

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
April 17, 2024**

PRAB Members Present: Jake Chesnutt; Chair, Matt Sickle; Vice Chair, Michael Lee,  
Lance Beasley, Carol Malveaux

City Council Liaison: Kristen Weaver, Mayor Pro-Tem

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

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

February Meeting Minutes were approved.

**Council Liaison Update:** Funding for the Story Walk project has been approved by Council.

**Buddy Attick Park Water Chestnut Update:** Kevin Driscoll, Public Works Environmental Coordinator planned to lower the water table of the lake and wait for a deep freeze to kill off the invasive plant. However, State and/or County permitting became an issue.

**Museum House Project Update:** GHI has approved Phase 1 of the project which is demolition of the addition. GHI would like to review the type of windows to be installed. The project manager is handling various aspects of the project to include Municipal/County permitting. \$200,000 is still needed to complete the project. Bond bills and ongoing fundraising will make up the difference.

**Recreation Department Updates:**

Projects

- Ballfields Improvements  
Council approved the project, we have a signed contract for project management. Surveyors will be out in next few weeks to shoot grades of the fields. Stakeholders have been made notified of field closures later this summer.
- Greenbelt Station  
Phase I has started and should be completed next week. Phase II, a concept plan for the lower level by the pergola is being developed. For Phase III, NDC will be engaged to come up with a concept plan to create a park near the path along Indian Creek. Funding is available in the FY25 budget for Phase III. Phase IV has not started.
- Buddy Attick Lake Park Master Plan  
Awaiting the draft from MRA.
- Springhill Lake Playground  
Due to the need of 6 weeks of nice weather to complete the project, it was decided to wait until after summer camp to begin.
- Dance Studio Annex  
On City Council's Agenda for approval.

Programs:

- Senior Programs-participation is high especially for field trips. Researching the purchase of a second 15 passenger bus to compliment the existing Connection Bus.
- Summer Camps are almost full. Summer Camp Councilor hiring process has begun.
- Substantial increase in GAFC memberships revenue for FY24.
- Di Quinn Reno, Community Center Supervisor is retiring after 30+ years of service to the City.

Facilities:

- Springhill Lake Recreation Center-Facility has been painted. We are working on funding to rework the front desk area and add new tile flooring. The gym floor will be redone in the fall prior to basketball season. Changing tables have been added to the bathrooms and new office furniture and game room equipment will be replaced.

Park Rangers:

- The City Manager moved all City permitting into the Recreation Department. Park Rangers are gearing up for busy weekends with the arrival of spring.

FY25 Recreation Budget Initiatives:

- Non-classified staff 2% COLA.
- Expanding hours of operation at Springhill Lake Recreation Center to include weekdays to open at 10am instead of 2pm.
- Learn 2 Earn Program will continue into the next school year.
- Recreation needs more space in order to fully serve the community
- Recreation staff will explore ways to include DEI into programs and services.

Administrative Updates:

- PRAB member reappointments due over summer months:  
Lance Beasley (7/24), Michael Lee (8/24), Matthew Sickle (8/24)

The next meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2024 at 7pm via Zoom

Adjourned at 7:59pm

Submitted by: Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator