

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 10th, 2026 – 4:02PM

City Hall – 3rd Floor – HR Training Room

Present: Patt Sned, Michael Odum, Mary Murphy, Jacquelyn Taylor, Jill Merrell

Staff Present: Leah Rockwell, Todd Snyder, Erin Paige, Linda Madigan, Andrew Van Otteren, Lorenzo Rivero, Don Gustafson

Absent: Perry Douglass, Phil Growick

Guest(s): Robert McDonald – Ohlson Lavoie Corporation (OLC)

Topic

Discussion / Action / Follow Up

Call to Order

Meeting called to order by *Michael Odum* at 4:02 p.m.

Motion made to approve December 9, 2025, meeting minutes; made by *Michael Odum* with a first by *Patt Sned* and a second motion by *Jill Merrell*. All in favor.

New Business

- *Leah Rockwell* informed the committee members that *Michael Odum* has decided to step down as Chair of the committee after sixteen years due to other commitments. *Michael Odum* nominated *Patt Sned* as Chair with a second from *Jacquelyn Taylor*. All were in favor. *Patt Sned* accepted the nomination and is now the Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. A motion for *Mary Murphy* to be Vice Chair was nominated by *Patt Sned* with a second by *Jacquelyn Taylor*, *Mary Murphy* accepted. *Mary Murphy* is now the new Vice Chair of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee. The committee and *Leah Rockwell* thanked *Michael Odum* for his years of service.
- *Leah Rockwell* introduced *Robert McDonald of OLC* who made a presentation on the renovation of the Warren Hawkins Aquatic Center. The design shows the update of all the finishes both in the pool house and pool deck. The gutter system will be replaced. An alternate feature will be a water slide that we hope to find funding to include. The new leisure pool, which has a zero-depth entry for toddlers, will gradually increase in depth to three feet. It will also have play features such as dumping buckets and sprays and will have shade. The main pool lane lines will be re-tiled. We are updating the pool house and adding a new roof and paint scheme to match the Tennis Center and Community Center. The pump room will be expanded to accommodate new pumps, heaters, filters, and all new mechanicals. All new pool deck furniture is also included in the design. We will be replacing all the windows around the pool house and updating it. The exterior of pool house and the sidewalk will be ADA compliant. Entry into the pool through the locker room will change, you will now enter through a breezeway. We are maintaining the on-deck showers. We are renovating the entire administration area. We are adding a first aid room. The men's and women's locker rooms will stay in the same location, but we have added ADA accessibility. We are adding a new storage room. *Robert McDonald* then showed the cost estimate for the development and schematic design. Our target budget is \$4.5 million dollars. The cost estimate has exceeded that budget, because of the pool, equipment and earthwork improvements, bringing it \$500,000 over budget. This amount does not include the slide which is an add alternate and will cost an additional \$305,000. We are going to finish the construction documents based on the design. It will take eight more weeks to complete and then we are going to put it out to bid to see what numbers come in. *Leah Rockwell* stated that construction costs have

increased by 30-40% since Covid, which has had an impact on our budget and what we can afford to do. *Patt Sned* asked when the pool was put in and *Robert McDonald* stated it was installed in 1964. *Robert McDonald* said the pool is in great condition. *Andrew Van Otteren* stated we will be chipping out the existing surface of the pool and will be redoing the entire surface. *Leah Rockwell* thanked *Robert McDonald* for his presentation.

Old Business

Bond Projects Update –

- *Currie Park* – *Lorenzo Rivero* stated that we are working on the waterside of the park. All the piers have been demolished, and we have started on the new piers. Coastal work is being done. The underground drainage on the south side to the north side is a six-month project. The café restrooms are seventy-five percent complete. We should have roofing completed on the community hub next month. Following that we will do stucco, prime, paint and then paint a second time once all finishes are complete. We are working in conjunction with the 26th Street drainage and lift station improvements project that Public Utilities are doing. They should be completed by mid-May and then we can take over that area of the park again.
- *Gaines Park – Community Center & Tennis Center* – *Lorenzo Rivero* stated that we are working on all the MEP's, roofing and drainage. We should be finished in two months. We hope to have the Community Center complete by June. The Tennis Center is eighty percent complete. We are currently working on the tennis courts. We found some deficiencies and we are working with the contractor. We received the switch gear last week which will be installed next week so we can power the Tennis Center. We are working with FPL to connect power to the Tennis Center. We should be finished by mid-March.
- *South Olive – Tennis Courts and Parking Lot* – *Lorenzo Rivero* stated we started the installation of the windscreens today and will be finished tomorrow. We are meeting with the contractor tomorrow as we have found some cracks on the three of the original courts. We think it may be due to the cold weather. *Patt Sned* asked if these were the new or old courts. *Leah Rockwell* stated that they are the old courts.
- *Warren Hawkins Aquatic Center* – Presentation on design made by *Robert McDonald* of OLC.
- *Brian Chappell Park Fishing Pier* – *Lorenzo Rivero* stated that he spoke with the contractor yesterday. We are still on schedule waiting for the pilings which we should have in two weeks. We will start installation in mid-March. The installation will take approximately one and half months. We hope to be completed by the end of May. The piles come from Arkansas.
- *Village Paws Park* – *Lorenzo Rivero* stated we have a confirmed date to start the project from the contractor, and it is March 2. We informed the HOA President and board of Saratoga Bay which is directly across the street. We are putting up signs tomorrow letting the public know when we are starting and giving them alternative dog parks to use during this time. We anticipate it will take ninety days. *Jill Merrell* asked where Village Paws is located. *Leah Rockwell* stated it's on Saratoga Road near Bear Lakes middle school.

