



## **Meeting Minutes**

Leisure Services Advisory Board

March 6, 2023

### **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by board chair, Danny Perez.

### **Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

### **Roll Call**

**Present:** Lorelei Boyden, Peter Fox, Hazel Kistow-Vasquez, Tonya Nolen Williams, Danny Perez, Larry (Todd) Shipley, Satnarine Ricketts-Weller

**City Liaison:** Kevin Pickard, Director of Leisure Services

### **Open Discussion**

### **Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the February 6, 2023 Leisure Services Advisory Board Meeting was made by Satnarine Ricketts-Weller and seconded by Peter Fox. The motion carried without board opposition.

### **Old Business**

Past Events – Kevin Pickard shared the participation numbers for recently held events:

- Tunes and Trucks- City Park- Hip-Hop/Top 40- 500 in attendance.

Board members shared that the younger crowd really enjoyed the music and like that City Park has space for children to run and play. Kevin Pickard shared that both the Civic Center and City Park venues share success and challenges as well. Next year the Civic Center will be under renovation, so the Tunes and Trucks will be scheduled at different parks throughout the City.

- Woofstock- Pawgrass at Welleby Park- 1,700 in attendance.

Todd Shipley shared that his yorky was a race winner. Tonya Nolen Williams shared that she enjoyed watching the wiener races. There was feedback that there was a little confusion with the bus pick-up/drop-off sites. Kevin Pickard responded that staff is trying to find what process is best for each event. All feedback is appreciated, it's all a learning experience for staff to make changes for better experiences in future events.

- Fishing Derby- Welleby Park- 97 families attended and had a lot of fun.
- Taste of Sunrise- The event sold out with 500 in attendance.

Board members shared that the flow was much better this year at the entrance and liked the separate room for desserts. Peter Fox shared that the jazz singer was very talented and enjoyed the entertainment.

- Comic Con- 1,134 in attendance.

Todd Shipley shared that his family enjoyed the event and it was spread out better this year. Tonya Nolen Williams shared that her daughter said it was the best one yet! The Q&A with the Disney animator was really interesting.

- Soca Step- 265 in attendance. Lorelei Boyden shared that all love the energy and have fun.

## **New Business**

Leisure Services A.R.P.A. Programs- Kevin Pickard shared information about the American Rescue Plan Act (A.R.P.A.) It is Federal dollars given to cities to lighten the financial burden caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Leisure Services initiative is to distribute a \$50 gift card to Dick's Sporting Goods to each eligible participant in the City's Youth Recreation Sports programs. The first sport was recreational baseball and softball, and of the 357 registered participants, 290 were eligible and 108 applied and received the gift cards. Mr. Pickard stated that the City is hoping to reach more people for the next sport. He asked the board to help spread the word. Other funding was received by the City for park enhancements.

- Upcoming Special Events
- 3/11- Safety Expo/ Classic Car Show- 10am-1pm at Welleby Park- Free Admission
- 3/17- Tunes & Trucks- 6pm at Civic Center- Tom Sartori (Top 40)
- 3/25- Earth Day Festival- 10am-1pm at Sawgrass Sanctuary- Free Admission
- 4/1- Royal Egg Hunt- 10am-1pm at Sportsplex - \$5 (12& U)

## Upcoming Theatre Shows/Programs

- Mean Girls, High School Edition- 3/11, 2pm & 7pm and 3/12, 2pm- \$20 Reserved Seating
- Piano Men- 3/20, 7pm- \$30 Reserved Seating
- The Savannah Sipping Society- 3/25, 7pm and 3/26, 2pm- \$20 Reserved Seating

## **Good of the Order**

Hazel Kistow-Vasquez asked for information regarding Veterans Park construction. Kevin Pickard responded that a new contractor will take over to finish the project and the work shouldn't be too extensive. Mr. Pickard will update the board as more information is available.

Lorelei Boyden shared that she is seeing more parties at the pavilions at City Park and domino players in the mornings. Ms. Boyden is happy to see the positive impact this park has brought to the community.

Tanya Nolen Williams shared that she and family members walked around the newly opened Oscar Wind Park and there were lots of people enjoying the playground. Kevin Pickard shared that the park is the first to have a fitness court. The board agreed to hold the April meeting at the park. The Grand Opening is set for April 29<sup>th</sup>.

Peter Fox shared the restroom at Welleby Park is being closed too early before park closure. Kevin Pickard shared the Park Ranger's phone number #954-849-0071 for assistance in the event it happens in the future.

Danny Perez asked about the City's advisory boards working together, possibly combining meetings. Kevin Pickard responded that the City Clerk does not recommend combining meetings, but suggests that one board representative attend a different board meeting and bring information back to their own board. Mr. Perez would like to know more information about the fitness trainer at the Civic Center Athletic Club. Mr. Pickard responded that it a good subject for the May meeting.

## **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lorelei Boyden and seconded by Tonya Nolan Williams. Motion carried without board opposition.

Transcribed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Karen Gallagher, Board Secretary