

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 11th, 2025 – 4:01 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor - Open Planning Area

Present: Michael Odum, Patt Sned, Niels Heimeriks, Jacquelyn Taylor, Perry Douglass, Mary Murphy, Linda Grosz

Staff Present: Sherry Wilson, Todd Snyder, Linda Madigan, Sybille Canthal, Kelsey King, Christopher Roog

Absent: Matthew Goldberger, Phil Growick

Guest(s):

Topic Discussion / Action / Follow Up

Call to Order Meeting called to order by *Michael Odum* at 4:01 p.m.
Motion made to approve January 14th, 2025; made by Michael Odum with a first by *Perry Douglass* and a second motion by *Patt Sned*. All in favor.

New Business

- *Sybille Canthal*, Director of Art and Culture of West Palm Beach stated that she is doing the third iteration of what is the Commons Project called “Endless Summer”. The City of West Palm Beach fund temporary projects for local artists only to give them exposure. There is a pool of close to 700 local artists in the City of West Palm Beach. It’s an opportunity for these artists to go from their studio practice into the public realm. The art committee selected five local artists through a competitive process and two have been elected to put temporary displays in Howard Park and Jose Marti Park which will be funded by the Art and Culture Department. The first art presentation was by Milena Arango in Jose Marti Park. She wants to utilize the trees and concrete walls and by using textiles and fabrics will create waves and blues, she calls it “Ocean Echoes”. The Department of Parks and Recreation will assist and get the park ready for this. *Christopher Roog* asked when it will be installed, and *Sybille Canthal* stated it should be installed by the end of March. *Niel Heimeriks* asked how long the temporary art will be in place. *Sybille Canthal* stated that it will not exceed 18 months. The next presentation was given by a self-taught artist, Allan Creary. His art would be described as pop art. He will be using the benches at Howard Park and will do a painting for each bench, twelve in total. Once each painting is complete it will be superimposed on a vinyl wrap and put on each bench. The PRAC committee were very impressed by the two art projects presented. *Perry Growick* asked if the PRAC committee be informed when the projects are in place. *Sybille Canthal* stated she will notify the committee when it is done.

Old Business

Bond Projects Update –

- *Parks Security – No update.*
- *Howard Park Tennis Center – Sherry Wilson* asked if everyone on the PRAC committee received her invitation to the Howard Park Tennis Center Ribbon Cutting Opening Ceremony on 2/19 at 10 am. Final touches such as putting IT in the building and furniture are underway. On the day there will be a tennis demonstration on the courts. The invitation has also been sent to the Neighborhood Association and the Commission.
- *Currie Park – Christopher Roog*, Executive Director of the Community and Redevelopment Agency in West Palm Beach with *Kelsey King*, Project Manager for Northend, Pleasant City, Northwood, and Broadway, CRA, were present to update the PRAC committee on the status of Currie Park. They are currently under contract with a company called BRV (Biederman Redevelopment Ventures). This company develops plans for parks across the country. They run Bryant Park in New York City as an example, and they have produced the Currie Park plans. Mr. *Dan Biederman* is currently building out the plan details for Currie Park. Mr. *Biederman* will present to the PRAC committee virtually in the March PRAC meeting. The CRA Advisory Board

funds the project and is updated monthly. The goal for the park is to make it sustainable, so the park itself will be able to generate the revenue to operate and be maintained. The park will still be open to the public and the playgrounds and the green space will be free. To generate revenue there will be a café, programs, and the property owners of the surrounding buildings will be asked to contribute to the upkeep of the park. Thus, maintaining the park in the community as promised and always making it safe and comfortable. In addition, there are some other initiatives being pursued for additional funding primarily from the state legislator to get additional camera and security equipment to enable the park to be tied into the real time crime center at the City Police Department. This is for security and for collecting data on how the park is being used daily. This will help to give an understanding on how our programming and planning is beneficial and use that data to further help with the sustainability whether that be event planning or sponsorship etc. *Patt Sned* asked if the term property owners relate to the developers or to the residents. *Christopher Roog* stated primarily the developers. *Niels Heimericks* expressed concern that the developers will change it to events after the park has closed that are only for the residents of the buildings. *Patt Sned, Linda Grosz and Jacquelyn Taylor* also expressed concern that it becomes a ‘developer park’ and accessibility becomes an issue for the public. *Christopher Roog* stated that the park is owned by the city so that will never happen, and it will always remain open to the public. *Christopher Roog* stated that *Dan Biederman* will address all those points at next month’s meeting. *Christopher Roog* stated he is happy to share the presentation given to the CRA Advisory Board and he will send to *Linda Madigan* to forward to the PRAC committee members. *Kelsey King* spoke about the community outreach meetings with the Pleasant City Community through the two-year construction. These comprehensive community outreach meetings will tentatively take place on 2/27 at the Pleasant City Community Meeting, 3/31 at La Marina, 4/17 at Manatee Lagoon and 5/31 at City Hall between the hours of 6-8pm.

