

**Recreation Commission  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Commission Chambers  
February 15, 2021**

2/15/2021 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

**Members Present:** Scott Blackburn - Chair, Robbie Shields, Kara Wiseman

**Members Present remotely:** Burney Hayes,

**Staff Present:** Stephanie Edwards, Recreation/Support Services Manager

**Guests:** Chris Dougherty, David Barth with S&ME, Keri Hunt,

A quorum was not present

Chair Scott Blackburn called the meeting to order.

2. Communications And Petitions

3. Minutes

The minutes of January 25, 2021 were reviewed but could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

4. Recreation Master Plan Presentation

Stephanie Edwards introduced Chris Dougherty and David Barth from S&ME who is working with the City on the Recreation Master Plan. Chris Dougherty introduced himself and said he is the project manager they worked with the City recently on the Comprehensive Plan update which is almost complete.

David Barth, Garth Associates, introduced himself and said that they are a subconsultant with S&ME and they specialize in parks and recreation master planning.

Chris Dougherty said this is the kick-off with the committee and they will explain what they have done so far and what to expect next. They have been out in the field. They have visited some of the facilities evaluating them. He shared a logo that was developed.

David Barth said our park system is traditional and well maintained. There is a different character around the lake than in different parts of the City. The City has not invested in parks throughout the City as was done at the beginning. We need to talk about equity throughout the City. Another observation concerns the annexation area in the north. As development comes in we may want to review land development regulations to be sure that new development is providing the parks needed. Because the parks are from another area there is plenty of space to reinvigorate them to meet today's needs. They look forward to getting input from residents.

Chris Dougherty said they are working on meeting with community stakeholders. They will email the committee with information on dates and times. They will be conducting a survey of random residents of the City. Then they will do earnest planning and public workshops.

Chris Dougherty shared the new logo with slogan "Empower Connect and Activate". This comes from the Lake Wales Connected Plan.

This will be an 8-9 month process. They are one full month in. One month is for stakeholder engagement. The plan for the next steps were discussed. The plan will be able to be implemented. It won't just be an ideal.

Robbie Shields asked if they plan to meet with different organizations and commission members. Chris said yes. There will be several ways for people to offer input. The members can certainly offer names or groups that need to be contacted. The survey was discussed as were how surveys are collected and analyzed.

Chris Dougherty asked what concerns the Committee would like to see addressed upfront. Burney Hayes said he would like to see if there is a need for a Recreation Center. He thinks there is that needs to be available city wide. Chris Dougherty said he will add questions about that to the surveys. Robbie Shields mentioned the need for separate pickleball courts. We have needs for seniors. Chris Dougherty said those will be covered in interviews and the surveys will show the residents' priorities. These are the questions we want to ask. Chris Dougherty asked if swimming facilities should be discussed. The Chair said a question about that should be asked. Chris Dougherty said any suggestions or other concerns to pass on to Miss Stephanie.

#### 5. Lake Wales Connector Trail Updates

Stephanie Edwards reported that drawings are at 90%. Four parallel parking spots were added on the east side and two on the side streets. The next step is the final design.

Kara Wiseman said that Carter called and complimented her on the story walk along the trail.

Robbie Shields reported on a bike chained to a bench near the shuffleboard courts.

The Chair asked about Tennis Court issues. Ms. Edwards said the lock is broken and is trying to figure out what happened. She gave an update on usage and said the High School teams are practicing there but not making reservations.

Chair reported that baseball has started practice. He said its dark and kids are around. This needs to be addressed. This concern was discussed. A suggestion was made to put cones there.

#### 6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is March 15, 2021.

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Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary