



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, February 13, 2017

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 3:05 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 7 - Chair Linda Kenfield Andrews, Jim Woods, Cindy Hicks, Josette Aramini, Grant Alexander, Roger Efron and Eydie Kargas

Absent 1 - Joan Piper

Also Present

Liaison Mayor John Holic, City Manager Ed Lavallee, Public Works Director John Veneziano, Development Services Director Jeff Shrum, Sarasota County Athletics and Sport Development Division Manager Steven Rauh, and Recording Secretary Michelle Girvan.

III. Approval of Minutes

[17-2470](#)

Minutes of the January 9, 2017 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Ms. Hicks, that the Minutes of the January 9, 2017 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. Audience Participation

Tim Soltonstall, 155 Inlets Boulevard, spoke in regards to the parks master plan and Venice's Myakka River Park.

Mr. Alexander joined the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

Mr. Stoltonstall continued speaking on park amenities.

Mr. Efron spoke in regards to his support of private gated communities, amenities, and public parks.

Ms. Andrews spoke in regards to consultant recommendations on the

parks master plan.

V. New Business

17-2472

Directive from City Council to Gather All Pertinent Data and Information on Wellfield Park Including Number of Fields or Space Used, Number of Additional Fields or Space Needed, Number of Participants, Number of Participants Living Within The City Limits, Conditional Amenities, Additional Amenities Needed, Time of Day Field is in Use, and Report Back to Council by April 15, 2017

Mr. Lavallee spoke regarding the parks master plan, Wellfield Park, acquiring public owned land, project cost, prospective sites, referendum, project time frame, funding, challenges, prime site, features of Wellfield Park, public safety facility, public road improvement, police indoor simulation training, removal of the police firing range, park space, dismantling the fire training facility, removal of the public works storage facility, property acreage, relocating the utilities booster station to the Ajax property, use of booster station at Wellfield Park, property availability and space, city costs, removal of lime and chain link fence, and Florida Fish and Wildlife involvement.

Discussion followed on addressing use of space with the school districts, shared resources, lime pits, protection of gopher tortoises, wildlife, and property, potential change of use in Wellfield Park, language in the comprehensive plan, definition of open space land use, public safety use and current requirements, changing use of park space, police and fire station facilities, and land use wording on comprehensive plan.

Mr. Shrum spoke regarding language in the comprehensive plan and code.

Discussion continued regarding code, change of park space, non park use, and public referendum.

17-2471

Recertify the Proposed City of Venice Parks System Master Plan (Final Draft dated February, 2017), with Recommendations, to the City Council

Discussion took place regarding the parks system master plan, executive summary cleanup, including the definition of a greenway and open space, jurisdictions and right-of ways, adding glossary of terms, fiscal year (FY) 2010 census data, consultant acknowledgements, level of service (LOS), adequate amount of space, public park space, transportation, gated communities and connectivity, minimizing negative impacts, Legacy Trail, future vision of parks, recommendations, off leash dog parks, pickleball courts, county recreational facilities, parks and maintenance plan, and surveillance in parks.

Discussion continued on adopt a park program, Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI) and the city's relationship, redlined changes, capital improvements, impact fees, grants, one cent sale tax incentives, consultant suggestions of specific park areas, citizen comments, Centennial Park, senior residents buying power and income, senior population and recreation centers, plan accessibility, public access areas, publicly held space, John Nolen plan and greenways, signage for identifying open spaces, adopting a John Nolen appropriate design to designate public spaces, marking parameters, public space and vehicular access, defining park perimeters, park access and amenities, trolley, glossary of terms, protection of Pinebrook Park, lime pits, safety facility, and usage of the little league field.

Ms. Aramini left the meeting at 4:28 p.m. and did not return.

Discussion ensued regarding county data on usage of sport fields, managing capital improvements, Chuck Reiter Park maintenance issues to include field lighting, restrooms, and drainage, pickleball courts, volunteer improvements, the need for more little league fields, Wellfield Park space development, youth sports, parking spaces, park entrances, events and charging admission, hiring a parks and recreational professional, Venice Golf and River Club public access, community development district (CDD) properties, and gated communities and limited access.

Mayor Holic responded to board member questions regarding CDD developments, and discussion followed regarding privacy gates, community taxation, Venetian Golf and River Club, requesting an explanation from the planning commission attorney on the difference between a CDD and private community, use of facilities and amenities, green space, beaches, and private communities.

Mayor Holic spoke on Wellfield Park to include name change, preservation zoning, eliminating lime pits, maintenance, sports fields, drainage, park usage, request for a third field, soccer field lighting, rezoning costs, budget issues, and transfer of park ownership to the county. Mayor Holic spoke regarding replacement of the police station, public works relocation, fire station no. 1, delay of projects, low tax rate and revenues, and fire service impact fee.

Mr. Rauh noted being a new employee and spoke on goals to include enhancing sport tourism and initiatives, implementing policy and procedures, creating efficiency within the division for safe operations, working more with other divisions, and providing office support to other departments.

Discussion followed regarding Mr. Rauh's background, pickleball, other popular sports within communities, online recreation, projection of new sports gaining popularity, Mr. Rauh's recreation time and online engagement with citizens, adult kickball leagues, dual use of parks, drone racing, gathering data regarding utilization of Wellfield Park, data for league users and number of fields used, high school students using Wellfield Park for soccer practice, and requesting the county school board to share usage of sports fields.

Discussion ensued on recommended suggestions from the board to include adding glossary of terms, preserving John Nolen greenways, removing picture of the trolley sign, Pinebrook Park, interlocal agreement with the county, designating park as a preserve, land use designation, preserving park and keeping park as a nature place, accomplishment of items in the plan, plan time goal, wording of Pinebrook Park, board implementing ideas projected for parks, budget and land use restraints, need for parks, five year capital improvement process, removal of lime pit being a utilities issue, and identification of greenways.

A motion was made by Mr. Effron, seconded by Ms. Hicks, that the board endorses the parks master plan with the recommendation to add a glossary of terms and John Nolen designated greenways.

Ms. Andrews noted much of the discussion was to explore ramifications of separating the two parks.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

VI. Updates

[16-2384](#)

City of Venice Update

Mr. Veneziano spoke on the Heritage Park ceremony this Thursday and interim maintenance supervisor.

Discussion took place regarding the tour of parks, changing tour time, item changes on the agenda, and making the tour a special meeting.

[16-2272](#)

Sarasota County Update

There was no update.

[16-2271](#)

Sarasota County PARC Update

There was no update.

[16-2274](#) Miscellaneous Update

There was no update.

VII. Unfinished Business

[17-2473](#) Adopt a Park

There was no discussion.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary