



**CITY OF
MOUNT
DORA**

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**PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
City Hall Boardroom, 510 N. Baker Street, Mount Dora, FL 32757
October 18, 2021 at 5:30 PM**

MINUTES

PRESENT: Wendy Appleby, Kate Barnard, Marsha Blum (Alternate), Derrick Campbell, Rick Cooper, Amy Fortenberry, William Larkin, Don Stuart (Alternate), Mark Woerner

ABSENT: None

CITY STAFF: Christopher Carson – Cultural and Special Events Coordinator, Jeanann Hand – Leisure Services Administrative Coordinator, Amy Jewell – Director of Leisure Services, Jen Schwarz - Leisure Services Operations Manager, Troy Shonk – Leisure Services Manager

I. Call to Order

Mr. Woerner called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

II. Roll Call

III. Approval of Minutes

A. September 20, 2021 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

MOTION by Mr. Larkin, SECONDED by Ms. Appleby to approve the minutes from September 20, 2021.

AYE: Appleby, Barnard, Campbell, Cooper, Fortenberry, Larkin, Woerner

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

IV. Public Comment

V. Presentations

VI. Action Items

VII. Resolutions

VIII. Ordinances

IX. Discussion Items

X. City Staff

A. Sunshine Law Memorandum

Mr. Shonk read into record a memo composed by City Attorney Sherry Sutphen regarding Board member obligations when participating in conversations on social media.

B. Parks and Recreation Update

Mr. Shonk updated Board members on several projects underway, all of which had all been previously presented to the Board and met with their approval. The projects are part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and the first two were suggested to take place within zero to two years of the Plan's adoption.

Construction documents for the Cauley Lott Park renovation are at 60% and have been reviewed by City staff. The current cost estimate is at \$1.8 million, which exceeds the \$1.4 million approved by the City for this endeavor. Evergreen Construction is adjusting the plans with suggestions provided by the City. The City is awaiting the revisions. The renovation is being partially funded by a \$200,000 LWCF grant with 100% match from the City. Construction is expected to begin in the first half of 2022.

To make up for the shortfall, the City is considering eliminating from the plan the covering for the basketball courts. There is a possibility a proposed recreation center would provide an indoor basketball court, which would satisfy the need for this feature. The budget overage is a result of the rise in material costs since the initial evaluation of the project.

Mr. Shonk reported that Phase II of the Lincoln Pool renovation is underway. The pool is running more efficiently since Phase I was completed. Initial drawings from CPH have been reviewed by staff and the City is now waiting for 60% drawings, which should be ready on October 22nd. A cost estimate will also be presented at that time. City Council approved \$1.6 million for the project. It is also being partially funded by a 100% matching \$200,000 FRDAP grant. Phase II includes the pool facilities, restrooms, and landscaping. Renovation should take place in the winter of 2021/22. The City is considering adding a shade structure and splash pad.

The Triangle Elementary joint-use playground fills a level of service gap identified in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. GAI recently submitted a site plan for staff review. Staff and the Lake County School District met with GAI on site to discuss project details, site

plan revisions, and a timeline for the project. Triangle staff and the surrounding community were surveyed regarding playground amenities; the gathered feedback is being reviewed. City staff provided the school with a tree and landscaping approval list, and GAI is getting the site build-ready. Permitting is in process. City Council has approved \$1 million for this project, and construction is planned for the summer of 2022.

Mount Dora High School has been awarded the district swim meet, which will be held at the Lincoln Pool on October 22, 2021. Members were advised to be aware of parking and traffic issues related to the event.

The soccer season recently ended, and served 270 participants. The City was forced to put 50 additional potential participants on a wait list due to lack of available space. The City will most likely be running wait lists until more green space is available. Staffing is also falling short.

The grant to convert the softball fields into additional green space was denied, so that project will not be moving forward at this time.

The City's child care program registrations are at an all-time high. The Winter Break Camp sold out quickly.

