

CITY OF PALM BAY, FLORIDA
RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING 2024-01

Held on Tuesday, the 2nd day of January 2024, at the Ted Whitlock Community Center, 370 Championship Circle 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 Chairperson Thomas Gaume at 7:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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| CHAIRPERSON: | Thomas Gaume | Present |
| VICE-CHAIRPERSON: | Randall Olszewski | Present |
| MEMBER: | Wudson Fenelon | Present |
| MEMBER: | Logan Luse | Present |
| MEMBER: | Thomas Graver | Present |

ALSO PRESENT:

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

1. Regular Meeting 2023-11; November 7, 2023.

Motion by Mr. Graver, seconded by Mr. Olszewski, to adopt the minutes as presented.
Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Alfie Agarie, resident, was a participant in the 2023 Holiday Light Parade and expressed disappointment in the final judging. He felt that all floats should have had lights and not all participants followed the parade standards.

Chair Gaume commented that he was speaking on his own behalf and that receiving recognition would not always happen, and that the judges could only advise, not set policies.

REPORTS:

1. Fred Poppe, Recreation Department Director.

Mr. Hudak made the following reports:

- Nine (9) of the thirty-six (36) holes were completed for disc golf.
- Tennis courts at Free Lee Park had been demolished, ground testing had been and there were no concerns to be noted. The courts should be complete in approximately two (2) months.
- Dog park at Riviera Park was waiting on purchase order approval for amenities.
- Castaways Point Park restroom was complete. There was an emergency response to shoreline due to storm; boulders and sod were replaced.
- City Council approved the contract for a bridge at Fred Poppe Regional Park to include a turn lane; engineering had started; project cost was approximately \$4 million.
- Last year's Veterans Parade was the largest thus far.
- Tree lighting ceremony had more attendees this year and many stayed for movie.
- Multi-Cultural event was in process.

Chair Gaume asked when the Sacrifice Park renovations would begin. Mr. Poppe responded that the plans were being redone to allow space for small events. He said that as the construction of Building E at the City Hall Campus would take away the currently used space for events, Sacrifice Park would allow for small events. There had also been discussions of a new fire station replacing Station 2 (located on Malabar Road in front of City Hall) for added green space. Chair Gaume suggested names of retired officers that should be on the wall in Sacrifice Park. Mr. Poppe advised the request was not under the jurisdiction of the Recreation Department.

Mr. Olszewski asked if the tree used at the Tree Lighting Ceremony was real. Mr. Hudak responded in the negative and explained it was not a variety that could withstand the heat in Florida.

Mr. Graver suggested having entertainment at the staging area for the Holiday Light Parade while waiting for the floats. Mr. Poppe explained that evaluations were performed

with suggestions for improvement. Mr. Olszewski suggested lights at the basketball courts at Fred Poppe Regional Park. He said the Ted Whitlock Community Center was open until 10:00 P.M. indoors and lights were on display, as well as outdoor lights at many other parks such as Veterans Park, Liberty Park, and Fred Lee Park. Mr. Olszewski commented that a Verizon tower was being installed at Fred Poppe Regional Park and questioned where it would be located and if an access road would be installed. Mr. Hudak confirmed same.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday February 6, 2024, at 7:00 P.M., at the Captain's House, 1300 Bianca Drive NE, Palm Bay, Florida 32905.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at the hour of 7:45 P.M.

Thomas Gaume, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Joanna Alvino, Board Secretary