

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

**Meeting Minutes**

June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – 4:05 PM

City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Open Planning Area

<b>Present:</b> Michael Odum, Phil Growick, Perry Douglas, Matthew Goldberger, Jacquelyn Taylor	<b>Staff Present:</b> Leah Rockwell, Sherry Wilson, Todd Snyder, Linda Madigan, Anjali Ganesh
<b>Absent:</b> Niels Heimeriks, Patt Sned, Mary Murphy	<b>Guest(s):</b> Gail Levine

Topic	Discussion / Action / Follow Up
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by <i>Michael Odum</i> at 4:05 p.m.
	Motion made to approve May 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2024; minutes made by <i>Matthew Goldberger</i> with a second by <i>Michael Odum</i> . All in favor.

<b>New Business</b>	— None
<b>Old Business</b>	<p><b>Bond Projects Update –</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <i>Coleman Park</i> – Colman Park Community Center - <i>Leah Rockwell</i> stated that Vlad Jeannot, Project Manager for Colman Park Community Center and Gymnasium project, will come next month to speak about the delays in the project. <i>Michael Odum</i> requested that All-Site come and speak at the next PRAC meeting. <i>Leah Rockwell</i> said she would ask them.</li> <li>— <i>Currie Park</i> – Leah Rockwell stated that the ITB came back today from Florida Commerce with changes. The changes will be made and sent back this week. Once Florida Commerce approves it, approval must come from them because it is a HUD project with federal requirements, we can move forward and advertise the ITB.</li> <li>— <i>Phipp's Skate Park</i> – Leah Rockwell stated that the skate park is moving along well. The skate rails are up. The building has been painted. We are getting the contract for the flooring within the building and a new roof. The Skate Park will be open for skate camp. The new perimeter fence around the Skate Park is in progress as well.</li> <li>— <i>Baseball Complex</i> – Leah Rockwell stated that the bathrooms are complete. The concession stand is complete, the shade structure is up. We are waiting for baseball to start in fall to have a formal ribbon cutting with the Major.</li> <li>— <i>Gaines Park</i> – Leah Rockwell stated that the fence has been put in place for demolition. The demolition permit was received last week. The contractor hopes to start the demolition this coming week. There are some final things that the Health Department needs.</li> <li>— <i>Osprey Park</i> – Sherry Wilson stated that we are planning on the ribbon cutting for Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> of June. We are waiting for the Commissioner to confirm if she is available.</li> <li>— <i>South Olive – Tennis Courts and Parking Lot</i> – Leah Rockwell stated it should be going out to bid today or tomorrow. Other than Currie Park this is the last of our big Bond Projects to go out to bid and we are excited about that.</li> <li>— <i>Dreher Park Playground</i> – Leah Rockwell stated that it is still on hold because the bid received was for over \$1m and the budget we have is \$500,000. Looking at other ways and means to fund it.</li> <li>— <i>Lincoln Park</i> – Leah Rockwell stated regarding the lights our original bid came back over \$800,000. The project budget was \$400,000. The cost of lighting has come down dramatically since that bid, so we are looking at putting the bid back out. We will tweak the design to hopefully get it within budget.</li> </ul>

- *Brian Chapel Fishing Pier* – Leah Rockwell stated she will be going to the Annual F.I.N.D. board meeting in Cocoa Beach next week to give the same presentation she gave last year for the grant. We were going to be awarded the funds last year, however we had not received our Army Corp Permit before a certain date in September. Because we did not have the Permit F.I.N.D. could not execute our grant agreement. We have since gotten the Army Corp permit and we have reapplied for the grant. We are confident we will get funded now that we have all our permits. We hope to advertise this project in November 2024. Project should be starting in early 2025.
- *George Petty Park* – Sherry Wilson stated the swing set surfacing was poured this week.
- *Blum Park* – Leah Rockwell stated we must reroute the waterlines for the splashpad. When the splashpad was built and the playground was installed originally in 2000, they built the playground on top of the waterlines for the splashpad. When redoing the playground, we found this out and we must reroute the waterlines so that we can prevent, should the waterline break, that we would have to dig up the playground. We are also getting a quote to refurbish the splashpad as a part of the bond funds.
- *Currie Park* – Perry Douglas asked what the status of Currie Park is. Leah Rockwell stated we cannot move forward until the ITB goes out and it cannot go out until the State gives us approval. In the meantime, we are going through extensive plan review for permitting.
- *Permits* – Leah Rockwell stated that behind the scenes we have our Army Corp Permit, our DEP permit. We must do an environmental study which was advertised and is being reviewed by the State. It is a 300-page document. There are a lot of moving parts behind the scenes that we have to do with the HUD funding. Leah Rockwell stated in the meantime the plans are moving forward as far as design completion and review. Once we have a contractor, we will take our well defined and reviewed construction documents to permitting. Perry Douglas asked if we could have another presentation as it gets closer to the time to begin. Leah Rockwell will ask the main Project Manager to come next month to give us an update.
- *MLK* – Jacquelyn Taylor asked if the MLK memorial has access. Leah Rockwell stated not currently. Art Life has done some renovations, but everything over there needs to stay as is. Jacquelyn Taylor asked if the bus tour that goes there can stop. Leah Rockwell stated yes, they can stop but they cannot walk right up to it. Michael Odum asked about the renovations. Leah Rockwell stated that Art Life did some additional renovations to it and is replacing the lettering.