- *Gaines Park – Community Center & Tennis Center – Sherry Wilson* stated that the community center is in its final stage of installing the walls and beams, and the roof will be complete by the end of this month. The tennis center walls and columns are up, and the installation of the roof and fencing will start at the end of this month. Once these have been completed, the courts will be started.
- *South Olive – Tennis Courts and Parking Lot – Sherry Wilson* stated that construction has started on the parking lot and after that we will start on the first set of the new courts and the resurfacing of the nine courts. *Patt Sneed* asked if the courts are currently closed. *Sherry Wilson* stated they are currently open while the parking lot is being done and then they will be closed when the courts are being done.
- *Dreher Park Playground – No update.*
- *Howard Park Community Center – Sherry Wilson* stated we are still waiting on money for the project. Our engineering director is trying to get that submitted for the commission meeting in March. Once funding is approved, we can finally go out for the RFP. An extension for the architects’ contract was needed so that is currently being finalized.
- *Coleman Park Community Center and Gymnasium – Sherry Wilson* stated the contractor has not fulfilled the terms of his contract. The engineering project manager will be sending the contractor a letter of default this week.

Public Works Bond –

- *Dreher Park Restrooms – Todd Snyder* stated that restroom number one has been started. They are currently working on the foundation.

General Fund Projects -

- Bill Moss Paseo Athletic Fields – *Todd Snyder* stated that additional language had to be added to the contract for the contractor, the contractor will have it signed and sent back by Friday. The project will begin in the summer.
- Gaines Park Concession Stand Roof – *No update.*
- Gaines Park Lighting – *Todd Snyder* stated light fixtures will be received on 3/21. Once received we will have a plan to replace all the existing lights with upgraded technology and lighting to brighten the Park.
- Howard Park Tennis Center Parking Lot – *Todd Snyder* stated the parking lot was completed today. The thermoplastic striping of the lot was done. This striping is harder wearing so will last longer.

Staff Comments

- Community Events- *Sherry Wilson* stated that Community Events are currently busy with the Clematis by Night events and the Green Market.
- Programs – *Sherry Wilson* stated we are in the process of finalizing our summer brochure, and summer camps will be open for registration by the end of March. The K through 5 and youth camps will be at South Olive and Pleasant City. Our teen camps will be at Vedado and Gaines Park. Our Spring Break camps for youth and teens will be at South Olive, Pleasant City, Gaines and Vedado. There will also be a spring break camp at Phipps Skate Park.
- Pleasant City Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) – *Todd Snyder* stated that the roof repair started last week. They removed 95% of the tiles. The next phase will be the installation of new paper and new tiles.
- Parks Maintenance – *Todd Snyder* stated that we are currently working with IT to simplify the Work Order system to be user friendly. *Todd Snyder* stated that jobs vacancies went from 10 to 13. The positions that we are actively looking to fill are for Irrigation Technicians and Parks Maintenance III. *Todd Snyder* stated that Parks Maintenance will help with the preparation of the upcoming Boat Show.
- Phipps Park – *No update.*
- Vedado Park – *Todd Snyder* stated that the basketball and tennis courts are being resurfaced this Thursday which will take a month to cure before we can open the courts.
- North Dock – *No update*
- Currie Park Boat Ramp – *No update*
- Medians and Right of Ways – *No update*
- Sunfest – *Patt Sned* asked about Sunfest and it was confirmed by *Sherry Wilson* that Sunfest will not be held downtown this year.
- None

Committee Comments Public Comment Next Meeting Meeting Adjourned

Tuesday, March 11th, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Open Planning Area, City Hall.
Michael Odum made a motion to adjourn at 4:48 p.m. with a first by *Patt Sned* and a second by *Mary Murphy*. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.