

# City of Clearwater

*City Hall  
112 S. Osceola Avenue  
Clearwater, FL 33756*



## Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

**6:30 PM**

**Council Chambers**

## **Parks and Recreation Board**

## **Roll Call**

**Present** 6 - Chair Ric Ortega, Vice Chair Candace Gardner, Board Member Norene M. Marlow, Board Member Emilio Gonzalez, Board Member Kristin Langley, and Board Member Michelle Ramirez

**Absent** 1 - Board Member Lisa Tuttle

**Also Present** - Art Kader – Parks & Recreation Assistant Director, Jim Halios – Planning & Project Manager, Patricia O. Sullivan - Board Reporter

**Awaiting approval**

### **1. Call To Order**

*The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall.*

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

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

2.1 Approve minutes from January 24, 2017 meeting

**Member Marlow moved to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2017 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: None.**

### **4. New Business Items**

4.1 Introduction of new board member

4.2 Parks & Recreation Projects Update

*Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Art Kader said the City was accepting bids for the new Morningside Recreation Center. The old pool building and basketball court were razed; a new basketball court was being constructed and swimming pool pump and heating systems were being installed. An air-conditioned trailer with restrooms, changing rooms, offices, and a break room will be onsite this summer. The pool and related facilities will remain open until Long Center pool work is completed, probably in November.*

*In response to a concern re popular racquetball tournaments at Morningside, Mr. Kader said the exterior racquetball wall would not be replaced. Staff will see if one could be added inside the center or if*

*tournament play could be scheduled at other City parks.*

*Mr. Kader said the department had no plans to install lights for the Morningside tennis courts. It was recommended that electric lines be laid for future tennis court lighting during the project when lights are installed for the nearby basketball court. Concern was expressed that residents depended on Morningside tennis courts during the winter when McMullen Tennis Complex courts were filled with tourists.*

**Member Gonzales moved to recommend the City Council approve reinstallation of lights at the Morningside Recreation Center tennis courts. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

*Mr. Kader said all contracts were in place to update the Long Center swimming pool. Work, beginning in June, will include remarciting, and installation of a new pool pump, lighting system, decking, and baby diaper changing facilities on the deck. During construction, swimming programs will be relocated to Morningside and other City pool facilities.*

*The Board of County Commissioners approved \$2 million dollars toward expansion of the Countryside Sports Complex. The State legislature was considering a \$1 million grant. The \$4- to \$5-million project will include restrooms, concession stands, a press box, meeting room, lockers, storage, and bleacher, drainage and parking improvements.*

*The \$200,000 grant for Moccasin Lake Environmental Education Center will be used to raze old structures and install a sewer line to the Interpretive Center building which will be remodeled with indoor restrooms, birds of prey facilities, exhibits, etc.*

*New athletic offices at Jack Russell Stadium were furnished and will be occupied in approximately 2 weeks when the elevator is installed.*

*Work will begin in June to renovate 2 soccer fields and add lighting at Joe DiMaggio Fields.*

*Irrigation for the Missouri Avenue medians was installed; palm tree delivery begins soon.*

#### **4.3 Review of Parks & Recreation Council Items**

*Mr. Kader reviewed department items submitted for City Council approval.*

#### **4.4 Blueways in Clearwater**

*Planning & Project Manager Jim Halios distributed Pinellas County*

*Blueways Guides with trail maps and canoe and kayak launch sites. Clearwater sites: 1) Mandalay Park; 2) Clearwater Beach Recreation Center; 3) Seminole Boat Launch Ramp; 4) Sand Key Park; 5) Bayview Park; and 6) Coopers Bayou. The County's Blueways Master Plan under development will include municipal launch sites.*

*It was recommended that motorized watercraft be prohibited near some blueways trails for the safety of kayakers, paddleboarders, etc.*

*It was suggested the parking lot be enlarged where Sunset Point Road dead ended at Edgewater Drive Park, a kayak launch be added, and a future ferry stop be considered. It was stated the location was beautiful.*

#### **4.5 Bikeways Master Plan update**

*Mr. Halios said the Parks & Recreation Department continued implementation of the 2006 Master Plan, Shifting Gears. A new Engineering Department staff member, who was an expert in pedestrian access, will consider significant local increases in non motorized transportation uses during the road design process.*

#### **4.6 Crest Lake Park Final Master Plan**

*Mr. Kader said the final Master Plan for Crest Lake Park will be presented to the City Council on June 14, 2017. The City hired Wannemacher Jensen Architects and W Architecture of New York to manage the year long process that developed the plan based on community input via surveys, interviews, group meetings and 2 public meetings which Councilmembers attended.*

### **5. Old Business Item**

#### **5.1 Update on Del Oro Park**

*Mr. Kader said the Del Oro Park tennis courts were repaired and the lighting was replaced. Also a sidewalk was added and a bridge constructed for access from the south. Parks & Recreation Director Kevin Dunbar attended the Del Oro Grove Neighborhood's Day event and discussed future plans for the park, including relocation of the tennis courts in several years to address drainage issues. He said residents were pleased with the changes.*

### **6. Director's Report**

*Mr. Kader said the FY 2017/18 budget process had begun. The Parks & Recreation Department had little new money for projects without grants. It was recommended that staff pursue public/private partnerships.*

**7. Board Members to be Heard**

*Chair Ortega requested that staff distribute architectural and design plans and drawings for Parks & Recreation Department projects prior to meetings for board members to discuss and share with residents.*

*Mr. Kader will distribute Crest Lake Park Master Plan information following the City Council meeting. Morningside Center plans and a draft for a blueways trail at Coopers Point will be forwarded to board members.*

*Chair Ortega expressed concern portalets at the Seminole Boat Ramp near the pay station were in bad condition and reflected poorly on the City.*

*Chair Ortega said the golf course property at "The Landings" had been donated to the City for parks & recreation uses. As the City lacked a sufficient number of rectangular fields, as noted in the Master Plan, and the City had 2 other golf courses, he recommended the City begin considering the highest and best use for the property, including its economic impact before the current lease expired. He said the City would attract more tournaments if it added rectangular fields.*

*Mr. Kader reviewed the successful operation of the golf course and its operator's significant investment in the property over the past 12 years. He said some land may be available for rectangular field development near the City's Northeast Advanced Wastewater Treatment Facility.*

**Member Ramirez moved to recommend the City investigate other options, such as rectangular fields, for "The Landings" golf course property. The motion was duly seconded and carried unanimously.**

*Member Langley said she was developing a spreadsheet of City parks and had begun to visit all of them. Discussion ensued re Magnolia Falls.*

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Attest:

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Chair  
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

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Board Reporter