

**Recreation Commission
Special Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2016**

1/25/2016 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Present: Keri Hunt, Chair; Robbie Shields, Lake Wales Soccer; Eileen Farchmin, Webber International University; Burney Hayes, PAL; Vic Martinez, Bombers Baseball; Bianca Arnett, YMCA

Guests: Joe Perry, Bombers Baseball

City Staff: James Slaton, Public Services Director; Teresa Allen, Public Services Assistant Director; Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager.

A quorum was present.

2. Minutes

Robbie Shields made a motion to approve the minutes of the November and December minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Communications And Petitions

4. Appoint/Re-Appoint Commission Members

Jennifer Nanek recommended the appointment of Bianca Arnett as the representative of the YMCA, and the reappointment of Robbie Shields as the Lake Wales Soccer Club, Eileen Farchmin as the representative from Webber International University, Linda Kimbrough as the representative of PAL and Burney Hayes as the alternate, Vic Martinez as the representative of the Bombers Baseball Academy and Joe Perry as the Alternate, Patty McKeeman as the Pram Fleet representative, Norm Rainey as the Tennis representative, Michelle Maggard as the Little League representative and Mimi Reid Hardman as the representative of the Historic Lake Wales Society.

Burney Hayes made a motion to approve the appointments as recommended. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

5. Multi-Purpose Complex / Soccer Field Lights

Robbie Shields reported that the ADA parking was installed at the Soccer Complex. Weeds are currently an ongoing issue and there is a plan to address this problem this summer. He reported on a Warner University workday on April 6th and suggested everyone see if they know of work that needs to be done. He reported on a soccer club in Canada and use a field during the day for training and the representative will come and visit on February 9th -10th. This would be a sizable group of students. This is in the planning stages.

Mr. Shields reported that at the end of the month is the All-Star tournament in Auburndale. He also reported on the success of the High School Soccer teams that is benefitting from the excellent soccer programs.

Jennifer Nanek reported on a funding request sent to State Senator Denise Grimsley and State Representative to possibly get funding from the state legislature. Another grant application will be submitted to the US Soccer Foundation by February 5th. Robbie Shields stated that they are still trying to get some funding from the county.

6. Kiwanis Park
There was no report.

7. Lake Wailes Park
James Slaton reported that two new exercise stations were installed on the lake along with electrical upgrades at Lake Wailes Park.

8. Lake Wailes Lake
Teresa Allen reported that they are still waiting on Nancy Furland to set up a meeting with this group to help us with the lake. No report

9. Little League
Jennifer Nanek said that Michelle Maggard could not attend but they are getting ready for opening day but they have a list of concerns to be submitted to Teresa and Beverly soon.

10. Gymnasium/Boys & Girls Club

James Slaton reported that additional bleachers were installed. Burney Hayes said that additional seating is still needed. Ms. Allen said that there are additional chairs that can be put out. Ms. Allen said she will check with the Boys & Girls Center Staff to be sure these are put out for larger events.

Scheduling conflicts between PAL events and pickleball was discussed. The group had consensus that the PAL should have priority as its a youth league. Both Teresa and James said that arrangements for earlier set up can be made and a different schedule can be arranged for next year. Teresa Allen asked for any needs for next year's budget or the future so that they can plan for it.

James Slaton said that the planned repaving of the parking lot at the gym may be delayed.

The need for a shade over the windows as requested by the pickleball group was discussed. Mr. Hayes said the sun glare wasn't an issue for them. Robbie Shields agreed. The consensus on the need was that this is a low priority.

11. Recreation Master Plan

James Slaton said that they are still soliciting public input. Robbie Shields said he plans to provide input at the County level on their Recreation Master Plan as well.

12. General Activities Discussion

YMCA - Bianca Arnett introduced herself and reviewed her position at the YMCA. They have t-ball and soccer for very young kids ages 3-7. Robbie Shields reported that he has met with the Y director to discuss needed programming in the community such as volleyball and tennis.

Bombers - Vic Martinez said that opening day is February 20th for the Central Florida Youth Amateur Youth Baseball League and the opening day for the semi-pro league is upcoming on February 21st. Vic Martinez described the details of the leagues. He said they are thankful for the new fence guards, they will go on the sides for now until we get the rest. The Summer Classic has been extended to accommodate additional participants. They are looking for grants for lights with the RBI foundation. Working on batting cages, they will be up within the week with help from Home Depot. They are looking into starting an after-school program for 25 kids to help with homework and tutoring. This will then help with getting scholarships. The Chair asked how many teams were in the Youth Baseball League. Vic Martinez answered that there were 18 teams, 4 from Lake Wales. Their scholarship program is working well, they will probably lose most of

their seniors next year to colleges.

Tennis - Jennifer Nanek reported that the High School Girls Tennis team has submitted an event application for the District Tournament to be held at Crystal Lake Park at the end of March. The group of Seniors that plays in the mornings will be displaced one day.

Pram Fleet - Patty McKeeman could not attend but Jennifer Nanek reported that the Pram Fleet will start again in March

PAL - Burney Hayes reported that Football is currently on hold but they plan to start registration earlier as more families can pay around tax time. Registration is getting better as 85% of the participants paid last year. There were 180 children signed up this past year which was an increase. The same is true for basketball with 146 playing. Robbie Shields asked about the number of girls participating. Burney Hayes said it was 35. Concerns about parents behavior in the various sports were discussed. It is important that the focus be on the children having fun not always winning.

Webber - Eileen Farchmin reported that school has started again.

Jennifer Nanek reported that the Polk Senior Games will take place in the gymnasium on March 2 with the help of the Webber University football team.

The next meeting will be February 15th, 2016. The meeting was adjourned.

Signed – Chair: _____