



City of Venice

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

Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Monday, May 15, 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 3:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Present 6 - Chair Linda Kenfield Andrews, Joan Piper, Jim Woods, Cindy Hicks, Roger Effron and Eydie Kargas

Absent 2 - Josette Aramini and Grant Alexander

Also Present

Council Member Liaison Mayor John Holic, Public Works Director John Veneziano, Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator Darlene Culpepper, and Recording Secretary Mercedes Barcia.

III. Approval of Minutes

[17-2665](#) Minutes of the April 17, 2017 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Ms. Piper, that the Minutes of the April 17, 2017 meeting be approved as written. The motion carried by voice vote unanimously.

IV. Audience Participation

No one signed up to speak.

V. New Business

[17-2666](#) Darlene Culpepper, Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, National Bike Month (10 minutes)

Ms. Culpepper provided an update to include monthly bicycle ride, public safety education, community outreach, May National Bike Month, annual ride with the mayor, Bike to Work Week, May 18, 2017 bicycle night event with Venice MainStreet, profits, average number of riders per month, request to add bike lane or sharrows, signage from Legacy Trail to downtown, bike racks, and updating maps.

Discussion followed on volunteer base, directions to downtown, road bond project, League of American Bicyclists evaluation, safety enforcement, promoting monthly bike rides, public awareness of silver designation, safety and education, recreational riders, crash reports, community expansion, bike ride starting points, exploring other bike ride areas, distribution of bike maps, Bayshore and Laguna Drive neighborhood sidewalks, and collaborating with Venice MainStreet for promoting bike rides.

VI. Unfinished Business

[17-2667](#)

Pickleball Courts

Sunny Seabrook, 309 Sorrento Street, spoke regarding pickleball court petition, not allowing pickleball on the tennis courts, waiting time to play on courts, lining tennis courts for pickleball use, Hecksher Park, difference in net sizes, and meeting advertisement.

Wesley Clark, 525 Barcelona Avenue, supported and agreed with Ms. Seabrook's comments, and spoke regarding the tennis community, and waiting time to get on courts.

Paul Harobec, 25 Gulf Manor Drive, opposes taking one of the tennis courts at Hecksher Park for pickleball use, and spoke on waiting time to play on courts, having more tennis courts on Venice Avenue, parking issue during season, and noise concerns.

Bill Hoffman, 617 Tamiami Trail North, noted his agreement with prior speakers, and spoke on issues with having tennis and pickleball on the same court, and opposed double marking courts.

Mr. Hoffman responded to board questions regarding locations where he has played pickleball, and noted possible locations for pickleball courts.

Lance Pope, 928 Bonaire Avenue West, noted his opposition to pickleball lines on the tennis court and number of courts at Foxworthy Park.

Greg Engelhal, P.O. Box 1237, provided statistics regarding the number of pickleball courts and locations across the United States, and spoke regarding tennis players, Hecksher Park, playing pickleball, and growth of sport.

Marta Ugas-Carpenter commented on using one tennis court at Hecksher Park to accommodate two pickleball courts, signed petition for pickleball linings on court, storage area for nets, compromising, and using different colored lines on the court.

Discussion took place on audience participation.

Mr. Harobec commented on using the basketball courts for pickleball.

Mr. Veneziano spoke regarding limiting the parking time, June 5, 2017 Hecksher Park closure due to replacement of fences, negotiations with the school board for using Venice High School's tennis courts, and previous discussion on temporary pickleball lining.

Ms. Ugas-Carpenter commented on trying to reach a compromise with the tennis players at Hecksher Park.

Discussion took place regarding the board's decision on double marking one of the tennis courts at Hecksher Park at the last meeting, using school board property, obtaining more tennis playing space, advertisement of meetings, petitioners residing outside of city limits, and the need for more pickleball courts.

[17-2631](#)

Naming of Pocket Parks

Ms. Andrews noted city council's decision regarding the board's recommendation on pocket parks.

Mr. Veneziano spoke regarding sign toppers, John Nolen Plan concept, and Nolen Greens.

Discussion followed regarding Nolen Greens park designation, identifying parks by their geographical location, Nolen Greens survey, sign toppers and color contrast, parks access points, walking paths, drainage swale issues, and identifying park boundaries.

A motion was made by Ms. Hicks, seconded by Ms. Piper, for the board to support Mr. Veneziano's presentation and model using the John Nolen Parks proposed identifiers of Madrid, Granada, Harbor, and Milan.

Discussion took place regarding the name "Nolen Greens" and right-of-way spaces.

The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

[17-2668](#)

Parks Master Plan

There was no update.

[17-2669](#)

Purchase of Land with the County for Development of a Park in Northeast Venice

Mayor Holic commented on council's request for the city manager to contact Sarasota County on available funding for a 10-acre parcel on

Knights Trail Road or other suitable parkland in the vicinity of northeast Venice.

Discussion took place on park impact fees, county owned land, county's budget expenses, request for parkland, and the South Jetty.

VII. Updates

[17-2634](#)

City of Venice Update

Mr. Veneziano provided an update on the adopt-a-park program, park name signs, capital improvement program, and facility condition assessments.

[17-2635](#)

Sarasota County Update

Shawn Yeager, Sarasota County Parks, Recreation, and Natural Resources, Beaches and Water Access Division Manager, introduced new recreation specialist Eric Carson, and provided an update on Wellfield and Chuck Reiter Park maintenance, summer recreation and pickleball at the Venice Community Center, Venice hurricane exposition, summer fun run, and Foxworthy Park pickleball courts.

Discussion took place regarding staff time at meetings, Caspersen Beach picnic shelter, Hecksher Park bathroom maintenance, and Venice Beach concessionaire.

[17-2636](#)

Sarasota County PARC Update

Ms. Piper provided an update on the rental and reservation of picnic shelters, county reconsidering providing additional recreation at Toscana Park, Patriot Park funding, and Myakka River Oyster Bar purchase.

[17-2637](#)

Miscellaneous Update

Ms. Kargas commented on an incident with an individual picking saw palmetto berries at Pinebrook Park.

Discussion followed on reporting activity to law enforcement, and posting signs and raising awareness to park users on removing vegetation from public parks.

VIII. Future Agenda Items

There were none.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Chair

Recording Secretary