

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
LONGWOOD CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
175 WEST WARREN AVENUE
LONGWOOD, FLORIDA**

**MINUTES
August 6, 2024
6:30 P.M.**

Present: Larissa Morgan, Chair
David Putz, Member
Lori Rice, Member
Amanda Sackett, Member
William “Bill” Overbeek, Member
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director
Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Manager
Donna Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary

Absent: Judi Coad, Vice-Chair
Erin Keefe, Member

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
- 2. PUBLIC INPUT.** None.
- 3. ACTIONS ITEMS**

A. Approve Minutes from July 2, 2024 Meeting

Member Sackett moved to approve the July 2, 2024, minutes. Seconded by Member Rice and motion carried by a unanimous voice vote with Member Keefe and Vice-Chair Coad absent.

B. Discuss Dates for Rescheduling October and November Board Meetings

Mr. Capizzi reviewed the available dates provided by the City Clerk to reschedule the meetings potentially.

Discussion ensued about rescheduling or canceling the October meeting and moving the November 5, 2024 meeting to November 7, 2024.

Member Rice made a motion to cancel the October 2024 meeting and move the November 2024 to Thursday, November 7, 2024. Seconded by Member Sackett and motion carried by a unanimous voice vote with Member Keefe and Vice-Chair Coad absent.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Rice reported that she took another look at the bike station on the trail and advised staff that the missing components could be replaced. She said a QR code provides a link to purchase them. She said the windscreen at Candyland Sports Complex is up and it looks great. She said the tie-downs at the bottom are not working any longer. She was happy that a small section at the entrance was left open for people to sit and watch the games and said it was easy to see through. She said having field numbers on the dugouts would be a great idea so people can find the fields when they arrive at the park.

Discussion ensued about field numbers on the dugouts at Candyland Sports Complex.

Member Rice said one (1) large tree in the dog park succumbed to the storm and thanked staff for fencing it off. She said there was no fence damage. She asked about the enrollment for Summer Camp.

Mr. Rinaldo responded that they had approximately forty-five (45) kids versus sixty (60) kids when the camp was at Lyman.

Member Rice asked staff to update the Board Members on the fountains at Reiter Park and asked if the misting station was working at this time.

Mr. Rinaldo said it was up and running for one (1) day, and then the capacitor went out. It has been ordered, and the staff hopes to fix it soon.

Member Rice wished Mrs. Alt-Bowes and Clint Gioielli a happy birthday. She advised that after much contemplation, she would not seek re-appointment after six (6) terms as a Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisor. She will be celebrating her last meeting on September 3, 2024. She said Deputy Mayor Morgan nominated this seat. She advised board members if they had any recommendations to have potential candidates complete the form requesting to sit on a board with the city clerk. She said we have National Night Out on October 1st and asked if there was a Board Member who would like to step in and work with staff on this annual event to please get with staff.

Discussion ensued concerning what is involved with taking on the National Night Out event.

Chair Morgan said she thinks it would be a great event for Member Overbeek and advised him that he did not have to answer today but that it is something for him to consider.

Member Overbeek did not have a report.

Chair Morgan reported that Summer Camp was awesome and thanked the staff. She advised that they had great volunteers who were very attentive. The Board Appreciation Dinner was great, and it was great catching up with everyone. She went to the Back to

School event run by the police department, and there was a good turnout. She said she contacted vendors for Dogtoberfest and copied Member Keefe on the emails, and they both seemed to be interested in being involved.

Discussion ensued about vendors already agreeing to participate in the Dogtoberfest event.

Member Sackett reported and said she would like to meet with staff with regard to the October dance and to discuss a potential new event, Longwood Family Olympics, she would like to do in January.

Member Putz passed out photos of previous events for the Board Members to see since Member Rice is going to be leaving the Board.

Discussion ensued with regard to the photos Member Putz was showing to the Board.

5. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Capizzi reported that the Senior Matinee is August 21, 2024, and the movie will be *Summer Camp*. He said the Car Show is this weekend, and the Concert in the Park, the Food Trucks, and Overdose Awareness Day are coming up. He advised that the electrician would be here tomorrow to start the electrical work for the fountains.

Discussion ensued about the delay and the cost of the fountains.

Mr. Capizzi said they have been doing work over at Reiter Park. The Parks staff will be out at Reiter Park with the Kubota upturning the rock pathway on the Park's northern side. They were able to put in some new sod in some areas on the main lawn and the back lawn. He said they were waiting to see if the area in the back lawn takes; if not, we will have to redo it. The Butterfly Garden got a makeover last week, and it looks terrific. He said they are considering putting bricks underneath the swing area, but we must wait for the mason to be available. He said he would put a playground mat under the swing so the erosion does not keep occurring.

Member Rice said the swing is an important component, and we may need to add a couple more swings to the Park in time.

Mr. Capizzi said they are getting ready for a skills assessment this Saturday for Longwood Babe Ruth, and our numbers looked good in the spring and have steadily increased since 2020. He said they removed all of the grass in the infield on the field that backs up to the skate park and replaced the sod, and it looks great right now.

Member Rice said the grass is nice and green on all fields.

Mr. Capizzi said that there is a delicate balance between the rain and the heat to keep the fields up to par. He said they have done some sidewalk projects, actually removing an entire piece and re-paving it, along with some drainage issues. He said we have officially received the Sandalwood Park and Candyland Sports Complex grant. We will redo the basketball court at Sandalwood once we receive the Notice of Commencement in the Fall and update the skate park at Candyland Sports Complex. He explained to the Board the work done at the skate park and the pump track and what would be done with the grant.

Mr. Rinaldo went over the synopsis for the Rock, Freedom, and Fireworks event.

Discussion ensued with the regard to the difference in costs and revenue between last year's event and this year's event and the event itself.

Member Rice said that pictures of the culverts were requested at the last meeting.

Staff provided pictures of the culverts for the Board Members to see.

Discussion ensued regarding previous events held within the City of Longwood and the available event opportunities for new Board Members.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Member Putz moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Member Rice and motion carried by a unanimous voice vote with Member Keefe and Vice-Chair Coad absent.

Chair Morgan adjourned the meeting at 7:24 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: 09-03-2024

Larissa Morgan, Chair

ATTEST:

Donna Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary