



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, September 19, 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 Andrews called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 6 - Chair Linda Kenfield Andrews, Joan Piper, Mr. Charles Alfano, Jim Woods, Josette Aramini and Grant Alexander

Absent 1 - Cindy Hicks

Also Present

Liaison Mayor John Holic, Public Works Director John Veneziano, County Parks & Recreation Liaison James Wormley, Director of Historical Resources James Hagler, and Recording Secretary Michelle Girvan.

III. Approval of Minutes

[16-2216](#) Minutes of the August 8, 2016 Workshop Meeting and the August 15, 2016 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Alfano, seconded by Mr. Woods, that the Minutes of the August 8, and August 15, 2016 meetings be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. Unfinished Business

[16-2237](#) Venice Myakka River Park Kayak Launch Device Proposal

Mr. Veneziano spoke in regards to the proposal of the kayak ez-launch device at Myakka River Park, comments, funding, moving forward to city council and Sarasota County, maintenance, and the county process.

Discussion took place regarding the launch, funding in the existing budget, fundraising, grants, moving forward with the proposal, and

county process.

A motion was made by Ms. Aramini, seconded by Ms. Piper, to approve the kayak ez-launch system as proposed by Mr. Courtwright pending funding by Mr. Courtwright. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

[16-2158](#)

Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) - Tarpon Statue in Blalock Park Arboretum
Lynn Moseley and Monty Andrews

Mr. Andrews spoke in regards to the tarpon statue installation at Blalock Park arboretum, asked for a recommendation to city council for approval, and funding.

A motion was made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Ms. Aramini, that the tarpon statue be approved for the insallation at Blalock Park Arboretum. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

V. New Business

[16-2217](#)

Assistant City Attorney and City Clerk Lori Stelzer: Refresher on Public Records and Sunshine Laws as Required by the Settlement Agreement in the Citizens for Sunshine and Anthony Lorenzo Litigation

Ms. Fernandez provided a refresher on Public Records and Sunshine Laws.

Ms. Fernandez and Ms. Stelzer responded to board member questions to include longevity of this requirement, other cities that provide training, violations and shared communication, discussions with individuals and other board members, intent of a board member's input, and charging for records.

Ms. Fernandez provided a sunshine law and public records exam and went over questions and answers with the board.

Ms. Stelzer noted board members should use their public emails for communication.

Discussion continued regarding records retention schedule, city email accounts, and using public email for capturing records.

Mr. Alfano spoke in regards to revised and written changes in the sunshine laws, legislation being pushed forward, and addressing punitive changes.

VI. Future Agenda Items

There was a discussion to add the mayor and his wife to the next agenda to provide a presentation on Mariemont, Ohio.

[16-2239](#)

Parks Master Plan Discussion

Mr. Veneziano answered questions from Ms. Andrews to include consultants alterations to the parks master plan draft and feedback, misinformation corrected, recommendations from parks and recreation advisory board, options, approval, and comments.

Discussion took place regarding the parks master plan, recommendation in creating an in house master plan for the large parks, specific ideas for parks, options, next phase being the design phase, public comments, general discussion of draft plan being very favorable and supportive, cultural of community, planning issues such as access level of service, restrooms, proposed swap with the county regarding Wellfield Park, northern Italian style architecture within the city, water access areas, future addition compatibilities, districts and styles, architectural standards, park amenities, John Nolen and beach feel, costs, beach and water access, new park and recreation advisory board members, park maintenance, addition of park acreage, pickleball courts, having more parks and less development, and parks and amenities out of the city limits.

Discussion continued regarding seasonal fluctuation, outside users from other jurisdictions, relationship with Sarasota County, county program funding, zip codes of children playing sports, fewer participants playing baseball, tennis and pickleball courts, expenses at Chuck Reiter Park, the need for more park space, intensive active use parks, renovation of restrooms versus new restrooms, changes and additions to parks, responsibility to build parks and recreation, lighting, neighborhood workshops, and improvement of the parks.

Mr. Alexander left the meeting at 4:40 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion followed on the parks master plan, gated communities, recreational facilities, Ajax property, county owned preserved properties, and beaches.

Ms. Andrews asked board members if they approve of the parks master plan following a discussion on not being in favor of changes in Centennial Park, definition of level of service (LOS), developable land, water and beach access, standards of planning, comparisons, seasonal influx, Venice being a unique city, master plan draft and responses, tennis and shuffle board courts, and making the plan more dynamic.

Discussion continued on Venezia Park, stakeholders, walkway easements, suggestion to developers, attraction of more people if there are improvements in the parks, ultimate final decision on the parks

master plan, discussions regarding the plan, sunshine laws, Centennial Park concerns, community parks, Ajax property, and recommendations to city council.

VII. Updates

Mr. Veneziano provided updates on the Venice Beach final phase of the restroom modification and reopening, Chuck Reiter Park playground equipment, Wellfield Park drainage improvement contract, croquette field construction, date of the dedication of the soccer field lights, council budget approval, community center roof, master planning at Wellfield Park and new budget year.

Ms. Andrews spoke in regards to Make a Difference Day, volunteering, event at Maxine Barritt Park, and establishing a service route from the parking lot to the picnic tables.

Janis Fawn, planning commission liaison, spoke in regards to the parks master plan, memo to the consultant and public works department regarding the parks master plan and memo to city council, and the term of "a thousand rational citizens" with the term meaning "you must include seasonal people" and the word taken out of the parks master plan draft.

Mr. Wormley provided an update of the county, restrooms, volunteer effort with Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), free pickleball at the Venice Community Center, library walk through, health fair, Venice Chamber of Commerce expo, halloween party, and state conference.

Ms. Piper asked about the opening date of the new temporary library and spoke in regards to the next Sarasota County PARC meeting in November.

Mr. Veneziano spoke in regards to the the grand opening date of the new library.

VIII. Audience Participation

Emilio Carlesimo spoke in regards to the parks and recreation advisory board members dedication, Mr. Alfano's last meeting, and Anita's restaurant at the south jetty and thanked Mr. Alfano for his service.

Mayor Holic spoke in regards to Mr. Alfano's last meeting and his service on the board, clean up at Higel Park mooring fields, and photos of items that were removed.

Discussion took place regarding the mooring fields and abandoned boats, illegal anchoring of boats, owner's notice, sewage from boats, up

to date tags, and group of volunteers.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary