

**Recreation Commission  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Commission Chambers  
August 15, 2022**

8/15/2022 - Minutes

1. Call To Order And Roll Call

**Members Present:** Robbie Shields, Vice-Chair; Patty McKeeman - Pram Fleet, Kara Wiseman - Library, Keri Hunt, Burney Hayes - PAL;

**Staff Present:** Stephanie Edwards - Support Services/Recreation Manager, Shay Irvis, Recreation Coordinator; Eric Marshall, Communications; Michael Manning, Assistant to the City Manager

Guests: Christ Dougherty S&ME

In absence of the Chair, Vice Chair Robbie Shields called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

2. Communications And Petitions

None

3. Minutes

3.I. Minutes - May 17, June 21, July 19, September 20, 2021 And March 21, 2022

The minutes of May 17, 2022 were reviewed. Kara Wiseman made a motion to approve the minutes of May 17, June 21, July 19, September 2021 and March 21, 2022. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

4. Recreation Master Plan Presentation

Chris Dougherty, S&ME, presented an update on the Recreation Master Plan. He shared results of a survey on Recreation Facilities. Generally people are satisfied with recreation facilities. The top identified needs were discussed including trails, athletic fields, programming, restrooms, splash pad and a community center. Increased maintenance of current facilities was a top identified need.

The need for user fees discussed. Mr. Dougherty reviewed the user fees charged at other nearby cities. He reviewed user fee study. Lake Wales is underpriced in rental fees. Possible pricing structures were presented to help fund these improvements. Many of those surveyed are willing to pay more for these facilities.

Mr. Dougherty shared conceptual plans to add facilities and add amenities to different areas. The use of and the wear and tear on different facilities were discussed. The Master Plan document includes an implementation plan. Each park had recommendations for improvements.

Mr. Dougherty shared a possible trail network plan and connecting outside the City.

Mr. Dougherty shared the conceptual plan for Lake Wales and some of the specific recommendations. One idea is a wetlands education center. Some low impact parking areas are identified to be designated. Mr. Shields said that happens now. Additional trails are recommended. Mr. Dougherty showed where an amphitheater can go and different pockets for events. Mr. Shields asked about the basketball court. Mr. Dougherty said he wasn't sure where it would go. Mr. Shields said it can be moved but it should stay near

the lake. Ms. Edwards emphasized that this is a conceptual plan and that not everything will go where it shows. Someone said the amphitheater should not be so close to the football field. Mr. Dougherty said this is just ideas. Ms. Hunt expressed concern about a boat launch near Marietta as there is a lot of run-off there. Crystal Lake Park was reviewed with its smaller event venue was discussed.

Mr. Dougherty explained that this plan can help with grant funding.

The Northwest Complex ideas were reviewed. Mr. Dougherty suggested a football stadium and track there as the ball fields are under utilized. Another road to US 27 may help here if that venue is built. Ms. Edwards said this would be a field in City limits which many suggested we needed.

Mr. Dougherty shared the plan for the Soccer Complex and suggested expanding the soccer fields and adding the needed community center nearby. A BMX facility could also be added. Tournaments could be held here.

A question was asked about the next steps. Ms. Edwards said money is budgeted next year for a design phase.

Mr. Shields asked about expanded tennis and pickleball facilities. Ms. Edwards said more of those are in there notably a designated pickleball court. This was discussed.

Ms. Edwards said there will be more discussions on these elements as we go into the design phase. Implementation steps including funding were discussed.

Keri Hunt asked about maintenance. Michael Manning, Assistant to the City Manager, reviewed plans to improve the facilities in the parks. Ms. Hunt asked about weeds along the trail in Lake Wailes. Robbie Shields said the maintenance of soccer parks can be improved. Mr. Shields said we need more recreation staff too. Ms. Hunt asked about weeds in the lake. Mr. Manning said utilities is spearheading this.

Mr. Hayes asked about a beach on Lake Wailes. Ms. Edwards said because of liability costs there are no plans for a beach at Lake Wailes right now.

Mr. Dougherty said this will be presented to the Commission for review and approval next month.

Laura Donaldson made a motion to recommend approval of this plan to the Commission. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

## 5. FRDAP Grant Application Update & Discussion

Michael Manning, Assistant to the City Manager, reviewed plans to apply \$50,000 to improve basketball courts, adding picnic facilities and rehabilitating the bathrooms at the Northwest complex. The project was discussed. Burney Hayes said new lights are needed at this complex.

Mr. Manning said they are planning to apply to renovate the YMCA enhancing basketball courts \$50,000-\$100,000 category.

Burney Hayes made a motion to approve the grant applications. Motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

## 6. Parks And Recreation Updates

Stephanie Edwards gave an update on the paddleboards and kayaks lockers planned for Lake Wailes Park. It will be 4 instead of 8 as originally planned as there have been supply chain issues..

Stephanie Edwards introduced Shay Irvis as recreation Coordinator who is working on programming including Lake Wailes Live. Ms. Edwards reviewed upcoming programming events including a Flick and Float event with a movie and swimming at the YMCA.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:16 p.m.

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Chair/Vice-Chair

ATTEST:

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Secretary