

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
LONGWOOD CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
175 WEST WARREN AVENUE
LONGWOOD, FLORIDA**

**MINUTES
May 4, 2021**

Present: **David Putz, Chair**
 Amanda Sackett, Member (Arrived at 6:35 p.m.)
 Judi Coad, Member
 Lori Rice, Member
 Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director
 Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Coordinator
 Donna L. Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary

Absent: **Jim Vogel, Vice-Chair**
 Samuel Friedman, Member
 Teresa Ray, Member

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Chair Putz called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.
- 2. PUBLIC INPUT.**

Commissioner Matt Morgan, 1678 Grange Circle, Longwood, Florida. Commissioner Morgan thanked the Board for how much they sacrifice time away from their families to do what they do on behalf of the city. He presented an idea to the Board for an event called “Strongwood Olympic Games” which would invite our residents to get more physically fit and have an opportunity for a healthier lifestyle. He said this would be a family-fun, age-appropriate event, that is completely inclusive for everybody including a child in a wheelchair, a special needs adult, as well as senior citizens. Some examples of things that could be done are potato sack races, three-legged races, water balloon toss contests, and egg-on-a-spoon races. We would keep score of each. It would promote fitness and health but the bigger take-home would be for us to partner with local schools and businesses for the educational portion of this event to promote a healthier lifestyle.

He said that would include local dieticians, meal prep companies, and physicians. We could include the mental health side which encompasses depression and anxiety or other ailments concerning their health. He said he would like to lead the way with our city by doing something and turning it into an educational/teaching opportunity for everybody to be able to be introduced to a healthier lifestyle. He asked the Board what they would like to see done with the Lewis House.

Discussion ensued with regard to the event proposed by Commissioner Morgan, when the event would be held, the cost of the event, vendors for the event, Board committees for the

event, sponsors, in-kind sponsors, and including all of the schools in the Longwood/Lake Mary area.

Member Coad moved to approve the Strongwood Olympics Games in January with an allotted budget of \$1,000.

Chair Putz asked for a discussion on this topic.

Member Sackett suggested talking about a name once a Board was formed. She said the whole community could be there and suggested adding a picnic aspect to the event for those who do not want to compete in the games. This would make it more family-friendly. She said she is good with it and would be on the Board to do it.

Chair Putz inquired if the event was going to take place in January 2022. It was confirmed and he asked if there was a big event the month before that.

Member Coad replied yes.

Chair Putz asked if that would be taking on too much.

Member Coad replied no.

Member Rice seconded the motion for the current discussion.

Discussion continued with regard to the budget, funds available for events, and having different competitions for this event.

Mayor Sackett said he would donate \$1,000 to the Board for this event if Member Rice hula-hoops.

Member Coad restated the motion and moved to have the Strongwood Olympic Games, a picnic, and a budget of \$1,000.00. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote with Vice-Chair Vogel, Member Ray, and Member Friedman absent.

Discussion ensued about the Lewis House regarding the costs to repair or rebuild, along with possible uses, like a museum. It was noted rebuilding the Lewis House in its entirety would lose its historic value. Another suggestion was taking certain parts of the House, like the door, to display somewhere in the City.

Mr. Capizzi stated when Longwood acquired the Lewis House the only thing in decent shape was its roof and rafters. He said they consulted with Mr. Brian Roy, who does many restorations and noted it would cost less money to build a replica of the building than to restore it. He is the architect who owns the building across the street from the Community Building.

Member Coad said if the rafters and roof are in good shape, they should be used as a pavilion, named after the Lewis House, and put in Reiter Park or the cemetery.

3. ACTION ITEMS.

A. Approve Minutes from April 6, 2021

Member Rice moved to approve the minutes from April 6, 2021, as presented. Seconded by Member Coad and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Vice-Chair Vogel, Member Ray, and Member Friedman absent.

B. Banners

Mr. Rinaldo said he met with Member Friedman and showed him where the existing brackets and the double and single banners are located. He educated him about the holiday banners and explained that whichever sponsorship program (if we come up with one) would have to include the removal of said banners during the holiday season to put the holiday banners back up.

Chair Putz asked if Mr. Rinaldo had any conversations with Member Friedman.

Mr. Rinaldo replied they met at the park.

Chair Putz asked if Member Friedman wanted to take this on.

Mr. Rinaldo replied yes.

Member Rice asked if any further discussion occurred with the hospital about putting some of their banners at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi said they are amenable to us putting the banners up and he believes they are red. They have twelve (12) banners and we can use as many as we want.

Member Rice asked if we are waiting on that decision for the other part of the banner stuff.

Mr. Capizzi said we can put those up and they will probably put some of their banners up along the brick walkway. If we come up with something else we can always take them down or move them.

Discussion ensued with regard to the banners being placed at Reiter Park. It was decided to table this discussion for the next meeting when Member Friedman is present.

C. Budget

Mr. Capizzi said the budget is very easy because it was not changing from last year. Because of COVID-19 cancelations and changes in society, the expenditures did not accurately reflect what occurs in a normal budget year. He said he should get a better idea of how they are using all of the funds this year. There was no change and they have options under new events and special/miscellaneous events to fund something new like the health fair event. In the email, he sent out, it was stated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board funds would most likely be in the same space where the Board promotions are. He said there was currently \$11,948 in this account and he will be meeting with the City Manager and Finance Director Thursday to talk about his department specifically. There was no deviation from last year's budget as far as events. Rentals and Leases were included in what was sent to the Board.

