

RECREATION COMMISSION
February 19, 2018
City Manager's Conference Room
Regular Meeting Minutes

3/19/2018 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Present: Keri Hunt, Chair; Robbie Shields, Vice-Chair; Darrell Washington - PAL, Patty McKeeman - Pram Fleet, Jennifer Leeks; Victor Martinez - Bombers Baseball; Kara Wiseman - Library;

Guests: Scott Blackburn - Lake Wales Little League; Lake Wales Steelers; Joe Perry - Bombers Baseball; Jeanne Moore and Jermaine Ward - Steelers; Laura Motis - Tennis

Staff: Stephanie Edwards - Recreation Coordinator; Jennifer Nanek - City Clerk

The Chair arrived late so Vice-Chair Robbie Shields called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

2. Minutes

The minutes from September were reviewed. Robbie Shields made a motion to approve the minutes of May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December, January and February. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Communications And Petitions

4. Kiwanis Park

Stephanie Edwards reported that a new story book was installed along the Rails to Trails.

5. Multi-Purpose Complex / Soccer Field Lights

Robbie Shields reported on the Commissioners Cup they hosted with teams from all over the state. The spring season has started. It began on March 10th and it is 3v3. People go and stay all day causing the parking to be full. The season is going well. The Area Chamber of Commerce Member Event cookout was held at the Soccer park. The soccer team Florida Tropics was out there for the event.

Mr. Shields reported on the new lights that were installed and we need three more.

6. Lake Wailes Park

Jennifer Nanek reported that \$6 million was reportedly budgeted for FRDAP Grants but uncertain if its for small projects or if it will include our 2 projects on the list which includes soccer lights and a pavilion at Lake Wailes Park.

7. Lake Wailes Lake

7.1. LakeNight Cinema Event

Stephanie Edwards reported on Movie Night on Friday night and distributed flyers. The movie will be Coco. There is no admission.

8. Little League

Scott Blackburn reported that they are 2 weeks into the season. There facility is used 5 nights a week and Saturdays. Mr. Shields asked about Tball. Mr. Blackburn said that because of hurricane damage they play on the softball field instead of Barranco. There are 40 kids playing in tball. He reported on hurricane damage and efforts to work with the City to repair the scoreboards. The fence was repaired. The concession stand is

unusable. Ms. Edwards reported that they meet with FEMA weekly to make sure the process moves along. Mr. Blackburn said that everything must be done according to FEMA guidelines. Some fundraising has been done to help replace lost equipment. Many repairs will be done over the summer after the season ends.

There is a concern about traffic along Lake Shore. Many cars speed through there. There was a discussion on how best to address this.

9. Gymnasium/Boys & Girls Club

Robbie Shields reported that the gymnasium at the High School has been repaired.

The Chair asked about pickleball if they are at both the Kirkland Gym and outdoor courts. Ms. Edwards confirmed this.

9.I. Polk Senior Games Report

Jennifer Nanek reported that the Polk Senior Games basketball shooting event went well there were no problems.

10. Recreation Master Plan

Stephanie Edwards reported on plans to enhance Crystal Lake Park. This will include additional tennis courts, a basketball court, bocce ball and equipment for shuffleboard and other activities. They will have a design firm on contract to help add features and equipment to the park. They are working on a disc golf course around Lake Wailes.

Jennifer Leeks asked about the possibility of a multi-use complex. Ms. Edwards said that there will be a Recreation workshop with the commission to discuss ideas on how to develop this complex which would be located on the old High school complex near CSX building.

Laura Motis reported on ideas to add more tennis courts. The USTA has grants to help with costs. Darrell Washington reported on a contact that can help with equipment and resources.

11. General Activities Discussion

YMCA - Ms. Edwards reported that volleyball is still going on and will be finished soon. The Chair asked if volleyball was at the gym. Ms. Edwards confirmed this.

Tennis - Laura Motis reported that the Courts are heavily used with the High School teams, Warner, Bok Middle School, the senior group and pickleball. This was discussed. Mr. Martinez reported that the courts at Northwest complex are also available. Ms. Edwards says she will address this when and if this becomes more of an issue. Ms. Edwards said the youth tennis is going through start-up process. Hopefully will start this summer. Ms. Motis said they would like to have more kids in tennis.

Bombers Baseball - Victor Martinez reported on the shared use of the ball fields at the Northwest complex with Independence group and the Pirates. The fields are used 7 days a week. There are also using fields in Poinciana area. He said that there are 7 students that got full rides or up to 80% scholarships to go to college. They paid for repairs. They could not wait on FEMA. They have 5-6 kids in their after school program. They are looking at more locations for their programs. Someone has been damaging the fields with a motorbike and he has notified the police. Scott Blackburn asked how many of their players are Lake Wales residents. Mr. Martinez said 25% and 75% are from other places. The use of the fields paid by the City by non-residents was discussed. Mr. Martinez said there are 2 teams that are made up mostly of players from Lake Wales. Their club is more competitive. Mr. Blackburn said that Little League only allows Lake Wales residents. Mr. Shields said that at the Soccer Park they can't differentiate between City and County players due to some of the grants used to construct the fields.

Pram Fleet - Patty McKeeman reported that they started 2 weeks ago. They sail on Sundays but will skip Easter and Mother's Day. They have 23 sailors. Eight of them are new. Three will be going to the Sarasota Regatta in April.

Green & Gold - Ms. Edwards reported that the Guns & Hoses BBQ is this Saturday at Lake Wailes Park.

PAL - Darrell Washington reported that they have 2 basketball teams going to District Tournaments in Jacksonville. They are going to the National PAL meeting in Miami in May. Need a place for PAL for basketball for practices and games that they can schedule. Different venues were discussed. Use of the gym and scheduling were discussed. Ms. Edwards said the staff at the Gym is tracking attendance numbers. Robbie Shields said he was willing to advocate for any group to the school board or other group.

Lake Wales Library - Kara Wiseman reported on the new Storybook on the Rails to Trails. Tomorrow is the kick-off event for "1000 books before Kindergarten" at 11:30 a.m. There is a monthly craft program for adults. The programs for the summer are booked.

Lake Wales Charter Schools - Ms. Nanek reported on the Farm Share event on April 14th.

Jeanne and Jermaine Ward, from the Lake Wales Steelers said that things are fine with them and that they came to confirm their practice schedule at Kiwanis Park. Ms. Ward said that they are fine. Jennifer Nanek explained about comments on social media that the Steelers combined with the Gators to be the Seahawks and the Steelers refuted this. Mr. Washington said this was handled badly. Mr. Ward said that they have signups Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Robbie Shields reported on Florida's Natural Charity Classic that raises money for many charities around Lake Wales.

Ms. Leeks reported on upcoming events at Warner University.

The Chair requested that the dog litter stations that were lost during the hurricane be replaced.

Ms. Nanek invited the guests from LW Steelers, and Little League to consider joining the board. Ms. Leeks asked if Warner can have a spot on the board. Ms. Nanek said yes they can. The board can add any group they like.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is April 16th.

Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

Secretary