

RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 20, 2016

6/20/2016 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

Present: Joe Perry, Bombers Baseball; Alton Norwood, Boys & Girls Club/Gymnasium; Clark Heter, YMCA

Guest: Eugene Kendrick, Lake Wales High School

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

In absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair Jennifer Nanek called the meeting to order. A quorum was not present.

2. Minutes

A quorum was not present so the minutes could not be approved.

3. Communications And Petitions

None.

4. Multi-Purpose Complex / Soccer Field Lights

5. Kiwanis Park

No updates.

6. Lake Wailes Park

Jennifer Nanek reported that the 4th of July event is scheduled for Monday the 4th from 2pm -9pm with the fireworks at 9:15pm.

7. Lake Wailes Lake

Teresa Allen reported that they are budgeting money in the next fiscal year for improvements to the lake.

8. Gymnasium/Boys & Girls Club

Jennifer Nanek reported that the pickleball group have come up with a date in March that is acceptable to the Boys & Girls Club. A special event application has not been submitted yet.

9. Little League

No updates.

10. Recreation Master Plan

James Slaton said that a meeting will be scheduled now that the budget is done and there has been sufficient time for comments online.

Eugene Kendrick asked what the Recreation Master Plan is. James Slaton explained that is was a review of current facilities and what upgrades or new facilities will be needed in the future. It is a long range plan on how to move forward in the future in terms of recreation. Mr. Kendrick expressed a need for a recreation center in Lake Wales especially for teenagers who are not into athletics. This type of center could include tutoring, pool tables, ping-pong tables, plan field trips, have speakers. We need a place for kids to go and

provide help to meet their goals. Something should be available for kids of all ages and interests. The need for this resource was agreed on and discussion. Possible locations that could be used currently are the Austin Community Center, Gymnasium weight room, or Tourist Club.

James Slaton shared ideas about possible summer programs that could be organized.

Clark Heter said that some training and/or summer job programs to teach job skills would help students later in life.

There was discussion on background checks, if those with a record can or should be hired. Teresa Allen explained that the City does not automatically disqualify an applicant if they have a record. Each person or position is addressed on a case by case basis. Joe Perry commented that there are companies and organizations that won't hire anyone with records.

Eugene Kendrick emphasized need for a resource for teens as the Boys & Girls Club serves younger kids. Alton Norwood confirmed that its mostly younger kids at the Boys & Girls Club, teenagers do hang out at the gym. He asked if they were planning or willing to expand. Jennifer Nanek said she could give Eugene Kendrick Curtis Reddick's contact information. The use of the space at the Austin community Center was discussed as a possibility as one room is being vacated. Mr. Kendrick explained that there is a need for intramural and non-competitive sports. Mr. Kendrick can help with a facility by providing computers to tvs. James Slaton said he could take Eugene Kendrick to see the different facilities. More youth sports leagues are needed.

A possible new multi-use recreation facility was discussed to provide more recreation facilities in a few years.

11. General Activities Discussion

YMCA - Jennifer Nanek reported that the YMCA and the City have partnered to apply for a City Catalyst Grant from the Florida League of Mayors to offer free Tai Chi classes down at Lake Wailes Park.

Clark Heter reported on their summer camps and CIT, Counselor in Training, programs. He explained the programs and application process. The participants get volunteer hours but get training, free meals, and can go on trips. He described their after school programs and senior programming. There are upcoming community wellness programs open to everyone to try and get more people to try out the Y including community swim times.

Baseball/Bombers - Joe Perry reported on an upcoming tournament with area teams. Three teams are headed to a tournament in Vero Beach over 4th of July weekend.

Pram Fleet - Jennifer Nanek reported that Patty McKeeman sent an email saying she was out of town but that the Pram Fleet is done until September.

Historic Lake Wales Society - The museum is open again, Tuesdays - Saturdays, 9-5pm

Webber University - Eileen Farchmin is absent due to hip surgery.

Jennifer Nanek reported that the PLSA meeting is Thursday and that Vince Crawford will attend for the City as she couldn't.

The next meeting will be July 18th, 2016. The meeting was adjourned.

Signed – Chair: _____