Penny Sales Tax –

- *Howard Park Community Center* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that it was supposed to go out to bid but it is still being reviewed by the Procurement official. *Patt Sned* asked about the Howard Park Tennis Courts that are shut down. *Lorenzo Rivero* stated that we are removing all the clay on courts one, two and seven, and doing laser grading which we started last week. The courts were installed incorrectly. Weather permitting, we should be finished by Friday. *Lorenzo Rivero* stated that

we need to find a way to give less irrigation to courts six and seven as they take longer to dry because they are shaded.

General Fund –

- Okeechobee Boulevard – *Todd Snyder* stated we just planted royal palms and sable palms trees to try to make the gateway into the city look better. We are going through a drought, so we have added alternative water devices to the trees to help with this issue. *Jill Merrell* asked who monitors the irrigation in the city. *Leah Rockwell* stated we have a maintenance crew who monitor our clay courts and our Tennis pros let us know if there are issues. We also rely on the public who contact us directly by phone or use WPBKey on our website to let us know if there are any issues within the City that we need to address. *Todd Snyder* stated that by code a lot of condominium associations downtown are required to maintain the trees, tree wells and irrigation not the city.
- George Petty Park – *Don Gustafson, Special Project Manager with Engineering* stated the original contractor changed to new management and they did a terrible job. He has a meeting on Friday with an arborist to see what we can do. We will find out the best way to make sure that the park looks good again. *Patt Sned* stated that when the original plan was presented to PRAC it was a lot better than what we got. She requested more greenery and more shade.
- Interviews – *Todd Snyder* stated we have given four offers for the Parks Maintenance Worker I positions and tomorrow we have interviews for the Parks Maintenance Operations Coordinator.

The TREEmendous WPB Program –

- *Leah Rockwell* showed the committee logos for the TreeMendous WPB program. She stated that we need to be careful using the word “TreeMendous” because of copyright. Our graphic designer worked on different logos for the committee to choose from. *Patt Sned* said she liked the circular logos. *Jacquelynn Taylor* said she liked the logo of someone sitting under a tree. *Jill Merrell* said she liked the circular logo also with a tree showing its roots. She said it shows growth and *Leah Rockwell* added that the roots could also represent the community. *Leah Rockwell* stated that we will look at the logos again when *Phil Growick* is present to discuss further.
- Recreation Programs – *Erin Paige* stated that the Junior Soccer League just finished. We are now entering our second week of our High School Basketball League.
- *Erin Paige* presented our programming and information brochure for Spring 2026 which takes us from January through June.
 - Coleman Park has started its 561 soul line dancing class on Fridays at 6pm. *Jacquelynn Taylor* asked if the line dancing was free and *Erin Paige* confirmed that it is free.
 - South Olive has a golden age open gym basketball program on Wednesdays at 10am. In March we will have youth (K-5) basketball clinics on Wednesdays at 5:45pm *Erin Paige* presented our City Fun Summer brochure. This shows what is being offered throughout the summer. Resident registration starts on March 2nd and our nonresidents can register on March 30.
 - Howard Park – Our city-wide annual Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 28 starting at 10am. Spring break camps are also available.
- Community Events – *Leah Rockwell* stated Green Market and Clematis by Night are still ongoing and very popular. We have Soul in the City next Wednesday at Sunset Lounge. *Jill Merrell* stated that she has been to Soul in the City events and said it was an amazing experience and the staff are doing an incredible job. *Jill Merrell* asked

Staff Comments

what the reason was that we shut down Green Market on January 31st and *Leah Rockwell* stated after speaking with weather forecasters and other relevant sources we were anticipating twenty-mile per hour winds. The chill factor with temperatures in the forties would be dangerous as tents could be blown away. *Jacquelyn Taylor* asked how Community Events are advertising the events at Sunset as she had multiple people saying they were not aware of what was happening. *Leah Rockwell* stated that Community Events have been sending social media blasts everywhere and specifically providing info at the Northwest neighborhood meetings. Community Events opened a box office for two days for residents to come to pay for their tickets and nobody showed up. *Leah Rockwell* recommended that residents sign up for the city's Facebook page, Twitter and Instagram and look on the city's website for event information. This weekend there is the Palm Festival, which is very popular in other parts of the country, therefore Green Market will not be held. *Leah Rockwell* stated that the boat show will be coming in March.

**Board
Comments**

- *Jill Merrell* asked how the program information gets to parents. *Erin Paige* stated that we have brochures in all our community centers and on our website. For our past participants, that have registered households, we send out informational emails also. *Leah Rockwell* stated that when we get closer to the start dates, we send out reminders via our city Facebook and Instagram. *Jill Merrell* complimented the city on the communication across the board whether it be on social media or email. *Jacquelyn Taylor* asked if there was anyone who could reach out to the churches to inform them of the programs that we have. *Erin Paige* stated that she would follow up on it.
- *Jacquelyn Taylor* asked if *Tiffany Morgan* could be recognized at Gaines Park. *Leah Rockwell* stated that a letter needs to be written from the community stating that they would like a room named after her and why. *Jill Merrell* asked who *Tiffany Morgan* was. *Leah Rockwell* explained she was a member of our team, an employee, who ran the afterschool programs and sports at Gaines Park. She was beloved by us and the community.

**Public
Comment**

- None

**Next Meeting
Meeting
Adjourned**

Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. 2nd Floor Open Planning Area, City Hall.

Patt Sned made a motion to adjourn at 5:15 p.m. First by *Mary Murphy* with a second by *Jacquelyn Taylor*. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.