



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Parks and Recreation Department
Central Area Parks Operations
840 Forrest Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT CENTRAL AREA PARKS OPERATIONS
Merritt Island/Beaches Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
February 19, 2020

Members Present

Cathy Jarrell, Chair
Sean Anderson, Vice-Chair
Phil Barnes
Debby Gaunlett
Janice Scott
Ralph Williams, III

Members Not Present

Jack Masson

Staff Present

Terry Lane, Central Area Parks Operations Manager
Fred Ameigh, Central Area Parks Maintenance Superintendent
Richard Tucci, Central Area Recreation Superintendent
Denise Hayes, Central Area Parks Operations Administrative Secretary

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Jarrell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

II. Approval of November 20, 2019 Minutes

Vice Chair Anderson made motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2019. Mr. Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

Financial Report - Terry Lane, Area Parks Operations Manager

Mr. Lane presented the Financial Report.

There was no discussion regarding the Financial Report by the Board members.

Attendance and Programs Report - Richard Tucci, Recreation Superintendent

Mr. Tucci stated winter camp was held from December 23rd through January 7th, and that Kiwanis Island Community Center had an average of 27 participants, and Woody Simpson Community Center had an average of 3 participants which were sent to Kiwanis Island's camp

because 3 registrants did not meet the minimum number to hold camp. Mr. Tucci further stated that camp numbers were a bit lower than last year and believed it was because of how the holidays fell on a Tuesday and Wednesday for Christmas Eve and Christmas, and a Wednesday for New Years.

Mr. Tucci informed the Board that all community centers would be moving forward this quarter with each community center being required to offer a minimum number of programs including programs that encompass Community Building, Health and Wellness, Cultural Diversity, recreation, education, and leadership/character building. These programs would target the youth in the communities, and would also include camps, one day fun days, seasonal celebration, after school programs, tutoring, STEM/STEAM, Teen Advisory, Future Leaders, Kids in Motion, Start Smart, Learn to Swim, Arts in the Parks, performing arts, sports, and other related programs.

Mr. Tucci gave an overview of upcoming events: Spring Break Camp to be held, March 16th to March 20th at Kiwanis Island Park and Woody Simpson Park; over 50 softball will be held at Kiwanis Island Park on Tuesdays beginning at 6:30 p.m.; COED softball will be held at Kiwanis Island Park on Wednesdays beginning at 6:30 p.m.; homeschool programming continues at Kiwanis Island Park Community Center on Tuesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; and Midnight basketball with Brevard County Sheriff's Office continues at Woody Simpson Park Community on Saturdays from 8:00 p.m. to midnight.

Mr. Tucci stated that attendance has been consistent at the community center and for park rentals. He further stated that Kiwanis Island Park has an average monthly attendance of approximately 400 participants, Woody Simpson Park has an average monthly attendance of 909, Rotary Park and Rotary Nature Center has an average monthly attendance of 815, and the Persons with Disabilities Friday Night Dance has an average monthly attendance of 403. He further stated that the Persons with Disabilities Annual Holiday Hoedown held at Kiwanis Island Park Community Center had 375 in attendance.

Mr. Tucci informed the Board that the adult Big Kid Adventure programs are growing.

Parks Maintenance Report - Fred Ameigh - Parks Maintenance Superintendent

Mr. Ameigh highlighted the Maintenance Report provided.

Mr. Ameigh informed the Board that Mitchell Ellington Park and Manatee Cove Park would be the next parks to receive new playgrounds.

Park Projects Update

Mr. Lane stated that the required voice fire alarm system will be installed as well as the gymnasium floor being re-done with pickleball lines at that Kiwanis Island Park Community Center.

Mr. Lane stated that Woody Simpson Park Community Center currently has approximately 600 pickleball participants in the gym.

Mr. Lane presented an aerial view of Murkshe Park and stated that portion of the property in question from last meeting can be developed, with the only stipulation being it must remain for recreational use.

Mrs. Scott stated she felt more parking needed to be added to Murkshe Park.

Mr. Barnes asked if there was a clause that states a park must remain a recreation area when it is turned over to the city municipalities.

Mr. Lane stated that language is usually included in the agreement that the property must remain recreational.

Mrs. Scott stated, regarding Lori Wilson Park, she was embarrassed when a patron complained to her about the condition of the Park.

Mr. Lane explained that Parks and Recreation no longer owns Lori Wilson Park and that the Brevard County Tourist Development Office (TDO) owns it. He further explained that Parks and Recreation only supervises the two TDO maintenance employees, and that TDO has decided to not renovate the existing beach crossovers

Mrs. Scott stated she felt that County officials should meet and discuss fixing Lori Wilson Park.

IV. New Business

Chair Jarrell read an email that she received from Darren Bolton in regard to Parks and Recreation approving the installation of more sand volleyball courts at Travis Park or Kiwanis Island Park to host high school matches, practices and tournaments.

Chair Jarrell stated she felt Parks and Recreation should support this because Mr. Bolton said his organization would assist with funding the installation and maintenance of the new courts.

Mr. Lane explained the Travis Park facility that Mr. Bolton was referring to already has two lighted sand volleyball courts, and that Travis Park is owned by the City of Cocoa and a portion to Eastern Florida State College, and they would have to agree to allow the installation of more courts at Travis Park.

Mr. Williams stated he works at Eastern Florida State College, and that the College is in favor of athletics, and that he was willing to put Mr. Lane in touch with the college's athletic director

V. Public Input

None

VI. Adjournment

Vice Chair Anderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Signature line for Chair Cathy Jarrell