

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 14th, 2025 – 4:13 PM

City Hall – 2nd Floor - Open Planning Area

Present: Niels Heimeriks, Jacquelyn Taylor, Perry Douglass, Phil Growick, Linda Grosz
Staff Present: Leah Rockwell, Todd Snyder, Linda Madigan, Michelle Terebinski

Absent: Michael Odum, Mary Murphy, Matthew Goldberger, Patt Sned
Guest(s): Russ Paparo

Topic Discussion / Action / Follow Up

Call to Order Meeting called to order by *Perry Douglass* at 4:13 p.m.
Motion made to approve December 10th, 2024; made by *Perry Douglass* with a first by *Phil Growick* and a second motion by *Neils Heimeriks*. All in favor.

New Business — *Linda Grosz* was welcomed as the newest member of the board.

Old Business Bond Projects Update –

- *Parks Security* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that Fogelman Park will have security cameras installed within the next couple of months. A developer has provided a grant to provide security cameras at Osprey Park and they will be installed by the end of this month. *Leah Rockwell* stated as funding becomes more available, and priorities are put in place, we will try to put more security cameras up throughout our parks system.
- *Howard Park Tennis Center* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that we are almost ready to open. The parking lot resurfacing should be complete next week. The courts are complete but are not open to the public yet. Hoping to have a ribbon cutting opening ceremony at the end of this month or in early February.
- *Currie Park* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that the construction contract went to commission on 1/6 for Commission approval and for the Mayor's approval to sign with West Construction. We estimate groundbreaking to be at the end of February. We are still waiting for the Army Corp permit. *Linda Grosz* asked if the PRAC had the opportunity to approve the selected contractor. *Leah Rockwell* informed her that they are advisory and that the project was an Invitation to Bid process which means the lowest bid is awarded the contract unless they fail to meet all the requirements. *Perry Douglas* further explained that as the PRAC Advisory Committee they were given opportunities to give input on design.
- *Gaines Park – Community Center & Tennis Center* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that the walls are now going vertical at both the Community Center and Tennis Center. The contractor is the same contractor who will be building Currie Park. At Gaines they have been efficient and meeting expectations.
- *South Olive – Tennis Courts and Parking Lot* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that Lox Construction are starting the demolition of the old storage building, following that the parking lots and then renovations of the tennis courts. There will be disruption to tennis programs currently using the courts as the new court surface is an asphalt acrylic cushioning system that takes a long time install to cure.
- *Dreher Park Playground* – *Leah Rockwell* did a presentation showing the two designs made for the playground. One design shows the full scope which is over budget coming to \$1.2m. which was approved by the neighborhood. The other design is the reduced scope which is in budget around \$600,000. *Niels Heimeriks* asked what the square footage is for both designs. *Linda Madigan* stated the larger design was over 6,000 square feet and the smaller design was over 4,000 square feet. *Leah Rockwell* stated that we need to have a meeting with the neighborhood association and public to discuss starting with the smaller playground and then adding to it in phases. This is dependent on whether the Cox Science Museum gets the grant to fund. *Niels*

Heimeriks stated he agreed with the project being done in phases. *Niels Heimeriks* asked about trees and shade coverage. *Leah Rockwell* stated that the Boys & Girls Club will be moving trees, and we hope to use these trees for shade at the playground.

Penny Sales Tax –

- *Howard Park Community Center* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that additional Penny Sales Tax funding should be in place by February. We hope to be under construction by summer. *Perry Douglass* asked if the Penny Sales Tax was renewed and *Leah Rockwell* stated no, the county did not renew. The only renewal by the county was for the school board.
- *Coleman Park Community Center and Gymnasium* – *Leah Rockwell* stated Coleman Park Community Center and Gymnasium is funded by both Penny Sales Tax and Bond. *Leah Rockwell* stated that she met with the contractor on Monday and a walk through was done. An extensive punch list was given to the contractor to complete. The contractor stated that it will be at substantial completion by the end of January.

Public Works Bond –

- *Dreher Park Restrooms* – *Todd Snyder* stated that the project is held up in permitting awaiting an electronic stamp from the manufacturer for the signed sealed/plans. *Leah Rockwell* spoke to the building official and asked them to follow up with the manufacture so the project can get to planning. The contractor is ready, he is just waiting for the permit. As per the new Hurricane Code in 2025, the tie downs now must be anchored differently and more secure than before.

