

City of Clearwater

*Main Library - Council Chambers
100 N. Osceola Avenue
Clearwater, FL 33755*



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 24, 2021

6:30 PM

Main Library - Council Chambers

Parks and Recreation Board

Roll Call

Present 5 - Vice Chair Mark Rodriguez, Board Member Lisa Tuttle, Board Member Patrick Raftery, Board Member Scott Thomas, and Board Member Martin Armstrong

Absent 2 - Chair Bruce Rector, and Board Member Jason Hood

Also Present – Jim Halios – Parks & Recreation Director, Patricia O. Sullivan – Board Reporter

Awaiting approval

1. Call To Order

Acting Chair Tuttle called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

To provide continuity for research, items are in agenda order although not necessarily discussed in that order.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1 Approve the July 27, 2021 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Member Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2021 Parks & Recreation Board meeting as submitted in written summation. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.

3. Citizens to be Heard Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

Lisa Lanza recommended connecting the Duke Power and Pinellas trails and suggested providing information that trail users can connect with the other trail via Montclair Road. She thanked the City for the new playground equipment and upgrades to the tennis and basketball courts in her Valencia Park/Cedar Grove neighborhood park.

4. New Business Items

4.1 Update on the August 3rd Meeting with Lake Belleview residents on park improvements.

Parks & Recreation Director Jim Halios said the CSF (Community Service Foundation) had requested he attend the September 7 meeting as low meeting attendance was anticipated in August.

4.2 Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Mr. Halios said work on Pinellas County's Master Plan included City parks, providing Clearwater a 60-day head start on its master plan process; Pinellas County received significant feedback from the public on its plan. The Parks & Recreation and Planning & Development departments will work together on park-centric Comp Plan updates. In the new year, an

internal team will choose a consultant to oversee development of the new Parks & Recreation Master Plan, which will have a robust public input process, providing citizens opportunities to voice their needs and wants. The Parks & Recreation Board will be part of the outreach effort, provide input, and vote for their priorities.

4.3 Review 7/27/21 Project Update Report for any new updates.

In response to questions, Mr. Halios said project reports were updated right after Parks & Recreation Board meetings. CIP (Capital Improvement Project) funds were budgeted each year for ongoing costs to replace recreation center fitness equipment; the Countryside Recreation Center facility supervisor had not yet identified any replacement needs. He will forward the project report to members when it is updated.

It was stated an updated project list with completion dates was important as the report was a blueprint of what the board wanted to accomplish.

A resident said the County administrator indicated the County would not fund BayCare Ballpark upgrades. She expressed concerns the Parks & Recreation Department did not plan on purchasing additional parkland and the Landings should not connect to reclaimed water but instead continue using well water as the property was a great place to recharge the aquifer. She questioned if the Board reviewed City contracts for use and/or management of City parks.

Mr. Halios said the Board did not participate in the City contract process.

5. Old Business Items: None.

6. Director's Report

Mr. Halios said next month's agenda will include project updates and information re the September Bellevue neighborhood resident meeting. Formal invitations will be sent to members for the September 3 Imagine Clearwater groundbreaking at 9:00 a.m. on the Main Library terrace.

7. Board Members to be Heard

Member Raftery said the Board of County Commissioners had decided not to increase the gas tax but to finance transportation needs with a small millage rate hike. He said a gas tax increase would have provided additional funds to the City for sidewalk repairs.

Member Raftery said Lisa Lanza had invited him and Chair Rector to see improvements in her neighborhood.

Mr. Halios encouraged individual board members to meet with residents.

Member Rodriguez noted the passing of City Manager Bill Horne and expressed his condolences to Mr. Horne's family and others. He said Mr. Horne was genuine, amiable, and always took time to speak with citizens.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Attest:

Chair
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Board Reporter