



City of Venice

401 West Venice Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
www.venicegov.com

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, November 20, 2023

2:30 PM

Council Chambers

Broadcast

I. Call to Order

Chair Roger Effron called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 7 - Eydie Kargas, John Hinshaw, Kirk Wilkenson, Scott Blaser, Om Patel, Steve Carr and Roger Effron

Also Present

Assistant City Manager James Clinch, Sarasota County Recreation and Neighborhood Parks Division Manager Lauren Kabrick, and Recording Secretary Amanda Hawkins-Brown.

III. Approval of Minutes

[23-6299](#) Minutes of the September 18, 2023 Regular Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Wilkenson, seconded by Mr. Hinshaw, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2023 regular meeting as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Audience Participation

There was no one signed up to speak.

V. Updates

[23-5927](#) City of Venice Updates (Ricky Simpson)

Discussion took place on the proposed sunseting of three of the advisory boards, the creation of the Citizen's Advisory Board (CAB), parks inter-local agreement, and the Northeast Park.

Assistant City Manager Clinch updated the Board on Wellfield Park, the Inter-local Parks Agreement, resurfacing of tennis courts, Venice Beach new ADA friendly railings, Hecksher Park tennis court's resurfacing, the re-roof being completed at the Venice Community Center, new

playground equipment at East Gate Park, shade structures being installed over playground at Venezia Park, City Council's approval of the Northeast Park design, planned Centennial Park restrooms renovations, and answered Board questions on playground in East Gate Park, South Jetty repair status, security at Venice Community Center, traffic management during events, and timeline for remodel of Centennial Park restrooms.

22-5563

Sarasota County PARC Update

Ms. Kabrick spoke on Wellfield Park hosting various leagues, Casperson Beach boardwalk repairs, Venice Community Center partnerships, renovations, upcoming holiday craft show, updates to rental agreements in response to past security concerns, and answered Board questions on Woodmere Park clean-ups, easement project, personnel needs, and the recent croquet tournament at Wellfield Park.

VI. New Business

Discussion took place regarding a community tree in the arboretum lost from storm damage, suggestion to plant a new community tree in Centennial Park, Cypress trees recently planted in downtown, suggestion to move and replace with more appealing trees, and how to communicate suggestions to City Council or new advisory board.

VII. Unfinished Business

23-6229

Park Evaluations and Assessment of Recreational Activities for All Ages.

Discussion took place regarding Australian pines in Venezia Park, signage for tree species, ability to install grass, transitioning to native tree species in parks, heavy use of Wellfield Park, and maintenance for basketball courts.

23-6300

Consideration of Developing a Park Survey of Usage

Discussion took place regarding marketing for parks, research to increase park usage, increase in park reservations, updating the Parks Master Plan, Inter-local agreement impact on Park Master Plan, and review of Google online reviews.

23-6301

Acknowledgements and Accolades

Board thanked the staff for their knowledge, and the members participation and service to board.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P.M.

Board Sunsetting 12/31/2023

Chair

Andra Nader Price

Recording Secretary