

**City of Pinellas Park, Florida  
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Minutes  
August 30, 2021  
7:00 pm**

**Meet at PUBLIC WORKS OPERATION CENTER  
6250 – 82<sup>ND</sup> Avenue North**

Chair Jeanne Kepple called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Captain Unmisig was welcomed and is joining us to discuss the concerns that have been raised at previous Board Meetings about Low Speed Vehicles in the City. i.e.: Golf Carts.

Captain Unmisig shared with us that the City had adopted an Ordinance that stated that anyone over the age of 14 can operate a golf cart in the City. They can cross municipal streets. But cannot be used on major roads: U. S. Highway 19, 49<sup>th</sup> Street, 66<sup>th</sup> Street or Park Boulevard. They cannot be operated at night.

He shared that the City Ordinance is a little different than the State Statute 316.212 governing the use of golf carts.

A Pinellas Park Police Officer needs to observe any variance to the Ordinance to be able to cite people. Captain Unmisig shared that the Officers try to educate instead of a ticket.

Suggestions made by the Board:

- Golf Cart Class
- Have owners register their Cart with the City and have an ID Tag (not license plate). Maybe this could be part of Country in the Park or other City event.

Captain Unmisig said he would do some research on our concerns and he will get back with Mr. Sabiel.

Thank you Captain Unmisig for joining us.

1) Ms. Palmer did the Roll

Members Present: Connie Bruce, Joanne Dauphin, Karen Ford, Jeanne Kepple and Mary Ann Smith,  
Members with excused absent: Neil Kummerer and Thomas Nicholls

Members with unexcused absence: Jamie Tomlin

Staff Present: Keith Sabiel, Jr., Leisure Services Administrator, Matt Bale, Parks and Recreation Director or Sarah Palmer, Leisure Services Senior Staff Assistant

Guests: Alisha Kelley, Hayden Kelley, Lorraine Taylor and Captain Brian Unmisig

2) Approval of Minutes: June 28, 2021

A motion was made by Ms. Dauphin and seconded by Ms. Bruce to accept the minutes as presented. The Board voted unanimously.

### 3) New Business

- a) Ms. Palmer shared that we have received a resignation letter from Thomas Nicholls. He has graduated High School and is now a Recreation Assistant at Forbes.
  - i) A motion was made by Ms. Bruce and seconded by Ms. Dauphine to accept Mr. Nicholls resignation with regrets and congratulations. All members voted unanimously.
- b) Ms. Palmer introduced our three guests who have expressed an interest in serving on the Board: Alisha Kelley, Hayden Kelley and Lorraine Taylor. After a Q&A session by the Board and our guests. They all indicated that they would like to be considered to serve on the Board.
  - i) A motion was made by Ms. Dauphin and seconded by Ms. Smith that all three members be presented to Council for approval to serve on the Board. All members voted unanimously. Ms. Palmer will prepare the proper paperwork to submit to Council for their approval.
- c) Mr. Sabiel, Jr. thanked all of the Staff at the Recreation Centers who helped to make this a summer to remember for the kids. Their extra efforts on marketing the program and having special projects and different events for the kids.

d) Mr. Sabiel, Jr. announced that we have a new CIP Project that has been approved for another Pavilion at Dr. Lurie Park.

e) A Special Thank You to Richard Rock and the TeenWorkX group for their continued work at the Freedom Lake Community Gardens. The Gardeners appreciate the help and it is looking great with the new liners and additional soil.

f) Mr. Bale thanked Ms. Palmer and Aja Williams (League President of the T-Birds) for being able to work out an arrangement so the Pinellas County Special Olympics could utilize Davis Field for their practices for the next two months on Sunday mornings.

g) Mr. Sabiel, Jr. shared that Tammy Peterson, Keith Tickner and Cassie Valle are attending the FRPA Conference in Orland this week. The TeenWorkX Volunteers will be receiving their Award at the Wednesday Luncheon for their Community Service Work.

#### 4) Board Agenda Items

a) CIP and Parks Program Updates- Matt Bale

i) The hockey scoreboard at Youth Park should have the electric completed by next month.

- ii) Ag Farm restrooms are about two months away from completion. They will be working on the roof structure and TI-11 installation beginning next week.
- iii) Youth Park Sports Complex has had two grant requests submitted. We would like to Thank: Council, Tammy Hillier, Tammy Peterson, Nick Colonna, Aaron Peterson, Keith Sabiel, Jr. and Matt Bale for all of the hours that they spent on assembling all of the information that was required to be submitted for these two grants.

## b) Recreation Program Updates

- i) Broderick Park
  - Broderick Park open recreation has 116 youths enrolled.
  - Broderick Park before school program has 30 youth enrolled.
  - Recreation Assistant Nicholas Wacker has been promoted to a 30 hr. position.
  - Freedom Lake Park Community Gardens will begin a new gardening season September 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - Grant application for Tingler Park Boardwalk improvements has been submitted to DEP.
  - A Youth Park funding request has been submitted to the Cities Florida House Lobbyist.
  - Tammy Peterson will be the FRPA Conference in Orlando at the end of the month.

## ii) Forbes Recreation

- The Ron Forbes Center Afterschool Program is at full capacity with a waitlist of 26 kids. The Center may expand attendance after they can evaluate the first week's actual attendance numbers.
- Forbes is now providing before school child care and drop off children afterwards at Cross Bayou, Skyview Elementary, Pinellas Central, Morgan Fitzgerald, and Plato Academy.
- Forbes Center is pleased to announce two new part-time staff members to the Center Thomas Nicholls and Keith Whitehead.
- The Forbes Center gym is 100% scheduled for evening activities. This includes High School and competitive volleyball rentals and Futsal. Open gym is Saturdays and include alternating of volleyball and basketball games.

