

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Dunedin Community Center, 1920 Pinehurst Road
Wednesday, January 16, 2019 at 4:00 PM

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Tom Mahoney

Attendance

Members: Tom Mahoney, Mike Bowman (alternate), Greg Martin, Cyndi Raskin-Schmitt, Jennifer Haber, Donna Moore, Mike Jones, Manny Koutsourais

Staff: Vince Gizzi, Lanie Sheets, Emily Hoban

Guest: Michelle Uvieghara

Approval of Minutes of December 19, 2018 meeting

- Greg moved to approve the December 19 minutes
- Manny seconded the motion
- The committee voted unanimously to approve

Annual Review of Resolution

Tom confirmed that the group was familiar with the purpose of the committee. There were no questions.

Election of Officers

- Greg nominated Cyndi for the role of secretary, Donna seconded, the committee voted unanimously to approve
- Donna nominated Gina for the role of vice-chair, Greg seconded, the committee voted unanimously to approve
- Greg nominated Tom for the role of chair, Donna seconded, the committee voted unanimously to approve

Election of Youth Member

Michelle Uvieghara attend the meeting to express her interest in being appointed to the committee as the Youth Member. She is 15 years old and has lived in Dunedin her whole life. She attended San Jose Elementary, Dunedin Highland Middle School, and is a current student at Palm Harbor University High School. Michelle enjoys playing basketball, volleyball, and track and likes the overall environment in Dunedin.

Donna asked if she had participated in any of the City's recreational camps or programs
Answer: No because she didn't think her parents were aware of the opportunities. She does volunteer at the Dunedin Library

The committee will discuss and recommend a Youth Member at the February meeting.

VFW Playground

- Lanie said that there used to be playground equipment in the grass strip between the parking lot and the trail at the VFW center on Douglas.

- Staff has been working with the VFW about their need to replace the equipment. VFW does want it replaced as many of their members families use it, as do visitors using the Pinellas Trail.
- With limited space, staff drafted a design which includes swings, bars and slides. It is targeted toward the abilities of children ages 5 to 12.
- VFW will be donating \$15,000 toward the new equipment
- Total cost will be \$55,000; including fencing that will be necessary due to the proximity to the parking lot. The project does fall within the current budget.
- Mike J. asked about the existing flag pole and monument sign
 - Answer: The poles will not be affected. The plaque will remain, and the VFW will be recognized on the new signage
- Tom asked about the anticipated completion date
 - Answer: The equipment had already been ordered and was expected to arrive within about 2 months. Upon its arrival, installation will be scheduled.

Youth Scholarship Fund

- Staffer Emily Hoban has been with the city since 2000 and works at the MLK Center. She was there to present on behalf of Jocelyn from the registration group.
- The George J. Koutsourais Dunedin for Youth Scholarship Fund was created in memory of committee member, former Mayor Manny Koutsourais' son to allow residents who can't otherwise afford the cost to access City rec activities.
- The application process for the program was recently streamlined to make it easier for families to apply.
- The scholarship will cover the cost of camp, but not extra rec or regular after-care.
- About 30-40 families use the program annually
- The scholarship is primarily funded by private donations, the Youth Guild, the Rotary, the Bay Bouquet Garden Club, and a portion of the Blue Jays parking proceeds

Dunedin Middle School Joint Use Agreement

- Vince shared that in 2003 the City entered into a Joint Use Agreement with the City of Clearwater and the Pinellas County School Board to make the fields and courts at Dunedin Highland Middle School available for public use.
- There are 2 soccer fields, 2 softball fields, 4 basketball courts, a playground, and a restroom.
- The location is staffed by City of Dunedin personnel from 5 to 9 pm nightly.
- The original agreement is up for renewal
- The Commission will review the agreement in February
- Donna asked if the Police Athletic League (PAL) was still involved
 - Answer: Not any longer due to budget issues
- Manny asked if the softball fields could be used in place of those being closed at Vanech
 - Answer: No, they are youth sized fields not adult
- Manny asked if the City could negotiate with the Blue Jays to get more fields

- Answer: We can use 3 of their fields for 8 months of the year, but they can't be converted to softball due to inherent differences in the field configuration
- Vince asked the committee to take formal action recommending the Commission to approve the Co-location Agreement
- Manny moved approval, Tom seconded, the committee voted unanimously to approve

Not on agenda: Dog Park

- Vince shared that the Achieva Paw Park expansion is being well received by the public and that Dunedin TV got an interview with a woman who says she comes to the park from Tarpon Springs because it's such a good park
- Manny said that it looks great but still need seating and shade
 - Vince said that shade structures are in the plans
- Manny asked about sprinklers
 - Vince said part of the area is covered with a sprinkler system, and the rest is being hand watered
- Vince said the soft open was January 7th and an official grand opening will be on February 2nd
- The Achieva agreement is for 5 years with five one-year options
- Staff is still looking for another location for a park to officially replace the Vanech one.

MLK Breakfast

- Emily shared that the MLK Rec Center is hosting a breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Martin Luther King Day
- The event usually draws 200-250 people
- Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church awards essay contest winners and their choir sings
- At 10:30, they have a symbolic march to downtown with entertainment at Pioneer Park

Future Meeting Subjects

- Future fireworks locations and ideas as Dunedin Stadium closes for renovation
- Select/recommend Youth Member

Not on agenda: Pioneer Park

- Mike J asked about the faux grass project
 - Vince replied that the sod doesn't last and that staff is investigating other options

Not on agenda: Committee Term Limits

- Tom shared that the Commission is discussion term limits for committee members at an upcoming workshop

Not on agenda: Land Dedication Ordinance

- Vince shared that they are still looking at a Land Dedication Ordinance and they're hoping to have it finalized within the next couple of months

Not on agenda: Vanech Construction

- Lanie shared that there was a public meeting that night to discuss the Vanech construction project plan and process
- There's a new page on the City website about the project

Date for Next Meeting

Next meeting will February 20, 2019 at 4 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.