

**PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 17, 2023**

PRAB Present: Jake Chesnutt; Chair  
Lance Beasley; Vice Chair  
Matt Sickle  
Marc Siegel  
Lola Skolnik

Staff Present: Andrew Phelan, Assistant Director Recreation Facilities and Operations  
Kevin Driscoll-Carpenter, Public Works Environmental Coordinator  
Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator

Excused Absence: Michael Lee, PRAB Member  
Mayor Pro Tem Weaver  
Greg Varda; Recreation Director

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Meeting called to order at 7:02pm by Jake Chesnutt, Chair.

April Meeting Minutes approved.

No Council Liaison Update – Attending Final FY24 Budget Work Session

**New Business:**

- Buddy Attick Lake Park Water Concerns
  - Marc inquired if it is possible to move dirt from the cove areas to get more depth. Kevin Driscoll-Carpenter stated that moving dirt would disturb smaller eco-systems and impact the bio-diversity in the lake.
  - Marc asked if the cove area could be aerated to mitigate the smell. Kevin stated that aeration simply puts oxygen in the water and won't do anything with natural decomposition or help eliminate the smell.
  - Marc asked about remediation efforts for invasive species. Kevin stated that Public Works is doing what they can to remove invasive species, but the process takes time.
  - Lola inquired about the lake becoming a marsh and Marc asked at what point does it become a marsh. Kevin noted that the cove conditions probably won't spread much beyond the cove area as plants are keeping it contained. Deeming an area a marsh would be dependent upon the dominant species. Kevin stated that proper maintenance of the forebay would assist in improving conditions and preventing any spread beyond the cove area. As part of a maintenance plan with the City, the Clean Water Partnership is responsible for forebay maintenance (30-year contract).

### **Old Business:**

- Buddy Attick Park Masterplan
  - Andrew noted that the project team interviewed vendors on Tuesday (May 16) and will be recommending the City select Mahan Rykiel at Monday's (May 22) regular Council meeting. Once approved by City Council, Greg will be sending an update to PRAB.
- Ballfield Improvements
  - Andrew shared that an interdepartmental working group has been established with the Public Works Department taking the lead. Public Works, with input from Recreation, is currently drafting a proposal outlining the recommended disbursement of the \$2.3 million in ARPA funds allocated for ballfield improvements. Another working group meeting is scheduled for next week (May 24).
    - Marc inquired about ball traps to prevent tennis balls from entering lake water. Andrew acknowledged the issue and past attempts to remedy the problem and stated that the City will look into it further.
    - There was general conversation about methods to keep unpermitted groups off of fields.
- Outdoor Amenities
  - Andrew stated that he and Greg met with Cunningham Recreation to review improvements to Greenbelt Station's Central Park and Springhill Lake Recreation Center. Focus at Greenbelt Station is adding shade structures and seating. Playground and basketball court will be replaced at Springhill Lake Recreation Center.
    - Matt asked if design concepts would be shared with PRAB and Andrew acknowledged that Greg would likely share them.
  - Andrew shared that the tennis court resurfacing should be scheduled by late June. An additional \$38,000 is being requested to cover the resurfacing of Braden courts 1-4.

### **Recreation Department Update (Andrew):**

- FY24 Recreation Budget work session was held on Wednesday, April 26. Went very well, no particular issues of note.
- Upcoming Special Events
  - Bike to Work day-May 19<sup>th</sup>
    - Pit stop at the upper parking lot of GAFC from 6:30am-8:30am
  - Celebration of Spring at Springhill Lake Recreation Center-May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Together We Can Youth Workshop at the Youth Center-May 20<sup>th</sup>
  - Outdoor Movie at Greenbelt National Park at 8pm-May 20<sup>th</sup>
- Summer Camp
  - Registration is going very well. Most sessions at or near capacity.
  - Some sessions have expanded enrollment, others can only expand if additional space is located as current space is limited.
  - Camp staff hiring process is underway.

- Summer Activity Guide
  - Published last week.
  - Resident Registration begins on Monday, May 22
  - Non-resident Registration begins on Tuesday, May 30
  - Summer classes will begin on or after June 12
- Senior Programs
  - New Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor, Amber Hall has planned some great trips. Two upcoming . . . Amish Country Experience on May 18 and Arundel Mills Mall & Casino on June 8.
  - Looking to expand Food and Friendship program to 3 days, but need additional staff.
    - Lola inquired about menus once again being sent to the News Review.
- GAFC
  - Outdoor Pool remediation project continues. Most of exterior work has completed, current work focused in the pump room.
  - Pool will open on time Memorial Day weekend.
  - Health Department inspection is scheduled for Tuesday May 23rd.

Administrative Report: The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2023 at 7pm via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm. Jake noted the early end time in Greg's absence 😊

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator