay, Florida 32907.

The meeting was properly noticed pursuant to law; the minutes are on file in the Recreation Administration Office at 1502 Port Malabar Blvd NE, Palm Bay, Florida 32905.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Randall Olszewski at 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

CHAIRPERSON:	Thomas Gaume	Absent
VICE-CHAIRPERSON:	Randall Olszewski	Present
MEMBER:	Wudson Fenelon	Present
MEMBER:	Mary Jane Russell	Present
MEMBER:	Logan Luse	Present
MEMBER:	Thomas Graver	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Fred Poppe, Recreation Department Director; Josh Hudak, Parks Division Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

REPORTS:

Mr. Poppe made the following reports:

- Information on campgrounds was gathered from all vendors and developers and distributed to all members.
- The Independence Day event had a great turnout with numerous volunteers to assist.
- The Tourist Development Council (TDC) grant was approved, and the grant funding would double due to high attendance at the Independence Day event.
- The next upcoming event was 9/11 remembrance and would be held at Veterans Memorial Park. Staff was working with the co-sponsor, American Legion.

- A meeting was held with members of the Strawberry Fest. It was tentatively scheduled for February 17-18, 2024.
- The holiday parade was scheduled for December 2, 2023. It was suggested to get assistance through volunteers.

Mr. Hudak made the following reports:

- Liberty Park - final proof for the dedicated sign would be received soon which would replace the existing sign; the park sign would also be moved to the Emerson Drive entrance; staff was waiting on Community Partner Group to update maps of the Park.
- Riviera Dog Park - bids for Riviera Dog Park were resolicited due to an error; Public Works Department had cleared seventy-five percent (75%) of the dog park perimeter for proposed fencing.
- Veterans Park - sprigs had been planted on the multiuse field; new fence material had been received, and the project would begin August 7th; announcer's booth was scheduled to be replaced.
- McGriff Skate Park - contractors began repairing the bowl on July 31st; the park would be closed until completion.
- Knecht Park - Field 3 infield was being refurbished and Public Works Department staff had put down fifty (50) loads of fill from another city owned property; new irrigation was being installed and Bermuda sod would be purchased once irrigation was complete.
- West Pines playground - waiting on plans for the project.

Mr. Graver asked several questions regarding the campground: the number of spaces; was there a 5–10-year plan; felt potential prospects would be snowbirds, visitors, and residents; inquired about available amenities. He supported development of the campground. Ms. Russell felt the campground would be a great addition to Palm Bay. Mr. Fenelon said he had seen an increase in purchases of recreational vehicles in the city and also supported the campgrounds. Mr. Luse agreed the campgrounds were a good investment in Palm Bay.

Mr. Olszewski said the bridge at Fred Poppe Regional Park needed to be completed but opposed the campgrounds.

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The next meeting would be held at the Tony Rosa Community Center, 1502 Port Malabar Boulevard, Palm Bay, Florida 32905 on September 5th at 7:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:09 P.M.

Randall Olszewski, Vice Chairperson

ATTEST:

Joanna Alvino, Board Secretary