



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, January 25, 2021

3:00 PM

Council Chambers and Virtual

[21-4856](#)

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

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

Also Present

Liaison Council Member Mitzie Fiedler, Deputy City Clerk Danielle Lewis, Public Works Director James Clinch, Sarasota County Recreation and Neighborhood Parks Manager Jim Wormley, and Administrative Coordinator Mercedes Barcia.

In person: Ms. Kargas, Mr. Effron, Ms. Andrews, Ms. Gentrup, Mr. Hinshaw and Ms. McMahon

Via video conference: Ms. Roberts and Ms. Petway

III. Approval of Minutes

[21-4857](#)

Minutes of the October 19, 2020 Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Effron, seconded by Mr. Hinshaw, that the Minutes of the October 19, 2020 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

IV. Audience Participation

Ronald Doering, speaking as co-chair of the Friends of Pinebrook Park, spoke regarding the organization's involvement in the park, supporting city ordinance that separates the park from Wellfield Park, and urged the city and Sarasota County to look at condition of trails, consider a ban on cycling, and have comprehensive signage in the park.

Discussion followed regarding safety concerns with protruding roots on the trail and dog waste stations.

V. New Business

[21-4858](#)

Serenaty Lumpkin, Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) Student Member: Moss-Covered City Tree Bench Proposal (10 mins.)

Ms. Kargas advised Serenaty Lumpkin, Environmental Advisory Board student member, was unable to attend the meeting today.

Discussion followed on postponing item to the next meeting.

Mr. Hinshaw commented on plantings by Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) Urban Forest.

There was consensus to postpone Item No. 21-4858 to the next meeting.

[21-4859](#)

Discuss the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's Meeting Start Time (Mr. Hinshaw)

Mr. Hinshaw spoke on purpose of his request and proposed changing the board's meeting date or time.

Discussion followed regarding the student board member and staff's schedule.

Mr. Clinch noted choosing a different day may be a better solution.

Discussion followed regarding Mr. Hinshaw inquiring if VABI can change their meeting schedule, Ms. Barcia and City Clerk Lori Stelzer viewing alternative options, public involvement, and considering a later meeting time for the working class.

[21-4860](#)

Board Member Park Assignments and Existing Conditions Assessment Form (Ms. Kargas)

Discussion took place on board member park assignments, activity purpose, Patriot's Park, having assessments completed by the next meeting, and outcome of previous assessment conducted by the board.

Mr. Clinch spoke to staff's perspective and compiling the board's comments for future planning.

Ms. Gentrup suggested having QR (Quick Response) bar codes at parks for user feedback.

Discussion followed regarding SeeClickFix, board members providing the condition assessment form to Mr. Clinch, Michael Biehl Park, Americans with Disabilities (ADA) accessibility at parks, and park groupings.

[21-4861](#)

Parks and Recreation Code Revisions

Mr. Clinch spoke on code revisions to include Nolen Greens and Nolen Green Pathways, separation of Pinebrook Park from Wellfield Park, animal restrictions, defining service animals, adding Pinebrook Park to the list of parks closed to vehicles at nighttime, and responded to board questions regarding allowing leashed dogs at beach viewing areas, emotional support dogs, prohibiting animals in sports field, and code enforcement.

Discussion followed on adding signage at sports parks regarding Florida's law on pets left unattended in cars, and adding signage prohibiting unleashed dogs at parks.

A motion was made by Mr. Effron, seconded by Ms. Gentrup, to approve Ordinance No. 2021-06 as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Ms. Andrews suggested staff consider renaming East Blalock Park.

[21-4862](#)

Venezia Park Concept Plan

Mr. Clinch spoke on survey responses and feedback received during the October 15, 2020 workshop for Venezia Park to include walking trail, shade trees throughout the park, and cross-walks and curb ramps.

Mr. Effron left the meeting at 4:13 p.m. and did not return.

Mr. Clinch presented and spoke on proposed layout, landscape plans, project bidding and schedule, and responded to questions regarding status of Australian Pines, removal of other trees, playground material, pollinator gardens, playground usage, and low level lighting to include responses received on lighting at Heritage Park.

A motion was made by Mr. Hinshaw, seconded by Ms. Andrews, to approve the 60 percent concept plan for Venezia Park. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Updates

[21-4863](#)

Sarasota County Update

Mr. Wormley introduced Sarah Good, South County Parks Supervisor, and provided an update on facility rentals and athletics.

[21-4864](#)

Sarasota County PARC Update

Ms. Andrews noted the Sarasota County Parks and Recreation Council (PARC) is involved in land acquisition for preservation and public use, and

requested board members provide ideas to recommend to the county.

Discussion followed regarding land criteria.

[21-4865](#)

City of Venice Update

Mr. Clinch reviewed completed projects and commented on the Northeast Venice Park Stakeholder's Work Group.

Discussion followed regarding the sea turtle sculpture at Venice Beach, replenishing rocks at the South Jetty, the parks interlocal agreement, the city's partnership with the county, and Christmas lighting at West Blalock Park.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Discussion followed on adding Ms. Lumpkin's presentation, park assignments and existing conditions assessment form, renaming East Blalock Park, and the board's meeting schedule on the next agenda.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Chair

Administrative Coordinator