

RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 20, 2017

3/20/2017 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Present: Keri Hunt, Chair; Vic Martinez, Bombers Baseball; Burney Hayes, PAL, Stephanie Edwards, YMCA; Patty McKeeman, Pram Fleet; Kara Wiseman, Lake Wales Library; Eileen Farchmin, Webber International University.

Guests: Joe Perry, Bombers Baseball; Johnathon Feagan, Math teacher at LWCS; Kenneth Against the Odds; Bobby Alexander, Against the Odds; Brittany Alexander, LWCS; Kirk Eich YMCA;

Staff: Jennifer Nanek, Assistant to the City Manager.

2. Minutes

The minutes of January 23, 2017 and February 20, 2017 were reviewed. Patty McKeeman made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

3. Communications And Petitions

Joe Perry reported on an event jointly sponsored by the Bombers and Against the Odds called kids day. There were games and other activities. There were no problems or injuries. There were over 200 people in attendance and kids were well supervised. They hope to do these types of events regularly.

4. Multi-Purpose Complex / Soccer Field Lights

Jennifer Nanek reported that Robbie Shields could not come as he was doing an interview with Fox news about the recent break-in at the concession stand. Their opening day on March 11 went well, parking was overflowing and the games begin April 1st.

The chair reported that the thieves took out the windows, crawled in and all they took was candy so they presume it was kids.

5. Kiwanis Park

No report

6. Lake Wailes Park

Jennifer Nanek reported that there are new water fountains along the trail that are pet-friendly. The chair and others responded that this was a good development.

The chair asked about a tree that was cut down on the South side of the trail near a bench and pavilion. She wondered why and if it would be replaced. Jennifer said that she did not know but would find out and get back to everyone.

The chair asked about a fisherman feeding fish. Patty McKeeman explained that he is called a minnow shiner fisherman. He sets out posts, feeds the minnows and then nets them. They have to have a license and tag their stakes. The chair was concerned as he was out there everyday. Does someone check these people to be sure they have a license. Jennifer Nanek said she would inquire about that.

7. Lake Wailes Lake

No report

8. Little League

Jennifer Nanek said she saw that there was good turn out for their opening day but had no other report.

9. Gymnasium/Boys & Girls Club

Jennifer Nanek reported that the pickleball tournament went well and was well attended. Roosevelt FFA came and sold food for the event. Burney Hayes said that Volleyball is starting up with practices and there will be games starting shortly.

10. Recreation Master Plan

No report

11. General Activities Discussion

YMCA - Stephanie Edwards reported that the volleyball program has 28 girls with 4 teams and the girls are enjoying it. The games begin this Saturday. She is working on a calendar for the rest of the year. Kirk Eich introduced himself, he is the Director of the Lakeland YMCA, and is working to meet everyone and they are working to help manage and operate the Y and are looking to make the community better.

Bombers Baseball - Vic Martinez reported that the opening day for the Babe Ruth League is April 15. they joined two leagues this year, the Dixie Youth Baseball & Babe Ruth. They are 4 players short on being at full capacity. The Dixie Youth League opens April 22. This league covers 4 different counties and will include 30 games. They had cleanup day this weekend and the volunteers got community service hours for helping. As it is spring break this week they will do some painting and refurbishing. They are completely approve for the after school program. The final licensing inspection is coming up. They will be at full capacity before they open.

Tennis - No report

Pram Fleet - Patty McKeeman reported that the 1st sailing day for the spring session was yesterday. It was windy out. They have 8 new skippers making the total 21. They will sail for 8 weeks but will skip the holidays. There are regattas upcoming that they will bring some of the kids to. They still would like to get a new building on the same site. A question was asked what the age was to sail boats? Patty explained that for them it is 9 -15 but other clubs allow younger kids. They always have a waiting list so they don't publicize too much.

Green and Gold/B Street - No report

PAL - Burney Hayes reported that basketball is still going on. The all-star teams are continuing to state and some will play through the summer. They are trying to mentor participants through the year to keep them interested in various sports.

Lake Wales Library - Kara Wiseman reported on the Strawberry girl events held yesterday and last week. Coming up is a fundraising luncheon on April 1st with a special guest speaker. She also reported on the upcoming Little Theater show.

Webber - Jennifer reported that the Webber students did show up to volunteer for the Polk Senior Games this year after failing to last year. Dr. Farchmin reported on the Big Kahuna Canoe challenge to raise money for Stirring Waters. There will be a dedication of the outdoor basketball court on the 29th. The Athletic department golf tournament fundraiser is May 6th. The baseball team is doing well and a new athletic director has been chosen. They are looking for new coaches in many sports. She apologized that her schedule has not allowed her to come a lot this semester.

Lake Wales Charter Schools - Mr. Feagan, a math teacher at the high school and head track coach, he reported that he would like to work with PAL to establish a track/running program for students outside of the track season in High School. This could include middle school age kids and kids not in High School so that potential track athletes can train year round even before they get to high school. He is willing to support the effort personally until he can build support. Vic Martinez shared about having the vision to build the Bombers program and the challenges getting started. He said that learning how to run and participate in track can help baseball athletes as well. Many members expressed support for this idea.

Ms. Alexander reported on the McCance Challenge is focusing on Recreation this time and how to improve it. She reported on efforts to establish an organization called "Against the Odds" to help mentor at-risk kids. They are looking to create positive role models and teach the importance of giving back. Advice is greatly welcome. Burney Hayes reported on their goal to get a facility to serve as a recreation center. With this, they could be more fruitful. They may approach the City Commission for help on this project in the future. Jennifer Nanek offered assistance with special events and publicity.

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is April 17th.

Signed – Chair: \_\_\_\_\_