



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, October 19, 2020

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

[20-4711](#)

Instructions on How to Watch and/or Participate in the Meeting

I. Call to Order

Vice Chair Eydie Kargas called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Ms. Stelzer referenced Executive Order No. 20-69 issued by Governor DeSantis and Executive Order No. 2020-04 issued by the city regarding public meetings, commented on public participation in public meetings, and read instructions for audience participation in council chambers.

II. Roll Call

Present 8 - Linda Andrews, Roger Efron, Candice Roberts, Eydie Kargas, Sandra Petway, John Hinshaw, Lauren McMahon and Samantha Gentrup

Also Present

Liaison Council Member Mitzie Fiedler, Director of Public Works and Asset Management James Clinch, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Manager Jim Wormley, Information Technology Director Christophe St. Luce and Administrative Coordinator Mercedes Barcia.

In person: Ms. Kargas, Ms. Andrews, Mr. Efron and Mr. Hinshaw

Via video conferencing: Ms. Roberts, Ms. Gentrup, Ms. Petway and Ms. McMahon

III. Approval of Minutes

[20-4712](#)

Minutes of the January 27, 2020 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Efron, seconded by Ms. Petway, that the Minutes of the January 27, 2020 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

[20-4713](#)

Welcome New Board Members John Hinshaw and Samantha Gentrup

Samantha Gentrup, John Hinshaw and Lauren McMahon introduced themselves to the board.

V. New Business

Presentations

[20-4714](#)

Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF): Proposal for a Sea Turtle Sculpture at Venice Beach Park

Kelly Carlstein, Gulf Coast Community Foundation (GCCF), commented on the foundation's 25th anniversary, and spoke to bringing attention to marine debris affecting our waters, turtle sculpture to include material and location at Venice Beach Park, presented a short video clip of the sculpture and a picture of signage, and responded to board questions regarding placing recyclables in the sculpture.

Mr. Clinch spoke regarding interactive sculpture and staff placing clean recyclables in the turtle.

Discussion followed on engagement with the local schools, sculpture finish and material, project timeline, obtaining council's approval, sculpture location, child safety, and signage advising no climbing on sculpture.

A motion was made by Mr. Effron, seconded by Ms. Andrews, to accept GCCF's proposal for a sea turtle sculpture at Venice Beach Park and recommend approval to city council. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Jon Thaxton, GCCF, thanked the board for their service and the city for engaging students on the board.

IV. Audience Participation

Michael Wendroff, 213 Portofino Drive, representing the Venetian Golf and River Club Community Association, spoke to the need of parks in northeast Venice, the city establishing a northeast Venice park stakeholder's work group, and requested the board's support.

Discussion followed regarding development and green space in northeast Venice, fast tracking process, including John Nolen's Plan in developments, and protecting green space for human health and environmental quality.

Mr. Clinch responded to board questions on available park land in northeast Venice, and spoke to meeting area needs, obtaining resident feedback, site selection, providing board with a copy of the memorandum prepared to council requesting approval of the stakeholder's work group, and park impact fees.

New Business - Continued

[20-4715](#)

Monty Andrews: Centennial Park Plaque Proposal

Monty Andrews, America in Bloom, spoke to his request to place a recognition plaque for Bob Vedder in Centennial Park.

Discussion followed regarding the city's policy on memorials and plaques, vetting process, Mr. Vedder's background, having a broad recognition of all citizens in the community, ability to remove plaque, and no cost to the city.

Benny Weaver, 1307 Pine Needle Road, spoke to Mr. Vedder's work and involvement in the community.

Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Vedder's work in the community and passion for the city.

A motion was made by Ms. Andrews, seconded by Ms. Roberts, to recommend to city council approval of the plaque donation honoring Bob Vedder to be placed in Centennial Park. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

[20-4716](#)

Earl Midlam and James Clinch, Director of Public Works & Asset Management: Approval of the "Old Betsy" Display Building Conceptual Plan (10 min.)

Mr. Hinshaw advised he will be leaving soon for another meeting.

Mr. Clinch and Earl Midlam, Former City Council Member and City Fireman, provided a presentation and spoke to Old Betsy's history, 2011 restoration, fire truck being featured in special events, current storage facility, concept plan, climate controlled display building, proposed location in East Blalock Park, and building rendering.

Mr. Hinshaw left the meeting at 4:17 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion followed regarding green space at the location, considering a mannequin with a uniform from the appropriate time period in the display area, vandalism, security measures, hurricane grade structure, capturing Old Betsy's history, project timeline and funding, and public display of concept plan.

A motion was made by Mr. Effron, seconded by Ms. Andrews, to recommend to city council approval of the Old Betsy display building conceptual plan. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Updates

[20-4717](#)

Sarasota County Update

Mr. Wormley provided an update on the re-opening of the Venice

Community Center, and athletic leagues at Wellfield and Chuck Reiter Parks.

[20-4718](#)

Sarasota County PARC Update

Ms. Andrews reported on Sarasota County Parks Advisory and Recreation Council (PARC) meetings and requested board members provide ideas on land acquisition to recommend to the county.

[20-4719](#)

City of Venice Update

Mr. Clinch provided an update on Centennial Park's Gazebo, Higel Park's dock, Paw Park's deck and parking area, Maxine Barritt Park's pavilion, Venezia Park's playground structure and park impact fee project, city hall project, downtown aluminum pergola, charging stations at Centennial Park and the new public safety facility, upcoming projects to include walking path at Paw Park, resurfacing parking lot at Graser Park, bench replacements at Michael Biehl Park, and northeast Venice Park.

Discussion followed regarding Australian pine roots at Venezia Park and upcoming sunshine training on November 5, 2020 at 3:00 p.m.

VII. Board Discussion

[20-4720](#)

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Petway nominated Ms. Andrews as chair. Ms. Andrews declined nomination.

Ms. Andrews nominated Ms. Roberts as chair. Ms. Roberts declined nomination.

Ms. Petway nominated Ms. Kargas as chair. Ms. Kargas accepted nomination.

M. Andres nominated Ms. Roberts as vice chair. Ms. Roberts accepted nomination.

There was consensus to accept nominations for Ms. Kargas as chair and Ms. Roberts as vice chair.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Chair

Administrative Coordinator