



# City of Venice

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

## Meeting Minutes Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

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Monday, January 27, 2020

3:00 PM

Council Chambers

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### 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 Joan Piper called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

### II. Roll Call

**Present** 6 - Linda Andrews, Joan Piper, Angie Sutherland, Eydie Kargas, Sandra Petway and Candice Roberts

**Absent** 2 - Roger Effron and Jonathan Allen

### Also Present

Public Works Director James Clinch, Sarasota County Division Manager of Beaches and Water Access James Wormley, and Recording Secretary Caroline Moriarty.

### III. Approval of Minutes

[20-4359](#)

Minutes of the October 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

A motion was made by Ms. Andrews, seconded by Ms. Roberts, that the minutes of the October 21, 2019 regular meeting be approved as written. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### IV. Audience Participation

There was none.

### V. New Business

[20-4360](#)

Venice Area Youth Boating - Higel Park Use Proposal

Don Hay spoke on the Venice Youth Boating Association's use of the land adjacent to Higel Marine Park, funding, fencing, and maintenance of the area.

Mr. Hay responded to board questions on the amount of rent for the property.

James Clinch, Director of Public Works, stated the proposal has been reviewed by staff and all comments received from engineering, public works, and utilities have been addressed by the applicant. He continued that the next steps include entering into a Use Agreement which will require city council approval.

Board discussion ensued on fencing, security, and the possibility for regattas in the future.

Mr. Hay responded to board questions on carrying and maintaining commercial general liability insurance.

**There was board consensus to recommend approval of the Venice Youth Boating Association's use of Higel Park to City Council.**

20-4361

Mary Moscatelli, Venice Art Center: Proposal for "Red Butterfly" and "Torso" Sculptures by Lugefelo, Luis Fernandez; 2020 Public Arts "Venice Fanta-Sea"

Mary Moscatelli, Executive Director of Venice Art Center, spoke on the Red Butterfly and Torso sculptures, location, five year temporary installation, and maintenance.

**A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Sutherland, to approve the Red Butterfly and Torso sculptures and their location in front of the Venice Art Center. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

Ms. Moscatelli and Lynn Moseley, Venice Area Beautification, Inc. (VABI), spoke on a proposal for public art displays to include a mermaid and seahorse. Discussion continued on location, structure of the displays, and timeline of installation.

**A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Sutherland, to approve the two sculptures for the Fanta-Sea project. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

20-4362

Downtown Shark Spotting Proposal

Mr. Clinch spoke on the Venice Shark Hunt community display, ten bronze shark fixtures in downtown Venice, and tentative locations. He continued on the promotion of the event through the city website.

Jon Thaxton, Senior Vice President for Community Investment, Gulf Coast Community Foundation, spoke on the foundation celebrating its 25th anniversary, and the Venice Shark Hunt community display.

Mr. Thaxton responded to board questions on timeline.

**A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Kargas, to approve the shark statue project. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

20-4358

Robert J. Spong, Venice Lions Club: Presentation on Venezia Park Universal Playground

Robert Spong, Venice Lions Club, spoke on Venezia Park universally accessible playground at Legacy Park, photographs of current playground, the City of Venice Parks System Master Plan, site evaluation summary, Garden of Five Senses Park in North Port, proposed graphic of Venezia Park inclusive playground, and costs.

Mr. Spong responded to board questions on benches, shade, tables, and additional shade structures.

Mr. Clinch responded to board questions on the design phase and funding. He continued that the design process has not started but he has received a lot of public input.

Mr. Clinch stated he is looking for board endorsement to include this proposal in the design project.

Board discussion ensued on surfaces at local playgrounds.

Mr. Clinch spoke on the difference between ADA and inclusive playgrounds, with an inclusive playground allowing for more accessibility into playground structures and more ground level activities.

Ms. Petway suggested that during the design process staff consider the environment and to not disturb what exists at the park currently.

Mr. Clinch stated that keeping the native environment is most important during the design process and will be a central goal throughout the process.

**A motion was made by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Sutherland, that the board endorse having an inclusive playground as part of the redevelopment of Venezia Park. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

20-4363

Venezia Park Design Project

Randy Mineo, 233 Sovrano Road, spoke on Venezia Park being an original park in Venice, possible removal of Australian pine trees, and the uniqueness of Venezia Park.

Sarah Birkinbine, 249 Sovrano Road, spoke on the shade at Venezia Park, and stated the neighborhood does not need another large park, and looks forward to seeing future plans.

Marie Lorden, 425 Nassau Street South, spoke on the proposal not reflecting the John Nolen plan, and asked the board to consider a different location for the park.

Robert Brooke, 421 Nassau Street South, spoke on original playground equipment at Venezia Park missing, and trees.

Mr. Clinch stated the city is waiting on the funding agreement from Sarasota County which will allow the design process to start. He continued on Venezia Park having its own unique identity and that the park will not be replicated, and that the previous playground was 15 years old and had structurally deteriorated.

Mr. Clinch continued on the Australian pine trees and stated they are one of the most aggressive and exotic trees in Florida. He continued that these trees cause a maintenance issue and suggested to take out the exotic and replant native trees which will encourage other native trees to grow faster.

Mr. Clinch responded to board questions on project funding and replacement of trees.

Mary Erickson, 216 Palermo Place, spoke on the diversity of birds and existing habitat of current parks. She continued on the existing urban forest in Venezia Park.

## VI. Unfinished Business

There was none.

## VII. Updates

### 18-3033

#### Sarasota County Update

Mr. Wormley provided an update on upcoming events at the Venice Community Center, local parks, and upcoming baseball and softball seasons.

### 18-3034

#### Sarasota County PARC Update

Ms. Piper stated that the discussion on the access point from Patriot Park to Legacy Trail is going before Sarasota County Commission on February 25, 2020.

### 18-3032

#### City of Venice Update

Mr. Clinch spoke on updates to lighting at the cultural campus, community center fountain, sealing, restriping, and replacement of solar lights at



Marina Park, new fencing at Chuck Reiter Park and South Brohard Beach Paw Park, and new signage at the fishing pier.

Mr. Clinch responded to board questions on pedestrian access at Pinebrook Park, and the restoration schedule of the gazebo.

18-3515

Review and Discuss Audited Parks

There was none.

**VIII. Future Agenda Items**

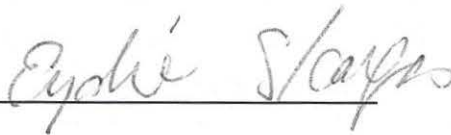
Ms. Piper spoke on this meeting being her last and that the next meeting should include the selection of a new chair. She continued that she is the representative on the Sarasota County PARC board and will attend the March 5, 2020 meeting.

Board discussion ensued on the process of electing a representative to the Sarasota County PARC board, and for the chair to remain on the board through March, 2020.

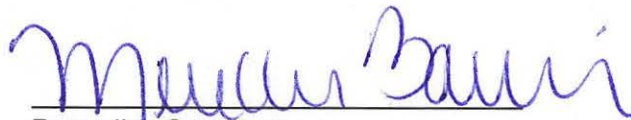
There was board consensus to no longer mail the agenda packets.

**IX. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before this Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

  
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Chair

  
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Recording Secretary

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