

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes**

August 13th, 2024 – 4:04 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor - Open Planning Area

Present: Niels Heimeriks, Patt Sned, Perry Douglas, Matthew Goldberger, Jacquelyn Taylor, Phil Growick	Staff Present: Leah Rockwell, Sherry Wilson, Anjali Ganesh, Mary Pinak City Commissioner Shalonda Warren - District 2
Absent: Michael Odum, Mary Murphy	Guest(s): Alfonso Hernandez – Architect. Dana Herst - Dreher Park Neighborhood Association. Angela Ogburn – Northwood Harbor Neighborhood Association, Claudia Kirk Barto, Peter Moore - CMA.

Topic	Discussion / Action / Follow Up
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Call to Order	Meeting called to order by <i>Perry Douglas</i> at 4:03 p.m. Motion made to approve July 9 th , 2024, minutes made by <i>Perry Douglas</i> with a second motioned by <i>Patt Sned</i> . All in favor.
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New Business:

— None

Old Business Bond Projects Update –

— *Howard Park* – Howard Park Community Center – *Mr. Alfonso Hernandez*, architect, did a presentation on the design of the Howard Park Community Center. *Mr. Hernandez* stated we are in the process of receiving the permit, then we can go through the bid process.

There will be renovated bathrooms on either side of the new pavilion which is the existing structure. *Perry Douglas* asked about the sq footage of the new building. *Mr. Hernandez* stated it is 6,800 sq., and with the renovation a further 2,800 sq. This totals circa 9,500 sq feet overall. *Mr. Hernandez* stated that he and *Leah Rockwell* spent time on deciding the finishes. They decided on an epoxy flooring as it is most practical, durable and attractive and ties in with the design inspiration of connecting with nature. There will be a café in the new building which the community requested. Part of the design is to incorporate trees by having an artist create patterns on panels which will then be manufactured to represent the Royal Poinciana Tree. When the sunlight hits it will create shadows like leaves to make you will feel like you are in the park under a real tree. It is unique and special, and the DAC and ArtLife Committees are very happy with this art piece. An approval for Art in Public Places (ArtLife) was received. The artist is known for working with steel and wood. She's helping the team with what the patterns will look like, and she is adding artistic quality on the outside façade as well. *Leah Rockwell* stated she wanted to salvage the trusses in the existing building to

use as a pavilion to preserve some of beauty which was built in the 1960's. *Dana Herst* asked if the trusses would be protected in the weather and *Mr. Hernandez* stated he believes they will. *Niels Heimeriks* stated it is nice that the design has incorporated shade and the reuse of the original trusses. He asked about the café, and if the space for it was going to be closed off. *Leah Rockwell* stated it'll be an open internet café and will be fully staffed but most likely staffed by an outside contractor. *Phil Growick* complimented the light and airiness of the design, and the other PRAC board members agreed. *Mary Pinak* commented/complimented the pavilion saying it looks great. She asked if there will be electric or water there for events. *Leah Rockwell* said they have some electric there and there is access to water as well. *Leah Rockwell* said there is a need to be able to turn off the electric at night so she will investigate that. *Perry Douglas* asked is there a way to close the pavilion to keep it secure. *Leah Rockwell* stated that it won't be closed off as it is a picnic pavilion like all the other park pavilions. *Dana Herst* asked about the banquet facility and will it have a wall of windows. *Leah Rockwell* said no it would not, it will have double doors to open out onto the patio. There is multiple storage rooms located on site. We cannot afford to have a commercial kitchen now. Perhaps in the future we can but for now it is a prep/warming kitchen because of the budget. *Leah Rockwell* and the PRAC board members thanked *Mr. Hernandez* for his presentation.

- *Coleman Park* – Colman Park Community Center – No update
- *Currie Park* – *Leah Rockwell* introduced *Peter Moore*, president of CMA the designers for Currie Park. They are waiting on state compliance for bid amendments to share with perspective contractors. *Peter Moore* stated the estimate for groundbreaking is November 2024. *Perry Douglas* asked what the scope was to be put out for bid. *Mr. Moore* responded that the seawalls, flooding issues are on the scope together with play features, sports etc. *Leah Rockwell* stated that the meandering board walk is on hold as the funds are not in the budget to do that right now. We hope private investors and future grants will provide funding over time to enable us to complete deferred park amenities. The design includes two tennis courts, two pickleball courts, fitness area and playground. There is also the resilience hub/community center and the performance lawn where fairs, markets, concerts can be held, or it can be used for a soccer field. *Matthew Goldberger* asked about the seawall. *Mr. Moore* stated that it will be reinforced and will be a living shoreline as well. *Leah Rockwell* and the PRAC board members thanked *Mr. Moore*.
- *Phipps Skate Park* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that today was the first official day of regular skate park hours. The newly renovated skate park is now open. The only thing remaining is to replace the fencing which will be done in phases so that the skate park can remain open.
- *Baseball Complex* – No update
- *Gaines Park* – No update

