

City of Clearwater

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

6:30 PM

Council Chambers

Parks and Recreation Board

Roll Call

Present 5 - Chair Mark Rodriguez, Board Member Jennifer Wood, Board Member Kristin Langley, Board Member Michelle T. Ramirez, and Board Member Jason Hood

Present 2 - Vice Chair Norene M. Marlow, Board Member Lisa Tuttle

Also Present: James Halios – Administrative 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 the minutes of the July 24, 2018 Parks and Recreation Board Meeting

Member Langley moved to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2018 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 Review the Parks & Recreation Projects Update

Administrative Manager James Halios reported more than 2,000 people celebrated the Grand Opening of the Morningside Recreation Center in early October. Installation of the facility's Public Art was anticipated at the end of November after the contractor switched out current windows at no charge and the artist installed the artwork film on the new windows.

In response to questions re Parks & Recreation project updates, Mr. Halios said instead of a band shell, a concrete slab with a shade covering would serve as a multi-use area at Crest Lake Park. Groundbreaking for park upgrades will be in 2019. Staff was working with consultants and designers to determine which elements to include based on funding and community feedback. An environmental management company studied the property. Native plants will be added; most current plants were nonnative. Portions of the boardwalk may be relocated away from environmentally sensitive lands. Sections of the park will be cordoned off during construction. Benches will be installed in strategic areas. The site will be regraded so stormwater runoff

does not collect. It was noted the park was home to many bird species throughout the year.

Mr. Halios said once the field is rehabbed, artificial turf donated by the Tampa Bay Rays will be installed at Jack Russell Stadium. The Countryside Sports Complex press box was not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessible and will be replaced along with the storage building; the bleachers will be upgraded. The County will replace the pedestrian bridge on the Ream Wilson Trail north of the Carpenter Complex. A cleanup with St. Petersburg College and 50 organizations was scheduled. Volunteers could sign up with Volunteer Coordinator Natalie Lamb at the Parks & Recreation Department office. A fitness equipment CIP (Capital Improvement Project) funded the replacement schedule for all recreation centers. Equipment at the centers was heavily used and replaced according to a cost benefit ratio when equipment breakdowns covered by service agreements cost too much to repair.

Mr. Halios said Imagine Clearwater was not within his scope; the Engineering Department was planning the project. A smaller sized band shell was planned for Coachman Park to attract concert audiences ranging from 300 to 5,000 people. The goal was to tie the band shell and park into one functional space.

In response to questions, Mr. Halios said Parks & Recreation criteria to purchase property was based on priorities: 1) property contiguous to City owned property and 2) property meshed with Master Plan. Improvements to Del Oro Park will be piggybacked on a stormwater project on the park's southern end; restrooms were planned. He will report on flooding issues related to the Del Oro Park's swale and street south of the Carlouel wall on Mandalay Avenue where slime was present. He reviewed City and County efforts to keep beaches clean during fish kills associated with red tide.

Concern was expressed that the rotting smell from dead fish in the dumpster by the downtown ferry landing provided a poor experience for visitors. Mr. Halios said there were limited locations near the beach to stage the dumpsters.

4.2 Review the Parks & Recreation Council Items

Mr. Halios reviewed Parks & Recreation Department items recently approved by the City Council.

5. Old Business Items: None.

6. Director's Report

In response to concerns re recent media reports of theft by Parks & Recreation Department staff, Mr. Halios said a 20-year employee remained in jail and his superior was dismissed. The losses, ongoing for 5 years, were

discovered after the monitoring system was modified to separate sports tourism revenues. The field employee had pocketed cash he collected from a vendor concession and soccer team rather than entering the collections into the department's computer program and depositing the funds. In response to areas of vulnerability identified by external auditors, the department only will collect cash payments at the Parks & Recreation office; field collections will be via debit or credit card.

Mr. Halios said management had resolved to ensure the department's culture was correct and discrimination would not be tolerated; the 2 staff members who engaged in inappropriate behavior toward women were replaced. The department also reaffirmed its core commitment to providing services to Clearwater residents; hosting tournaments was secondary.

7. Board Members to be Heard: None

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Chair
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Attest:

Board Reporter