#### **Penny Sales Tax**

- Leah Rockwell stated:  
Colman Park is slowly getting to the finish line.  
Gaines Park is about to start demolition.  
Howard Park is going before DAC (Downtown Action Committee) to present the designs for the new community center. Once it goes to DAC it starts moving further through the approval process. Leah Rockwell stated that she will have Alfonso come to the next meeting to present the designs once DAC has approved them.

#### **Public Works Bond**

- Todd Synder stated that the construction of the Dreher Park restrooms should begin in July.

#### **Homeless Camp at Dreher Park North**

- Leah Rockwell stated she is pleased to announce that due to Todd Synder and the Homeless Outreach Team contacting FDOT, they responded and removed everything. Items they couldn't remove Parks and Recreation removed the next day. It was a coordinated effort by the Homeless Outreach Team, FDOT, FDOT Contractors and Parks and Recreation. It now looks so much better. This property is a separate area,

	<p>and the property is owned by FDOT, it is not owned by the City. It was a health and safety issue and the individuals who were living there were offered services to help them, and they moved on. Todd Synder also stated the City Police also helped. Linda Madigan stated Patt Sned emailed and wanted to relay her thanks to everyone who dismantled the homeless camp.</p>
<p><b>Staff Comments / Updates</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Comments:</b></li> <li>— <b>Summer Camps:</b>        Sherry Wilson stated this is the first week of summer camps. There are a lot of fun activities and field trips. We also have sailing and skate camps. Pixie camp (3–5-year-olds) is being held at South Olive elementary school. We are at capacity for the camps for K through 5 and the middle school. The specialty camps still have a few openings. Leah Rockwell stated she went to Lake Mangonia to see the sailing camps and she said it was great. The sailing camps started 35 years ago by Mr. Franklin and now one of his students, Carrick, is head sailing instructor. Seeing it continue is amazing, generation after generation.</li> <li>— <b>Maintenance and Drought Concerns:</b> Todd Synder stated we are going through a severe drought right now. We are at a deficit which affects our well water pumps and the irrigation of our parks. The water is down by 50%, which includes our drinking water as well. The city passed an ordinance in 2012 saying in drought not to water your lawns more than three times a week. Also, do not water your lawns between the hours of 10 am to 4 pm as it will only evaporate because of the heat and the wind. Leah Rockwell stated our medians and right of ways are not as green as they usually are because of the lack of rain and the situation we are currently in. We don't use pesticides and fertilizers that are not environmentally friendly over what is used by areas who don't have to adhere to the same environmental rules. We are trying to be good stewards of the city water. Gail Levine (a member of the public) asked if maybe the community should be informed that there is a problem with not having enough water as she had no idea there was a water drought issue. Informing the community could lead people to take steps to limit their water usage when watering their lawns. Maybe have the notification in the water bills so the message would reach the public about this issue. Leah Rockwell stated she would discuss this with Victor, the Public Utilities Director. Perry Douglas concurred and suggested it be put on the news. Gail Levine stated even though we are having to limit water all the parks look great.</li> <li>— <b>Hurricane:</b> Todd Synder stated they did their annual hurricane training with staff. He had strike teams assembled at the complex and took them to go to a roadway that had been filled with debris. They practiced doing the "first push". "First Push" is pushing debris out of the way so that first responders, police etc. can get through to hospitals, nursing homes etc. when responding to emergencies. This is practiced every summer. This helped new staff, who are now trained in this area.</li> <li>— Leah Rockwell stated all City Departments had a meeting and training for when a hurricane is approaching, during and after it has passed. Scenarios were presented to all Departments within the city to prepare for whatever State of Emergency could occur. This training took place at the Fire Station which is our Emergency Operations Center. Todd Synder said he is confident that we are ready.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Board Comments</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Coleman Park:</b> Michael Odum stated he wished to go back and clarify that the reason he would like All-Site to come to speak at the next meeting is that he wants everybody to get the information at the one time. He stated the fact that Gaines Pk and Coleman Pk programs all must go over to Pleasant City puts us under a lot of strain with logistics, so he would like the opportunity to ask All-Site some questions face to face. Leah Rockwell agreed the delay does affect the number of kids we can take based on our licensing requirement per facility. Jacqueline Taylor also concurred</li> </ul>