- *Osprey Park* – No update
- *South Olive – Tennis Courts and Parking Lot* – No update
- *Dreher Park Playground* – *Leah Rockwell* stated she met with the playground company and asked about phasing the project because of the funding. They will get back to us with options. Refer to design printout from *Leah Rockwell*. *Patt Sned* asked what the available funding was at this time and *Leah Rockwell* stated there is just under \$600k for the playground in the budget. *Perry Douglas* asked what the full project funding amount is. *Leah Rockwell* stated \$1.2m for the full project. *Dana Herst* asked if the design includes the shade structure covering the playground entirely. *Leah Rockwell* stated that if the entire playground was under shade that would cost \$400k alone. This is not possible so we can cover key elements of the playground. *Niels Heimeriks* stated he was very concerned that the playground will not be entirely shaded. *Leah Rockwell* explained if the entire playground was covered with a shade structure that because of the sun and how it moves through the day it would never completely cover the playground anyway. *Leah Rockwell* stated we will be planting trees to help with shade also. *Dana Herst* asked about getting the trees in the ground now, so they are in and ready for when the project begins. *Leah Rockwell* stated we have asked the Boys & Girls Club and the Cox Science Center, if possible, to move the mature trees around the playground, and they have agreed to when viable. Not all that we think can be move will be able to be moved. *Commissioner Warren* asked if there are any retractable shade options we could use. *Leah Rockwell* stated that may be a structural challenge because of hurricane season. *Leah Rockwell* said she will investigate it further. *Dana Herst* asked about the southside and the small trees that were recently planted. *Leah Rockwell* stated this was done by FPL and Comcast, a community greening initiative. *Dana Herst* asked if there is a possibility to work with other developers who remove trees in the city to donate to us also. *Leah Rockwell* said she often works with developers to do this, and she will ask. *Jacqueline Taylor* asked if this playground will be the most expensive one ever built in the city. *Leah Rockwell* stated yes as it is a boundless playground for accessibility, so this adds to the cost making it very expensive. *Perry Douglas* asked when the PRAC board will see the new design. *Leah Rockwell* stated once she receives it, she will show it to the PRAC board members.
- *Lincoln Park* – No update on the field lighting.
- *Brian Chapel Fishing Pier* – No update
- *George Petty Park* – No update
- *Blum Park* – No update

Penny Sales Tax –

- *Howard Park* – *Leah Rockwell* stated the amount of money set aside for the community center was not enough which is why we don't have enough to put in the commercial kitchen. *Leah Rockwell* stated she hopes to know

more soon as we did ask for additional funding to bid the Howard Park project. We cannot put it out to bid until we know the estimated cost for construction is budgeted.

Public Works Bond – No update

General Fund Projects

- *Lincoln Park* – The basketball courts are complete.
- *Bill Moss Paseo* – Leah Rockwell stated we have the ITB's out for the contract to rebuild the athletic fields. We hope to have the bids in shortly and are hopeful they are in budget. The fields need three months to settle before use so hoping to be able to start as soon as possible.

**Staff
Comments/
Updates**

Comments:

- **Summer Programs:**
- Community Events: *Mary Pinak* stated that they came up 80 percent over the predicted revenue for the 4th of July event. The summer finale this year is a tribute band to Jimmy Buffet on the 29th of August. Soul in the City Jazz has events on August 21st and September 18th at the Lake Pavilion. This event will continue through December but then ends because there are other events being held at Lake Pavilion. Summer was very successful for Community Events. The 30th season of Greenmarket is opening on October 5th with 130 vendors. *Leah Rockwell* congratulated *Mary Pinak* on being with the city for 35 years.
- Summer Camp Programs: *Sherry Wilson* stated that all summer camps have ended and were very successful. The staff had about a week to prepare before starting our Fall programs, these programs are our afterschool programs, youth soccer, adult softball and flag football. Other programs and events are also scheduled at community centers.
- **General Parks Update:**
- Grass is dryer than usual due to lack of rain in some of the parks. Our maintenance staff are super busy keeping the summer growth under control.
- **Hurricane Preparedness:**
- Always working on it and training on how to prepare for any emergency.

Board Comments

Commissioner Warren

- *Commissioner Warren* stated that she would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone on the PRAC Board for taking the time to come to the meetings and for everything they do. She also thanked the Department of Parks and Recreation for all that they do, stating she has received positive feedback for all the events and recreational areas that we provide and maintain.

Public Comment

- *Dana Herst* asked about Ultimate Frisby and if we would have that activity

Next Meeting Tuesday, September 10th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Open Planning Area, City Hall.

Meeting Adjourned *Perry Douglas* made a motion to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. Second by *Matthew Goldberger*. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.