Mr. Cooper asked about the City partnering with the high school for their football field renovation, in a manner similar to the City's joint-use relationship with Triangle Elementary. Mr. Larkin mentioned the high school field project is at Phase I, which involves renovating the concession area. Mr. Shonk informed Mr. Larkin the City could not apply for a grant for the high school field project, since it does not own the field, but the School Board could apply.

B. Cultural and Special Events Update

Mr. Carson informed Board members about the Craft Fair scheduled to happen during the upcoming weekend. Heavy attendance is expected. Plaid in the Park and the Hobie Wave Regatta, the events that occurred the prior weekend, drew large crowds. An active event season is likely.

Mr. Cooper congratulated the City on the Mabel Norris Reese sculpture installation. He asked about the relocation of the windmill sculpture and was told it is now at Evans Park.

Mr. Cooper asked for assurance the Christmas Parade would not experience the political controversy that occurred at the Independence Day Parade. Mr. Carson replied that the Christmas Parade is sponsored by the Lions Club, which does not allow political participants.

Mr. Carson answered Ms. Blum's questions about Bicycle Festival, which involved about 300 cyclists. Ms. Barnard remarked the festival did not positively impact her downtown

business. She heard similar remarks from neighboring merchants. Mr. Carson advised Board members he is meeting with the event sponsor and will relay the information.

Mr. Stuart told members and staff that the Main Street Leasing Christmas tree will be erected during the first or second week of November. Mr. Stuart's weekend market is doing well.

C. 2022 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Dates

Mr. Shonk reviewed the meeting dates set for 2022. Monday meetings in January and February 2022 are rescheduled for Thursdays in observance of national holidays occurring on Mondays during those months.

XI. Communications and Reports

A. Advisory Board Reappointments

Upon request, City staff will provide a letter for members whose terms are expiring and who wish to be reappointed to the Board.

B. Board Member Wendy Appleby

Mr. Shonk responded to a question from Ms. Appleby regarding the Dora Queen docking in Mount Dora. Such an arrangement will not be occurring at this time. He would obtain further information from Public Works and the City's Project Manager regarding the elements of the first and second phases of dock renovations. Ms. Appleby expressed disapproval of the condition of the docks.

C. Board Member Kate Barnard

D. Board Member Marsha Blum

E. Board Member Derrick Campbell

F. Board Member Rick Cooper

In response to a question from Mr. Cooper, Mr. Shonk explained the City Horticulturalist Foreman would oversee the regulation of invasive species at Forest Preserve. Parks staff would maintain the property, and library staff would coordinate the programming.

Mr. Cooper requested more advanced notice for Parks and Recreation Advisory Board items that will be presented at City Council. He expressed dissatisfaction with Council members' breadth of knowledge of Board members' advice regarding agenda items.

G. Board Member William Larkin

Mr. Larkin requested the City consider greater availability of boat docking for visitors to Mount Dora. He mentioned the economic impact he believes such a change would have. He unfavorably compared the recreational docking availability in Mount Dora against that of Tavares.

Board members discussed the scheduling of projects. City staff reminded them that projects were prioritized in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. According to the Plan, which was approved by Council, projects addressing safety and gaps in level of service will be addressed before additional waterfront docking. The docking item may rank higher for the City's Economic Development Department, but in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, safety and service were more weighty concerns.

Mr. Larkin wished to see the return to Mount Dora of the Antique Boat Show.

H. Board Member Alternate Don Stuart

I. Vice-Chair Amy Fortenberry

J. Chair Mark Woerner

XII. Future Meeting Dates

XIII. Adjournment

MOTION by Ms. Fortenberry, SECONDED by Ms. Barnard to adjourn the meeting.

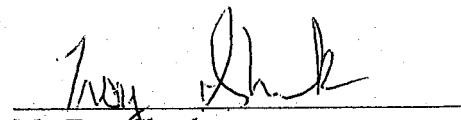
AYE: Appleby, Barnard, Campbell, Cooper, Fortenberry, Larkin, Woerner

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED 7-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 PM.


Mr. Mark Woerner
Chairperson


Mr. Troy Shonk
Leisure Services Manager