## iii) Senior Center

- The Senior Center served 105 pancake breakfasts at the last Pancake Breakfast.
- Bingo has averaged 65 on Thursdays and 70 on Friday afternoons.
- Field Trips are keeping full attendance.
- Audio visual upgrades are being planned for the Senior Center main room.
- Shuffleboard attendance has been down a little probably due to elevated temperatures outside.

- Card Players Day is full we now have 40 Bridge players and 20 Pinochle players.
- Senior Solos returned to the Senior Center. They are currently down a few participants from previous attendance.

#### iv) Skyview Pool

- The Skyview Pool is hosting High School swim practices for Pinellas Park and Hollins Monday through Friday.
- Swim lessons are going very well in our fourth session.
- Pool open swim is 12 pm. to 4 pm. Saturdays and Sundays until the end of September.
- Skyview Pool Recreation Coordinator is working on scheduling lifeguard certification courses.

#### v) Youth Park

- Youth Park Teen Center had a hockey clinic on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Teen center staff were there to assist with the clinic and promote the new Youth Park Teen Center Hockey League. There were about 25 participants at the clinic.
- The Youth Park Teen Center is well attended. The program has 25 signed up for transportation service so far. The Teen Center is planning to be more involved with CCSA and Plato Academy this school year.
- Beginning September 1<sup>st</sup> the Teen Center will be providing a free food program for afterschool program participants.

- TeenWorkX had their first meeting of this new school year on August 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting went well and included some new faces attending from the Junior Guard program. TeenWorkX has 5 new members joining the program.
  - TeenWorkX had two planned volunteer events in August. There was a park clean-up day at The City's Pond Park on August 21<sup>st</sup> from 9am. till 11 am. and an August 28<sup>th</sup> at the Freedom Lake Park Garden Box improvement day 9am. till 11am.
- vi) Equestrian
- Tree trimming on the Equestrian Trail has been done.

## 5) Open Discussion

Ms. Dauphin asked Mr. Sabiel about the volunteers at the Senior Center. The Chamber would like to restart the relationship with the Senior Center for doing the Chamber Breakfast. Mr. Sabiel, Jr. said he would get with Ms. Heller to discuss how this can be accomplished.

## 6) Adjournment

Ms. Smith made a motion that we adjourn and Ms. Bruce second the motion. All were in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.



7) Take Aways:

- Captain Unmisig will discuss our suggestions with Chief Haworth.
- Mr. Sabiel, Jr. will get with Ms. Heller about the Chamber Breakfasts.
- Ms. Palmer will prepare the documentation for the Resignation of Mr. Nicholls, the Appointment of Ms. Kelley and Ms. Taylor as Board Members and the Appointment of Mr. Kelley as a Teen Board Member.

Respectfully submitted,

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Matt Bale  
Parks and Recreation  
Director

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Jeanne Kepple  
Chair

**PINELLAS PARK  
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
JANUARY 2021 – DECEMBER 2021**

**(2 Year Appointments) Must be resident of Pinellas Park - 1 Year Teen Appointments - Teen members must be in school & may be members until graduation)**

MEETING TYPE	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
MEETING DATE	1/25 C-NQ	2/22	3/29	4/26	5/24 (tour)	6/28	7/xx	8/30	9/27	10/25	11/29	12/xx
Bruce, Connie	E	P	P	A	P	P	N	P				N
Cambero, Andy (Teen Member)	A	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	N
Dauphin, Joanne	P	P	P	E	P	P	N	P				N
Ford, Karen	A	P	P	E	A	P	N	P				N
Kepple, Jeanne	P	P	P	P	P	P	N	P				N
Kummerer, Neil	E	P	P	P	A	P	N	E				N
Nicholls, Thomas (Teen Member)	P	P	P	P	A	E	N	R	R	R	R	N
Smith, Mary Ann	P	P	P	P	P	P	N	P				N
Tito, Emilia	E	P	E	P	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	N
Tomlin, Jamie	P	E	P	P	A	P	N	A				N
Van Camp, Barbara	R	R	R	R	R	R	N	R	R	R	R	N
Kelley, Alisha								G				N
Kelley, Hayden								G				N
Taylor, Lorraine								G				N

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**P**=Present    **E**=Excused Absence    **A**=Unexcused Absence    **C**= Meeting Cancelled    **C-NQ** = Cancelled-No Quorum    **R**=Resigned  
**NA**=Not a member at this date    **G** – Guest    **N** = No Meeting Scheduled

Thomas Nicholls

4672 66<sup>th</sup> Place N

Pinellas Park, FL 33781

16 June 2021

Recreation Board Members

City of Pinellas Park Recreation and Leisure Services

6250 82<sup>nd</sup> Ave N, Pinellas Park, FL, 33781

To the Recreation Board,

Please accept this letter as formal notice of my resignation from my position as Teen Member for the Recreation Board.

It has been an honor working with all of you to give our best advice and recommendations on the city's various recreational projects, from voting on new playground designs to discussing how we can practice 'maximum utilization' with all of our recreational facilities. I was recently hired as a Forbes Summer Recreation Assistant, which has been a great experience in my first two weeks. Unfortunately, this position and my graduation from Hollins High School means that I must resign as a Teen Member for the Recreation Board.

Thank you for the opportunity and I wish you all the best.

Sincerely, Thomas Nicholls