

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 23, 2017

1/23/2017 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Present: Keri Hunt, Chair; Patty McKeeman, Pram Fleet; Andy Oguntola, Polk State College; Bill Heath, Webber International University; Stephanie Edwards, YMCA; Kara Wiseman, Lake Wales Library; Robbie Shields, Lake Wales Soccer Club; Burney Hayes, PAL

Staff: James Slaton, Director of Public/Support Services; Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager

A quorum was present.

The Chair called the meeting to order. Jennifer Nanek introduced Andy Oguntola who has applied to be on the board representing Polk State College. She explained that Polk State College does not currently have a seat but the ordinance allows the board to add organizations if they choose. Patty McKeeman made a motion to add Polk State College as an organization member to the board. The motion was seconded and approved.

2. Minutes

The minutes of May 16, 2016, June 20, 2016, July 18, 2016, August 15, 2016, September 19, 2016, October 17, 2016, and December 19, 2016 were reviewed. Patty McKeeman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Multi-Purpose Complex / Soccer Field Lights

Robbie Shields reported that the conditions of the fields are better than ever. Lake Wales is hosting the Commissioner's Cup under 15 boys and girls division. There will be 18 teams that will play over the weekend of February 25-26. The the end of the season is an all-star tournament which is next week in Auburndale. About 11 teams will compete from Lake Wales. The spring season begins in March and they are working on getting online registrations.

4. Kiwanis Park

Kara Wiseman reported that the Library has a Story Walk along the Rails to Trails behind Kiwanis Park and that a new book will be put in in February.

5. Little League

Jennifer Nanek said that their opening day is March 4. Kara Wiseman shared that there is a team meeting on Tuesday night.

6. Lake Wailes Lake

No new updates.

7. Lake Wailes Park

The Chair asked about the status of the new water fountains. James Slaton said they have been ordered. The chair reported that one of the fountains is running continuously. James said he will look into that.

8. Gymnasium/Boys & Girls Club

Jennifer Nanek said that the Gymnasium is back open after repairs. The pickleball tournament for March 10-12 has been approved and the Polk Senior Games Basketball is March 1. Jennifer Nanek said that she hopes that the Webber football team will be able to volunteer this year and may look for a few extra just in case.

9. Recreation Master Plan
No updates

10. General Activities Discussion

YMCA - Stephanie Edwards says she started 3 weeks ago and they are working on a year long calendar of programs. They are working on volleyball for middle school going.

Baseball - Bombers were absent. James Slaton said the City, the Independence and Bombers were approached by a Foundation in Lakeland that wish to have baseball program for under privileged kids. The organization is sponsoring most of the equipment and is backed by Major League Baseball. They are partnering with football groups in other cities. Independence is willing to merge with the Evan Michael Chambers Foundation and become the Pirates. The Bombers do not wish to participate. They are working with the Steelers. The Pirates will share use of the North West Complex. First Season is under 12 this year. Robbie Shields speculated that the Bombers are more competitive and the Pirates and more recreational. Burney Hayes said the program is similar to the Willie Horton 360 program trying to get kids who aren't currently playing.

Tennis: Norm Rainey was absent. Bill Heath asked about what tennis groups use the courts. Jennifer Nanek said that there is a senior citizen group that uses the courts Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9am and the high school tennis team uses the courts as well. Mr. Heath said that after retirement he would like to start up a youth tennis program and would like to discuss the matter with the City. James Slaton said he would be glad to discuss the possibility.

Pram Fleet: Patty McKeeman reported that they start again in March. She thanked the City for help fixing and replacing the toilet although a bad smell has been reported. They are exploring a grant for a new building and may need help from the city on where it should be.

PAL - Burney Hayes reported that Basketball is in full swing. A few will be selected to go to State in Jacksonville. The chair asked if their players were both boys & girls? Mr. Hayes confirmed that they were.

Lake Wales Library - Kara Wisemann, Youth Services Librarian reported that the student art show will be at the library for the month of February. The programs that month will be art and science related. In March they will have 2 performers about the Strawberry Girl book as well as some Florida History programs. She distributed copies of the January calendar. Tomorrow will be a snow day at the Library. On Thursday, she and Library director Tina Peak are going to Tampa to arrange bringing a reading corner to the Library. Only 4 libraries in the area are getting these. She described some of the summer programs, there will be 3 instead of 6 like last year to save funds. Theme for the summer is "Build a Better World" so many programs will be building related.

Webber - Bill Heath in place of Dr Farchmin said that basketball, baseball and softball are going on. Tennis is getting started as is golf. Men's volleyball is new this year and getting started. Warner and Webber will play each other 2 weeks in a row in basketball which is an intense rivalry.

Polk State College - Andy Oguntola they are expanding their sports programs to have some sports in Lake Wales. They may look to partner with the YMCA.

PLSA - Jennifer Nanek reported on the Polk Leisure Services Association meeting held in Lake Wales last Thursday at the James Austin Community Center. A slide show of our different parks and facilities was shown.

Centennial - Jennifer Nanek reported on plans to have a Centennial event on Sunday May 28th at Lake Wailes Lake with fireworks and food trucks and live music.

11. Communications And Petitions

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is February 20th 2017.

Chair