



Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

5:30 PM

City Hall, Basement Training Room

A. Call To Order/Roll Call

Chair Lindsey called the meeting to order and a quorum was established with Howard Schauer absent.

B. Public Comment

Cheryl Segrest at 14965 Canadian Mist Drive, addressed the Committee and reinforced her advocacy for a skate park on the Island as it does not currently have one that is near by. She updated the Committee on the progress to date with this effort and plan moving forward under the advisement of City Council/City Leadership. She stated a subcommittee will be created to support this effort and they have pivoted their approach to possibly look at other parks besides Commodore Park such as Aquarius Park. She stated they have obtained 892 signatures supporting this effort. She provided to the Committee other data/statistics regarding the skate park such as potential construction costs. She informed the Committee that this topic will be included on a future agenda for the Island Strategic Action Committee.

C. Approval of Absences: Joe De La Paz

A motion was made by Mike Lehnert to approve/excuse the absence listed above and it was seconded by Twila Stevens. The motion passed.

D. Approval of Minutes

1. [24-0972](#) Regular Meeting Minutes of June 12, 2024

A motion was made by Joan Wolfe to approve the minutes listed above and it was seconded by Shawn Flanagan. The motion passed.

E. New Business for Discussion or Possible Action

2. [24-0927](#) Proposed Bond 2024 Parks & Recreation Projects, Ratna Pottumuthu, Assistant Director Engineering Project Management

Ratna Pottumuthu, Assistant Director Engineering Project Management, presented item "2" for the record as shown above. She briefly described the list of proposed projects, Council Districts 1 - 5, for the Parks and Recreation Department. She also gave updates regarding any changes made to the projects. She informed the Committee that the Texas

State Aquarium (Parking Lot Improvements) has been removed from the list and it will be replaced with improvements for St. Andrews Park (trail, ADA improvements, playground & lighting). The bond amount for Labonte Park expansion has increased from \$1.75 million to \$2.75 million. An additional \$1 million will be added to the bond budget for Sherrill Veterans Memorial Park totaling \$3 million. No action was taken on this item.

3. [24-0916](#) Proposed Marina Master Plan, Jonathan Atwood, Marina Superintendent

Jonathan Atwood, Marina Superintendent, presented item "3" for the record as shown above to highlight key concepts of the plan. He began the presentation by giving information on the proposal for a living shoreline to help with breakwater. Another component to improve is connectivity between the Marina and the downtown area to create a more pedestrian friendly environment. This could be accomplished by reducing the northbound and southbound lanes of traffic of Shoreline Boulevard as well as reducing the size of existing medians to create additional parking.

Mr. Atwood explained that the existing seawall is currently at the FEMA floodplain regulation of 15 feet. This could be used at an advantage by constructing mixed-use nodes along the seawall instead of on the T-Heads since there is limited space. Building along the seawall will be limited to specific medians/high-profile areas so as to not obstruct views of the bay. He touched on the concept of adding a Community Sailing Center and Events Venue at the south end of the Marina basin where the breakwater meets McGee Beach which is relatively unused. A final concept would be to add a pedestrian swing bridge connection between People's T-Head and the Lawrence T-Head. No action was taken on this item.

4. [24-0917](#) Budget Priorities for FY 24 - PRAC and Parks & Recreation Department

Robert Dodd, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented item "4" for the record as shown above. He briefly described budgets for the list of proposed projects for the Parks and Recreation Department that range with pillars from mandates to safe and livable spaces. He mentioned this list may change as discussions with City Leadership are ongoing as Staff has been asked to possibly reduce budget amounts. No action was taken on this item.

F. Director's Report

[24-0351](#) Parks & Recreation Updates for July 2024

Mr. Dodd gave the following updates:

- Erosion Mitigation for Bayfront Parks
- Leases for Athletic Fields
- Beach Operations Update (Permit)
- Portable Restrooms in City Parks
- WWII Heritage Trail Signage
- Planner/Scheduler Position

- Upcoming Events
- Endurance Fest 2024

G. Subcommittee and Committee Liaison Reports

ISAC - Twila Stevens updated the Committee on the following items:

- PARD collected 51 tons of trash collected over the Memorial Day weekend
- The permit to move sand from north/south Packery will commence after Labor Day
- Lifeguard recruitment
- Commodore Master Plan

H. Future Agenda Items

I. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.