



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, March 21, 2016

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

I. Call To Order

A Regular Meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was held this date in Council Chambers at City Hall. Chair Linda Kenfield called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present: 6 - Chair Linda Kenfield Andrews, Joan Piper, Verna Silk, Mr. Charles Alfano, Jim Woods and Josette Aramini

Absent: 1 - Cindy Hicks

Also Present

Liaison Mayor John Holic, Public Works Director John Veneziano, County Parks and Recreation Liaison Jim Wormley, and Recording Secretary Michelle Girvan.

III. Audience Participation

No one signed up to speak.

IV. New Business

16-1867

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

A motion was made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Ms. Silk, to retain the current chair and vice chair. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

16-1879

Tennis Hecksher Park - George Courteau (15 min)

Mr. Courteau commented on protecting the tennis courts at Hecksher Park, the importance of tennis to the community, support for a long-term view taken by the board, current tennis situations at Hecksher Park including the number of players per day, active play hours, community and fellowship, support of the city's vision, and economic activity for businesses downtown. He commented on the recent pickleball initiative, the petition not specifying use at Hecksher Park courts, a statement of clarification submitted regarding objection to transforming one or two tennis courts to pickleball courts and adding lines on the courts and recommended reaffirming the sole vocation of the tennis courts at

Hecksher Park and adopting a long term strategic plan.

Kevin Vangilder, 244 St. Augustine Ave., passed around a photo of the striped courts.

Discussion continued regarding the frequency of the courts being used for pickleball, the restriping being used as a temporary solution, and the need for more tennis and pickleball courts.

Rich Carling, 617 Tamiami Trail, commented on room between the shuffle board and tennis courts.

Rumen Tchor, 1264 Porpoise Road, commented on issues at the tennis courts with Karl Burton to include previous petitions submitted, players not returning to tennis courts, violations of city regulations, and the expressed concerns with the behavior and conduct of Mr. Burton while at Hecksher Park.

Discussion followed regarding the inclusion of police reports in board packets, the board's inability to take action on the matter, and possible benefits of withholding a reaction to Mr. Burton, the time that is taken from the city's police department to monitor the issue, and the importance of documenting situations.

V. Updates

15-1482

Sarasota County PARC Update

Ms. Piper stated that there was no news from the county park board and that the recent meeting was abbreviated. She included the date of the next meeting, discussed land parcels that are being considered outside of the Venice area, and that anyone can nominate any piece of land for consideration.

Mr. Wormley stated that there is a need for a mid-county sports facility and that potential development areas have been identified and that there are plans to move forward when the parks master plan is complete.

15-1559

Sarasota County Update

Mr. Wormley provided an update on sporting leagues beginning their season, Venice Community Center (VCC) and upcoming shows and meetings being held at VCC, and updates at the area parks.

Discussion followed regarding the library workshop meetings being held at the Venice Community Center, specifically the duration and content of the meetings.

Mr. Wormley stated that he would contact staff to check the recently painted pickle ball lines for accuracy.

15-1561 Miscellaneous Update

There were no updates.

15-1560 City of Venice Update

Mr. Veneziano provided an update on the replacement signs at the fishing pier, parks master plan deadline, new swings and playground equipment, architectural review board approval of the changes submitted for the entrance of city hall, funding for projects, and replacement of the showmobile.

Discussion continued regarding need for use of the showmobile at the festival grounds.

Mr. Veneziano reviewed items listed in the engineering budget.

Discussion followed regarding the life span of the showmobile and festival grounds, the changes to the front entrance of city hall, the boardwalk, dedication of benches, safety issues with the bricks near the kiosk, wayfinding signs, the need for sidewalks to accommodate pedestrians, and reporting vehicles parking in bicycle lanes.

VI. Unfinished Business

16-1875 Venice Myakka River Park Kayak Launch

Mr. Veneziano spoke to information received from the county and photos taken at a facility in Manatee County and whether it will fit on the existing dock, if there are any permitting issues and responded to board questions regarding timeframe, budgeting, and discussion with the county.

Paul Horobec, 25 Gulf Manor Dr., questioned the board regarding potential sites to place honey bee hives, and stated that he sells the honey and listed the benefits of bee hives.

Mr. Veneziano spoke to land around the airport.

Discussion took place regarding Pinebrook Park, Myakka River Park, contacting the extension service, community gardens, and county preserve lands as recommendations to Mr. Horobec.

16-1868 Tennis Trespassing Complaints

Mr. Alfano spoke to maintaining integrity and wholesomeness of city parks and expressed concern with not providing a recommendation in regards to the tennis issues, surveillance and undercover operation by the police and documenting, and the need to take action.

Discussion followed regarding police reports filed and the unsocial behavior at the tennis courts.

Mayor Holic spoke to city council being a policy maker not enforcement, the item being handed over to the police department, his visits to the tennis courts, police request for tennis players to sign complaints, waste of city assets and time, and responded to board questions regarding undercover surveillance.

Discussion ensued regarding use of city resources for county residents, suggestion to the police chief, manpower issues, and council powers.

Mayor Holic stated the city manager can request the police chief provide information at the next meeting.

Discussion continued regarding signs posted for no soliciting, the filing of complaints or being witnessed by a law enforcement agent, the pooling of resources, off duty work, punishment for minor infractions of the law, enforcement of city codes, and funding availability.

Mayor Holic commented that the city is doing what it can with the available resources and the people that are affected need to be willing to take the necessary steps to do something about the issues at the tennis courts.

VII. Future Agenda Items

Ms. Piper noted she will be absent in April.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.



Chair



Recording Secretary