



Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Wednesday, July 10, 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 Thomas Cronnon and Adam Rios absent.

B. Public Comment

Flo East addressed the Commission and spoke to the funding proposed for the Trail to Trestle project. She felt that funding for this project should not come from tax payers. She questioned the zoning district in which the project is located (light industrial). She also questioned why the grant application for this project did not include funding for the design. She stated she supports the project but does not support how the project will be funded if it will rely on tax payers.

C. Approval of Absences: Howard Schauer and Kelly Summers

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

D. Approval of Minutes

1. [24-0972](#) Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2024

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

E. Director's Report

2. [24-0351](#) Parks & Recreation Updates for September 2024

Robert Dodd, Director of Parks and Recreation, updated the Committee on the following:

- Bill Witt Aquatic Center
- Upcoming Events (Ribbon Cuttings/Bay Jammin Concert/Movies)
- See You on the Seawall
- Park Op clean up operations after recent tropical storms/hurricanes

F. Unfinished Business for Discussion or Possible Action

3. [24-0917](#) Proposed Annual Operating and Capital Budget for FY 25 -Parks & Recreation Department

Mr. Dodd presented this item for the record as shown above. This item was also presented at last month's PRAC meeting. The list of proposed budget priorities had some small changes. Once again, he mentioned this list may change as discussions with City Leadership are ongoing as Staff has been asked to possibly reduce budget amounts (short fall). The floor was opened for PRAC comments/questions. Discussion took place regarding the annual budget process and PRAC's involvement. From the list of projects, PRAC discussed Ocean Drive Median Upgrades, Park Compliance Officers, Water Garden maintenance/security and Cole Park pier lighting. It was noted that the Train to Trestle project was removed from the list.

Further discussion took place regarding the budget item for median upgrades and how PARD is responsible for maintaining medians from Louisiana Parkway to American Bank Center. Staff explained that the budget amount is very conservative for a beautification project with high visibility. PRAC expressed the importance of using native plants/grasses for this type of project that can endure drought/freeze but felt that the budget amount was excessive for this project. A motion was made by Joan Wolfe supporting the list of proposed PARD budget items for FY 25 with the exception of Ocean Drive Median Upgrades. The motion was seconded by Shawn Flanagan and the motion passed.

G. Committee Liaison and Subcommittee Reports

Chair Lindsey reassigned the Pedestrian/Bicycle Connectivity Subcommittee to focus on the Train to Trestle project with Shawn Flanagan, Mike Lehnert and George Woods as members.

H. Future Agenda Items

- Public/Private funding for dog parks
- Updates regarding 10-Year Parks/Rec Master Plan
- Maximo
- Parker Park Dog Park
- Adopt-A-Park

I. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.