Discussion ensued with regard to the budget, staffing needs, equipment, future budgets, impact fees, and Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant.

Member Rice asked if the pickleball court issue was in the budget and what was being done.

Mr. Capizzi explained the process for getting pickleball court lines put down on the tennis courts at Candyland Park.

Discussion ensued with regard to the impact of having additional pickleball courts at Candyland Park.

Member Coad asked whether the apartment complex going in by Dog Track Road will have a playground that can be used by the public.

Discussion ensued about Community Development's involvement in talking with future developers about playground space.

Chair Putz asked about Alta apartments.

Discussion ensued about the need for additional parks within the city.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Coad said she did not have a report.

Member Sackett said she did not have a report but that she would like to schedule a meeting about the book at Reiter Park and possibly taking over Vice-Chair Vogel's role of looking at all of the city parks.

Mr. Capizzi said that this is only his second missed meeting so Vice-Chair Vogel is still a Board Member but if for some reason he is no longer a Board Member that should be fine. He will consult with Vice-Chair Vogel but does not want to take his project away if he is still

a Board member. He said Vice-Chair Vogel does send staff updates for the parks and if at some point he wants to relinquish this job, Member Sackett would be welcomed to take it over.

Member Sackett said she was happy to see the Pump Track repair sign was up and it looks like repairs are in motion.

Chair Putz said the letter written about the Pump Track was good. He was referring to the email from Kim Feld that goes out on Friday mornings.

Mr. Capizzi explained what went into gathering the information for the Pump Track announcement.

Member Rice said she thinks the additional signage at both entrances helps to communicate what was going on. She saw they started ripping out grass today and asked Mr. Capizzi to help her understand what they are doing to the grass and patchwork sections around the Pump Track.

Mr. Capizzi explained to the Board the work that was being done at the Pump Track.

Discussion ensued about the work at the Pump Track.

Member Rice asked for an update on the Shade Structure Grant over the eatery area. She believes that we should be hearing about the Wildflower Grant in the middle of the month and asked if that was true.

Mr. Rinaldo replied yes and said that they did acquire the two (2) other quotes and submitted the paperwork to Finance to start the purchase order process. Documents have been submitted to the American Dermatology Association (ADA) for the grant and will be notifying the company this week to go ahead and proceed with that process. He said the representative notified him that they are on a four (4) to six (6) week turnaround time once the deposit is received.

Member Rice asked if the ADA pays upfront and if there was additional paperwork to submit to them.

Mr. Rinaldo replied yes.

Chair Putz reported about the rabbits and the duck in the park that has a lame palmate (webbed foot). He said the rabbits are doing fine since there are no predators in the park and the duck is doing fine as well. He talked about the non-native Muscovy ducks from Mexico and Central America. They are non-native birds and they are all over the place by his house and Reiter Park. There are clutches with eight (8) to sixteen (16) eggs, as well as, several ducklings. He said there was some predation from the resident hawk in the Historic District. He then asked about allowing bikes and skateboards in Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi said they are allowing bikes in the park.

Chair Putz asked if this was new.

Mr. Capizzi said we did not in the past but since receiving a Bicycle-Pedestrian Grant, they are allowed in the park. He noted BMX tricks and jumping off furniture or the stage was not allowed.

Discussion ensued with regard to bikes and skateboards in the park.

Chair Putz told the Board about his conversation with some kids that were skateboarding in Reiter Park on the backside of the amphitheater. He said parkgoers continue to love the park and the biggest complaint he gets is that there is no shade around the splash pad. He said he thinks a good improvement would be to provide shade around it.

Member Coad said when she came in today she saw at least twenty (20) baby ducks around the park. She asked about the lights at the Community Building and said it would be nice to do the same thing at Reiter Park on the amphitheater permanently. She asked if staff had been able to do any research on it.

Mr. Capizzi said he has not and he will make a note to do some research.

5. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Capizzi said the Board had the Special Events page where they can see everything several months out. He said the Downtown Longwood Cruise-In Car Show is Saturday, May 8, 2021, in Downtown Longwood from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Senior Matinee movie is going to be *News of the World*. He mentioned the Food Truck event and said we are going to be having the 35th Birthday Bash of the Sharing Center on Saturday, May 15, 2021, and that is a free event. He also said there will be a "School of Rock" community performance. and it will be a whole day of musical performances. Elevate Studios is going to be doing an event from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in May. There is going to be a Concert in the Park on May 29, 2021. The band has not been decided. He said there is no change in the 131 Fund from the last meeting and Summer Camp is close to being full.

Mr. Rinaldo said there are nine (9) weeks this summer and each week has about two (2) to three (3) spots left which he expects to be filled by the end of the week. He commented that the camp is back at Lyman High School.

Member Rice asked if the counselor positions were filled.

Mr. Rinaldo said the Director is hired as well as two (2) counselors and we are on the cusp of making an offer to a third counselor.

Member Coad stated staff was going forward with the Father/Daughter Dance.

Mr. Capizzi replied they are and will be advertising shortly. He also stated DJ Dennis would be working with them again.

6. ADJOURNMENT.

Member Sackett moved to adjourn. Seconded by Member Coad and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Vice-Chair Vogel, Member Ray, and Member Friedman absent.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes approved by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: 06-01-2021

David Putz, Chair

ATTEST:

Donna Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary

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