

Recreation Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2016

5/16/2016 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Present: Clark Heter, YMCA; Patty McKeeman, Pram Fleet; Eileen Farchmin, Webber International University; Vic Martinez, Bombers Baseball; Alton Norwood, Boys & Girls Club; Robbie Shields - Vice-Chair, Lake Wales Soccer Club.

Staff: Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager

Vice-chair Robbie Shields called the meeting to order

2. Minutes

Patty McKeeman made a motion to approve the minutes for February, 15, 2016, March 21, 2016, and April 18, 2016. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Communications And Petitions

None

4. Multi-Purpose Complex / Soccer Field Lights

Robbie Shields reported that they have finished for the Spring season this past Saturday. There are lots of areas of needed repair on the fields. He has arranged with George O Neill, Jr. from Mountain Lake who is donating sand. The sand will arrive between June 1 -3. On June 24 the City will get equipment to distribute the sand. A few years ago this was done by Robert Kirkner and the fields were better that year. We are still trying to get funding for soccer lights, hopefully Polk County will step up. Robbie Shields reported on efforts by Polk County to develop a Recreation Master Plan. He is encouraging the county to put lights out at their fields as opposed to building new fields. He emphasized the need to be the "squeaky wheel". Their next season starts in September.

5. Kiwanis Park

No report

6. Little League

No report

7. Lake Wailes Park

A water fountain is under repair.

8. Lake Wailes Lake

No report

9. Gymnasium/Boys & Girls Club

Alton Norwood reported that there are no leagues going on currently.

The Chair said that pickleball is growing around the county. Jennifer Nanek reported that they are trying to schedule a pickleball tournament so as not to conflict with PAL or other events.

10. Recreation Master Plan
No update

11. General Activities Discussion

YMCA - Clark Heter reported that they are currently hiring for a program director. Their soccer league for 3 - 6 year olds has just completed. They had 50 kids who are excited for the fall season. Their Summer camp will begin soon and they hired 53 college students to work the camp. The camp is a travel camp and will go all over Polk and to Orlando. Most of the slots are full already and they are looking to expand their license to take more kids into the program. They are planning to expand their after-school program into 5 schools. They and another YMCA split the county as far as providing child care. They are looking to expand partnerships in Lake Wales and expand their basketball program. Gym space is needed to bring back their basketball program. Robbie Shields said that if given the right attention the basketball program could really grow.

Clark Heter said that they are also offering new programs including CPR, First Aid, AED, swimming, and water safety courses.

Robbie Shields asked what the current costs of memberships were. Clark Heter said it was about \$49, but have arranged corporate discounts for many of the larger employers in the county.

Bombers - Vic Martinez reported that their after school program is close to approval. They are putting together financial assistance packages for some students. A director, Twanna Banks has been hired and their goal is June 15. There is a 1 day tournament, the Memorial Day Bash on May 28. The teams are doing well. They have 102 kids participating. The AllStars are next week 5 of their semi-pro team will be participating in the game which will be in Lakeland. They are selling raffle tickets for a beach basket to raise money to go to Vero Beach for a tournament. They need a 2nd uniform for the event. The summer camp starts on June 13. On Aug 4-7 is the summer classic which will include teams from Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. There will be a week break before the start of school. The batting cages will be put up by the 15th. A gate is needed for the fields as they are trashed when they are not there. The cameras are not much of a deterrant

Webber - Eileen Farchmin reported that the womens track team recently won the Sun Conference Championship. A number of their guys and girls qualified for the National Tournament. The softball team has won the Sun Conference tournament and they are playing currently in Rhinehart Georgia. The womens bowling team won their national championship again. All is quiet until the summer camps come in.

Pram Fleet - Patty McKeeman reported that they have 2 more weeks for the spring session then they will be done for summer. They have 1 really good skipper who came in first at the Sarasota Regata and the one in Venice. He sails in the beginner green fleet. He will hopefully move up to the other fleet. Right now they are not having much wind.

Jennifer Nanek reported that the first budget hearing is tonight at 6pm where priorities are discussed.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is June 20, 2016.

Signed – Chair: _____

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