

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – December 15, 2021
DRAFT

Present: Jake Chesnutt, Lance Beasley, Michael Lee, Lola Skolnik

Council Liaison: Mayor Pro-Tem Weaver

Staff: Greg Varda, Recreation Director
Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator

Guests: Lissa Wilson, Carla Johns

Excused: Marc Siegel

Meeting called to order at 7:31pm by Vice Chair, Lance Beasley.

November Meeting Minutes were approved.

City Council Report: -Mayor Pro Tem Weaver shared a potential City Council meeting time change. This change would move Council meetings to 7:30pm from the current scheduled time of 8pm. A Council vote would be required in order for this change.

Council received a request for improvements to Braden Field and additional baseball equipment, Council may be referring this to PRAB.

New Business:

Greenbelt Road Corridor Plan: Greg Varda attended the Greenbelt Road Corridor technical kick off meeting. The plan includes improvement to the roadway between Kenilworth Ave and Rt 1. Aspects of improvements that would concern PRAB would include the ped/bike trail proposed to be placed alongside Greenbelt Rd. There is talk of expanding the Corridor Project as far as Mandan Road, which would increase the cost of the project tremendously. Bus routes, the pedestrian experience as well as traffic conditions are being looked at as planning moves forward. The ped/bike trail component may be brought before PRAB.

Recreation Facilities-Safety/Emergency Plans: There has been an increase in crime involving guns in Greenbelt in recent months, some incidents have occurred in close proximity to Recreation Centers. Two incidents occurred close to Springhill Lake Recreation Center and one around the Skate Park in front of Youth Center. No one was injured in any of these situations and staff response was quick and effective. Greg Varda met with Greenbelt Police Chief Bowers to begin a training process for all Recreation staff on safety protocols and procedures. Further, health emergency procedures for outdoor recreation facilities are being addressed as well.

Old Business:

Ponding at Lakecrest Drive entrance at Buddy Attick Park:

Public Works is still waiting for WSSC to take a look at the situation before the City addresses the issue.

Pickleball Recommendation Approval:

The Pickleball recommendation went before Council Monday night and was approved. The RFP will go out soon, Recreation is hoping to have this project completed by the end of spring.

Department Updates: ○ Jim Sterling is retiring this month from Public Works after 37 years of service. Jim possesses a wealth of institutional knowledge, he will be missed.

- BAP parking lot.
 - The RFP approved by Council was proposed by PRAB.
 - The work is scheduled to start in the spring.
- Work on FY 23 budget is underway.
 - New pay schedule for Non-Classified Part-Time Staff is included
 - Possible increase to \$15/hour
- Council presentation on Braden Field:
 - Presented by Greenbelt Babe Ruth coaches and parents, the petition requests improvements to the grass on Braden Field. PRAB may see the petition on the next agenda. Greg may invite representatives to give presentation to PRAB.
- Andrew Phelan, Assistant Director of Recreation Facilities and Operations attended a Non-School Use of Public-School Facilities Hearing tonight. The bill (PG505-22) may enable Recreation to use schools after hours for recreation programs.
- ARPA Funds:
 - Council will be meeting with the Novack Group on Monday night on how to rollout community meetings in order to gain community input.
 - Specific criteria will be used to weigh each proposed project.

Administration Report:

- PRAB roster will be e-mailed to board members for any updates.
- All reappointments are up to date.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2022.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathy Pracht, Administrative Coordinator