

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2019
6:00 P.M.**

Call to Order: Chairperson Gary Johnson

Invocation: Chairperson Gary Johnson

Pledge of Allegiance: Chairperson Gary Johnson

Roll Call: Those in attendance were Chairperson Gary Johnson, Board Member Ron Schelfo, and Alternate Board Member Rocco Pilieri.

Also in attendance were Parks and Recreation Director Richard Weed and Administrative Assistant Anaeli Quinones.

Meeting began at 6:00pm.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed covered the announcements. He talked about the boat races that were held in April with a good turnout, the Easter Egg Hunt at the Lions Park with the kids enjoying it; the Library also had an Easter Egg Hunt that went very well. Summer Camp is coming up for kids between the ages of 5 and 12 (having completed kindergarten) and he mentioned everything that is included. There were no more announcements.

Chairperson Johnson announced the recognition of citizens. Seeing no one, meeting moved on to the approval of minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: MARCH 21 , 2019

Chairperson Johnson asked to make a motion to approve the minutes for March 21, 2019; **Board Member Schelfo** made the motion, seconded by **Alternate Board Member Pilieri** and motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the next item on the agenda.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed stated before moving on to the business items, that item #2 was being taken off the agenda due to the grant being applied for was a matching grant and a very competitive one. It was decided at the last minute that maybe it was not the right year to apply for it. Therefore, the plan is to move forward with the application next year and have Chairperson Johnson write a letter supporting the grant.

Mr. Rodney Thompson, from Lake Alfred came up to the podium asking about the grant application for the Gardner House. He inquired about applying for Historical Setting on the House before applying for any kind of grant. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said that he

recently updated the historical paperwork with the State about the House and stated that we are not on the local ordinances and national register because being on that register you are limited to only doing certain things. The Gardner House is historical through the state, but not on local ordinances. He used Bartow Downtown Historical District as an example.

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the next item on the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1) UPDATE ON ECHO PARK, HIGHLANDS CENTER, AND TRAIL EQUIPMENT.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed stated that the City has been working feverishly to rebuild the parks. He showed pictures on the screen on the parks mentioned above. He described the trail equipment as being MoveStrong Cross that has several different workout stations. It was installed last week in the Downtown Corridor so it is visible and for anyone to use. **Board Member Schelfo** said he has seen people on it already. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said it is all one location as opposed to other places where they are scattered throughout the trail, making this a destination just for it. He then moved on to the Highlands Center picture showing the new LSI playground equipment as well as the concrete slab for the 20 x 20 pavilion that will go on it. Sidewalks, fencing, lighting and trashcans will be done once the pavilion is done. **Board Member Schelfo** asked if there would be a dedication when it is finished. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** answered there will be. He said that they will take out the old playground equipment from Lake Swoope which is in bad shape, making this the true community center feel with the playground, basketball court, pavilion and green buffer right next to it. He mentioned a dedication ceremony for both Echo Park and Highlands Center. He moved on to the next picture, which was Echo Terrace Community Park. He explained what has been done in that park with Advantage Courts fixing up the cracks on the court and putting down new paints. The LED light has replaced the old pole, new sod has been put in, and the playground is already being used, sidewalks still have to be put in but it has been a complete overhaul to that park and everyone in the community loves it.

Chairperson Johnson asked if he wanted to say anything else about the Gardner House Grant. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** said he was excited about it, and explained that it was part of the CDBG Project. He also explained the grant that was applied for the Highlands Center and we did not get.

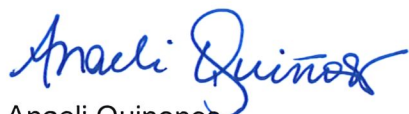
Chairperson Johnson moved on to the recognition of citizens again.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed moved on to the docks update as one of the citizens reminded him since it was in the analysis of the agenda. He stated that the Commission had approved a dock for Twin Lakes and Lake Swoope, which is now a passive recreation park with the pavilion staying there. This budget year, the dock will be replaced with aluminum piling and decking with the composite wood on top. Cleanup was started today on the lake shore. Haines City is coming out next week to clear out all around the dock and FWC is permitting to keep it sprayed and out. As far as Mr. Thompson's concern on start date, Raven's Marine who works with John Carver, will come out here soon to get started since they have been out of state.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any more questions. **Board Member Schelfo** recognized Director Weed for all of the hard work and everything that is being done. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** thanked him and said everything is looking better little by little and that we are moving in the right direction. He also commended the Parks and Recreation Crew for all their hard work.

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the recognition of citizens again. Seeing no one, he made the motion to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,



Anaeli Quinones
Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant