



**CITY OF COCONUT CREEK
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

**Government Center
4800 West Copans Road
Coconut Creek, FL 33063**

**Date: September 18, 2024
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Meeting No. 2024-0918**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joel VanHemel at 6:30 p.m.

2. PRESENT UPON ROLL CALL

Chair Joel VanHemel
Vice Chair Benjamin Nazario
Kenneth Forbes
Michael Guardino
Theresa Nadassy, Alternate

Absent: Sheldon Voss

Also present: Director of Parks and Recreation Wayne Tobey, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation Danielle DeBarros, and Parks and Recreation Superintendent Enrique Castro.

Chair VanHemel noted the meeting was being conducted live with a quorum physically present.

3. INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no input from the Public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. A MOTION APPROVING THE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING(S). (2024-0515)

MOTION: Guardino/Forbes – To approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2024, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meeting, as presented.

Upon roll call, the Motion passed by a 5-0 vote.

AGENDA ITEMS

5. A PRESENTATION BY MILLER LEGG & ASSOCIATES, INC. REGARDING THE OAK TRAILS PARK EXPANSION PROJECT

Designer Jessica Shipley and Landscape Architect and Project Manager Brian Shore from

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Miller Legg & Associates, Inc. presented the conceptual design for the Oak Trails Park expansion project. They provided a site analysis, detailing the expansion of the existing five (5) acre park into adjacent parcels. They noted that the proposed design focused on passive recreation, maintaining as much native vegetation as possible and highlighted key elements of the plan, including a renovated nature center, multi-use trails, picnic areas, and fitness equipment. It was explained that ponds on-site would be filled for safety, and additional retention ponds would handle stormwater drainage. They explained that the park would have Americans with Disabilities (ADA)-accessible trails, and the nature center would be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified. Motion-sensing lights were proposed near the building, but there would be no additional lighting throughout the park to preserve the passive nature. The presentation concluded with renderings of the proposed improvements.

Board members raised questions about the absence of sports-specific fields and security measures. Ms. Shipley and Mr. Shore explained that the park was designed to remain a passive space, and security would be ensured through fencing and limited access.

Agenda Item 7 was heard before Agenda Item 6.

7. RECREATION AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS UPDATE

Parks and Recreation Superintendent Enrique Castro provided an update on various ongoing and upcoming recreation and athletics programs, including the following highlights:

- The "Never Forget" lecture series has been well received. The last lecture in the series would be honoring Veterans Day and was scheduled for November 7;
- The Youth Theater program's performance of *Alice in Wonderland Junior* was scheduled for December 7;
- Upcoming events included the annual Monster Mash, scheduled for October 24 and 25, and the Senior Expo on December 6;
- Soccer registration had 441 participants, and Flag Football Championships were scheduled for September 28;
- Pickleball leagues had a total of 144 participants across four (4) leagues; and
- The Annual Turkey Bowl was scheduled for November 9 at Gerber Park.

6. PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Parks and Recreation Director Wayne Tobey provided an update on the parks and recreation master plan, including:

- Bid openings for Sunshine Drive Park and Donaldson Park were scheduled for September 17, with construction planned to start in December;
- Lakeside Park improvements were anticipated to begin in spring 2025; and
- A playground replacement for the Recreation Complex was set to be presented to the City Commission in October.

8. CREEK FIT UPDATE

Mr. Castro shared that renovations at Creek Fit North were nearing completion, with new

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strength and cardio equipment and flooring being installed. The facility was expected to reopen on September 23, and current membership stood at 2,034. Mr. Castro answered questions from the Board noting that interested members were allowed to continue signing up for a Creek Fit membership during renovations at the south entrance of the Recreation Complex.

9. PARKS UPDATE

Mr. Castro provided parks updates, as follows:

- Backboards and rims were replaced at Winston Park and George Gerber Memorial Park;
- Playground resurfacing at Cypress Park was ongoing;
- LED scoreboards were being installed at Sabal Pines Park; and
- A shade structure was added to Lakewood Park to extend the lifespan of the playground equipment.

10. SPECIAL EVENTS UPDATE

Mr. Castro provided an updated on special events, including:

- Salsa in September would be scheduled for September 21;
- The Fall Yard Sale would be on November 9;
- The Harvest Festival would be on November 16 at Sabal Pines Park; and
- The Veterans Day Ceremony would be on November 11 at Veterans Park, where plaques and banners honoring veterans would be unveiled.

11. COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS

Mr. Tobey encouraged board members to inform their neighbors about upcoming events, including the Fall Yard Sale, Harvest Festival, and Salsa in September. It was noted that events had been well received, and the yard sale had proven popular, with spots filling up quickly.

12. SET DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 15, 2025.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Joseph J. Kavanagh, MMC
City Clerk

Date