General Fund Projects -

- *Bill Moss Paseo Athletic Fields* – *Todd Snyder* stated that the ITB is in legal and will continue to follow up. We are getting guidance from an expert consultant on the specifications to redo the athletic fields and do new soccer fields. The consultant will also oversee during construction.
- *Gaines Park Concession Stand Roof* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that we are in the process of designing the new roof. Following that, the restroom renovation and possibly the concession stand renovation with a new ADA ramp that wraps around the building.
- *Gaines Park Lighting* – *Todd Snyder* stated the PO has been received, the order was placed and will take five to six weeks before we receive for installation in the park, lots and the trail. *Linda Grosz* requested a copy of the lighting plan. *Linda Madigan* will follow up. *Leah Rockwell* stated that the new sign will also have lights.
- *Howard Park Tennis Center Parking Lot* – *Todd Snyder* stated that the PO has been created, and the parking lot resurfacing is in process.

Staff Comments

- *Community Events* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that we were featured in the news by partnering with the Cox Science Center to make a Guinness World Record of having the most Dinosaurs in one place. We featured a dinosaur movie at The Screen on The Green. *Perry Douglas* stated that he saw a lovely article written on *Mary Pinak* who retired on 1/11. *Leah Rockwell* stated that *Angelo Poco*, who has worked alongside *Mary Pinak* for fifteen years, has taken over the position of Marketing and Events Manager.
- *Programs* – *Leah Rockwell* stated that we have begun our next schedule of after school programs. Soccer will begin in March. Adult Softball has begun. Sailing will begin in February on Saturdays. *Linda Grosz* asked for information on the sailing camps in the summer and on Saturdays at Lake Mangonia. *Linda Madigan* will follow up.

PARKS:

- Pleasant City Youth Empowerment Center (YEC) – *Todd Snyder* stated that the permit is complete for the roof. Meeting contractor next week to go over scope, then will schedule work within three to four weeks.
- Parks Maintenance – *Todd Snyder* stated that we are currently working with IT to update the Work Order system to be user friendly. We are hoping that once complete each maintenance employee will have tablets and can update in real time on the road.
- Phipps Park – *Todd Snyder* stated that the handball courts are in the process of resurfacing.
- Vedado Park – *Todd Snyder* stated that the basketball and tennis courts are being resurfaced on 2/10.
- North Dock – *Todd Snyder* stated that we are meeting a company tomorrow to discuss the repair of the north end dock which was damaged.
- Currie Park Boat Ramp – *Todd Snyder* stated that Murray Logan will repair the boat ramp finger piers. Parts have been ordered, and we need to schedule the repair.
- Medians and Right of Ways – *Todd Snyder* said they received one time funding to do some repairs, and that he and *Leah Rockwell* met a contractor to discuss replacing dead plant material at Village Blvd. Also, the median at Okeechobee Boulevard and 441 was damaged by a car. The irrigation pump was damaged so that needs to be repaired and the dead plant material replaced; we will get plant approval from the county if needed.
- Michelle Terebinski – *Leah Rockwell* introduced *Michelle Terebinski* to the committee and explained that she is the Recreation Manager over volunteer services and special events in the parks. *Leah Rockwell* stated that Michelle's team permits approximately eighty events annually. *Leah Rockwell* stated that we track volunteer hours, and she would provide an update on the volunteer hours throughout the city when she presents the Parks Bond update in March.
- Gettler Park – *Niels Heimeriks* asked about the submerged land issue at Gettler Park. *Leah Rockwell* stated we are continuing to try to reach out to the Lainhart family.
- *Niel Heimeriks* asked about the lighting in parks and the timing of when they turn on and off. *Leah Rockwell* stated that the only automated lights are our court lights, and they go off at 10pm. The safety lighting is on a photocell to turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn.
- *Russ Paparo* stated that *Tanya Dowell (Quality Assurance Coordinator)* has been wonderful to work with on the light issues going on and off at Howard Park. He also said that he would like to request a bicycle rack and additional trash cans at Howard Park. *Leah Rockwell* said we would order the bicycle rack and investigate adding more trash cans. *Russ Paparo* also asked about more benches. *Leah Rockwell* stated *Michelle Terebinski* oversees the Bench in Memorial program so if Mr. Paparo's neighborhood would like to donate a bench and have a plaque on it we would be delighted to work with them. *Russ Paparo* said he will follow up with his neighborhood.

Board Comments

Public Comment

Next Meeting Meeting Adjourned

Tuesday, February 11th, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Open Planning Area, City Hall. *Perry Douglass* made a motion to adjourn at 5:07 p.m. with a first by *Jacquelyn Taylor* and a second by *Phil Growick*. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:07 p.m.