

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

**MINUTES
June 2, 2020**

Present: David Putz, Vice-Chair
Judi Coad, Member
Teresa Ray, Member
Lori Rice, Member
Jessica Peters, Member (attended through WebEx)
Jim Vogel, Member
Chris Capizzi, Leisure Services Director
Ryan Rinaldo, Recreation Coordinator
Donna L. Alt-Bowes, Recording Secretary

Absent: Nicole Bright, Chair

- 1. CALL TO ORDER.** Vice-Chair Putz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- 2. PUBLIC INPUT.** None.
- 3. ACTION ITEMS.**

A. Approve Minutes from March 3, 2020

Member Vogel moved to approve the minutes from March 3, 2020, as presented. Seconded by Member Ray and carried by a unanimous voice vote with Member Peters attending virtually and Chair Bright absent.

4. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Member Rice reported and said she was pleased with the work being done with the grant for the sunshades at Reiter Park. She asked Mr. Capizzi for the status.

Mr. Capizzi said he was working with Dr. Knight from South Seminole Hospital and that they would be using the same type of sunshades as shown on the website for the grant.

Discussion ensued about the sunshades for Reiter Park.

Member Rice mentioned the butterfly garden in Reiter Park. She said the plants are settling in nicely and that staff has worked hard on weed control.

Mr. Capizzi said they have also worked on landscape control from the contractor.

Member Rice asked if there were any areas where we can expand with more plantings for the butterflies.

Mr. Capizzi said it will not be this fiscal year but it will be available next fiscal year.

Member Rice asked staff to provide an update on the banners and Orlando Regional Medical Center (ORMC). She also asked the staff about when the splash pad might open.

Mr. Capizzi said they are hoping to open the splash pad on either July 1 or during the inception of Phase II. He said we are following suit with a lot of other municipalities. The only City that has opened their splash pads is Winter Springs.

Member Rice asked if Mr. Capizzi has reached out to Geoff Dawson at Pool Safety Resources who wanted to do something around the splash pad through that organization.

Mr. Capizzi said that he believes he did reach out to Mr. Dawson via email and has not heard from him. He said that he would check on that.

Member Rice said that the dog park is looking really good. She said there were some trees trimmed and they have more light in there. The big tires that used to be at the Candyland playground have been transplanted for the dogs. It would be awesome if someone would volunteer to paint those concrete culverts. She said she is looking for the synopsis from the Fall Festival and the Health Fair.

Mr. Capizzi said that the fall festival is on the sheet that was passed out and the Health Fair does not need a synopsis as it was an 80/20 contract and we collected \$700.00.

Member Rice said that the Round-Up program is continuing to receive contributions and it is on the Revenue and Expense Statement nearing about \$500.00. She said that the Father/Daughter Dance is probably not going to happen at this time.

Mr. Capizzi confirmed it will not. He said that it was smarter to forgo having the dance this year since it is held indoors and we do not want to take the chance of people contracting COVID-19.

Member Rice said that depending on how things are looking she was going to suggest a Back to School Dance for the kids. It would be a cool idea to include boys, girls, and anybody else that wanted to come.

Mr. Capizzi said that might be something good to survey.

Discussion ensued about a Back to School Dance and when and where it would be.

Member Ray reported and said she was excited about the picture in the Lake Mary Life Magazine. She provided Mr. Capizzi with the information about the metal signs from the company she works for.

Mr. Capizzi asked what type of signs they do.

Member Ray said she has a picture and she tried to send it to him but she printed it for him. She said it was really difficult at the Farmer's Market because people were not social distancing and there were several dogs. Otherwise, she had a good time.

Member Coad reported and showed the Board the new prizes that were purchased for Celebrate the Season. She said they would be for the Lollipop Tree game and that they would increase the prizes from twelve (12) to twenty-four (24). She asked Mr. Capizzi about the Babe Ruth issue.

Mr. Capizzi said the Babe Ruth season was canceled one (1) game into the season for obvious reasons. He said Babe Ruth desired to create a Sand Lot League which is an abbreviated league to give to the kids something to come back to before the Fall season. There was talk about giving back refunds and he believes that they are going to give the option of a refund immediately or a discount towards the Fall season. There is a Board Meeting tonight to discuss the summer league which could start practicing this weekend. He said we will know more information by tomorrow on what they would like to do. We have been asking them for weeks to give us some sort of a plan on what they would like to do as far as the league goes. He said it has been tough between the CDC guidelines and the Babe Ruth National restrictions. There are a lot of processes they need to follow to make this league come to fruition. We are planning to move forward with the Fall league as planned.

Member Rice asked when Fall usually begins.

Mr. Capizzi said they start practicing in August and playing in September.

Member Coad asked Mr. Capizzi if the information he handed out is what he was going to use for the budget discussion. She also asked him to add the signage to the banner report that Member Rice asked him about and for a status on how Bark Fest ended up.

Mr. Rinaldo said he would email the report to the Board. He said the numbers were nice and he felt bad for some of the vendors since the events took place during the time COVID-19 was escalating making the attendance drastically lower than years past. He said that he and Mr. Capizzi have been talking about doing some sort of discount or incentive next year for the vendors who attended this year's Bark Fest.