	<p>that the upheaval does affect families. Perry Douglas asked how long the project will take before it is completed. Leah Rockwell said the original substantial completion date was 1/31/24. The supply chain issues delayed that. The next substantial completion date given was 6/30/24, which was not met. Following that they gave us the date of 7/15/24. At the last meeting they provided a schedule which now shows a substantial completion date of 8/13/24 and final completion date of 9/26. Michael Odum asked if September is for everything to be finished. Leah Rockwell stated no that would be the date All-Site would be finished, so then we would be able to go in and get it prepared for opening like the computers and furnishings. Perry Douglas made the point that we would need a Certificate of Occupancy also before we could get access to the community center as well. Jacquelyn Taylor asked what options were given to the 50% of families who could not use Coleman Park and Gaines Park Community Centers during this renovation period. Leah Rockwell stated the numbers were down considerably after Covid and they never came back to the level that they were at before Covid. So, we had room to move kids from Coleman to Gaines. There were other options available to the community such as SAC after school programs. We do give people other options when they call. Perry Douglas asked if there were people who wanted to apply that we had to turn away. Leah Rockwell confirmed that we did, and we do have a waiting list at both centers for Summer Camp not typically for after school. Also, regarding Coleman Pk a lot of the kids who went to the after-school program did not come from that immediate neighborhood. They were bused in from other schools outside of the immediate neighborhood. The teens were from the neighborhood but many of the K – 5 were not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Salvation Army:</b> Jacqueline Taylor asked about their summer program. Parks and Recreation has a liaison who sits on the board of Salvation Army, and we heard they let their staff go but they still plan on having it this summer. Sherry Wilson stated on their website they mention camps but there are no links or information about them.</li> <li>— <b>Blum Park:</b> Michael Odum asked about the major development that was meant to take place with the CRA. Leah Rockwell stated that there was supposed to be a redevelopment of the park if we were able to build new housing for the individuals who are currently in the housing authority buildings. The plan was to knock down those buildings to open the park to make it more functional, it is so narrow there's not a lot to be done there. In doing so we would be able to use that street between the community center and the park as a promenade to the park. There is no further movement on that for now.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Comment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gail Levine stated she has been involved with the Salvation Army for 25 years and for the moment it is closed, which came about very suddenly. Gail will give a call them a call and revert to Leah with whatever she finds. She's excited that there are new pads put down at a couple of the playparks. She also complimented Todd Synder and his crew for how hard they work for the city.</li> <li>- <i>Gail Levine</i> asked about Park Golf. Leah Rockwell stated we do not have a summer program with them as a part of our summer camps. They are not offering First Tee. Matthew Goldberger said Park Golf offers great camps and clinics. Parks and Recreation refer inquiries to The Park when we get calls about golf.</li> <li>- Jacqueline Taylor complimented Todd and Leah for all the work the Department does.</li> <li>- Leah Rockwell introduced Gail Levine to everyone who has been on the PRAC board in the past and has been an active supportive member of the public for many years, which we very much appreciate.</li> </ul>

<b>Next Meeting</b>	Tuesday, July 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2024, at 4:00 p.m. in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Open Planning Area, City Hall.
<b>Meeting Adjourned</b>	<i>Michael Odum</i> made a motion to adjourn at 5:04pm. Second by Matthew Goldberger. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.