Mr. Capizzi said that was also the same weekend as the Mustang Car Show and you all remember that the attendance was high but it lowered drastically and was noticeable. He said in talking with Joe Rodriguez from the Mustang Club, tons of people pulled out from attending the event a couple of days prior. He said the timing was terrible but fortunately

they got it in which was nice and we got sponsorship money. Additionally, nobody requested refunds on their sponsorship money and that is why Mr. Rinaldo and I thought about giving them some kind of a discount next year.

Discussion ensued concerning next year's Bark Fest event and what day it would be held on.

Member Coad asked about the status of the outlets on the arbor deck at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi said they have been installed.

Member Coad asked Mr. Capizzi to give an update on the closeout with the builder at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi said all of the palm trees are going to be taken out and replaced with regenerated Sabal palms at no cost to the city. The lights in the back of the park are out and will also be replaced at no cost to the city. There were air conditioning issues at the park and they are going to be fixed. This should all be done within a month.

Member Coad asked about the bamboo in the back of the park and the pine trees. She said they do not look healthy.

Mr. Capizzi said he is aware and will consult with Norm Ripper from Helping Hand who is a certified arborist to see what needs to be done to take care of the pines.

Discussion ensued about the plants at Reiter Park.

Member Vogel reported and said he was at the Farmer's Market and there was a decent crowd but not a lot of social distancing occurring and that there were dogs present.

Member Coad asked all Board Members to take a look at the project list and see if there is an activity that they would like to work on with Mr. Capizzi and Mr. Rinaldo. She said they are great to work with and they can always use a helping hand.

Vice-Chair Putz reported and showed pictures to the Board from Reiter Park. He said the Senator II is beautiful right now. He asked about the bench with a plaque on it and if we sold a bench.

Mr. Capizzi said that we did and spoke about the person that purchased the bench.

Vice-Chair Putz said the entranceway on Church Street is all cracked and has oil stains all over them. He asked how staff will go about getting the cracks fixed or repaired and the stains removed.

Mr. Capizzi said that we may be able to take care of the oil stains in-house. We can clean them with the power washer. The staff does encourage food trucks and vehicles to stay off

of that area and to not dump their oil. If staff cannot clean the stains, we can try to have them professionally cleaned.

Vice-Chair Putz said there is a chain-link fence in the back of the park that belongs to two homeowners and asked if there was money in the budget for the Board to put up a more private fence. He said it would benefit those two (2) houses.

Mr. Capizzi said there is nothing in the budget as of now.

Discussion ensued about replacing the fence in that area.

Vice-Chair Putz said he had an issue with some BMX bike riders at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi said he was aware and the police were called.

Vice-Chair Putz said they were a little fresh with him when he told them there was a sign on the park that says no bikes. He said they are chopping up the wood on the stage when they pedal as they do.

Member Rice asked what they were going to do with the palm trees when they are removed.

Mr. Capizzi said West Construction will take them to their yard in South Florida. He told Vice-Chair Putz that the issue with the bikers may have been when the pump track was closed.

Discussion ensued about the bikers and Reiter Park.

Vice-Chair Putz asked if the sprinkler that is broken was going to be fixed.

Mr. Capizzi replied yes. He said we have multiple sprinkler heads broken weekly.

Member Rice asked how staff fixes those.

Mr. Capizzi said the park staff fixes them unless it is a bigger issue.

Discussion ensued about the broken sprinkler heads at Reiter Park.

Vice-Chair Putz asked if there was any way to control the algae in the pond.

Mr. Capizzi said Public Works treats the lake and all of the city-owned retention ponds and he would check with them to see when they are planning on treating Reiter Park.

Discussion ensued about what they treat the pond with at Reiter Park.

Vice-Chair Putz asked about social distancing in the men's bathroom at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi said that they blocked off one of the urinals in the men's room since they are so close together.

Discussion ensued concerning social distancing in the bathrooms at Reiter Park.

Vice-Chair Putz asked about the orange poles that AT&T put in when they installed their fiber optics throughout the downtown area.

Mr. Capizzi said he could not answer that.

Discussion ensued about the orange poles put in by AT&T.

5. STAFF REPORT

Mr. Capizzi thanked the Board for coming to the meeting tonight. He said there will not be a Movie in the Park at this time. He said there is a Concert in the Park on June 6, 2020, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Reiter Park and the band is Black Canvas. The Food Truck event is Thursday, June 11, 2020, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and the Downtown Longwood Cruise-In Car Show is June 13, 2020, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Capizzi said the City Manager just signed the paperwork for True Blue, the sign company that will be coming out to install the signage at Reiter Park. Orlando Health has been inundated with things way more pressing than the signage. They will be getting our first payment to us either this week or next week in the amount of \$7,500.00. The signage should be going up within the next two (2) to three (3) weeks. He said they are still waiting on the banners and if this is something they are interested in doing, suggested they should be more inclined to move forward once the COVID situation is behind us. The signs will be on the splash pad and the amphitheater.

Discussion ensued about the signs and banners at Reiter Park.

Mr. Capizzi went over the Leisure Services budget with the Board.

Mr. Capizzi went over the Arts and Crafts Festival synopsis.

Member Rice asked how many years were left on the existing contract with the Longwood Historic Society.

Mr. Capizzi said there are four (4) or five (5) years left on the contract.

Discussion ensued about a carnival at the Arts and Crafts Festival or Back to School Dance.

Member Rice asked about the Revenue and Expenditure Statement (131 Fund).

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