

**MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
CITY HALL  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015  
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 Becky Roach, Board Member David Fawcett, and Board Member Tom Bryan.

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

Members not in attendance Yvonne Thornton and Vice Chairperson Michael Jones.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: MAY 19, 2015**

**Chairperson Johnson** asked to make a motion to approve the minutes for May 19, 2015; **Board Member Fawcett** made the motion, seconded by **Board Member Roach** and motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1) DISCUSSION OF ISSUE ON HORSES IN THE PARK.**

**Chairperson Johnson** opened the floor for **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** to explain. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** started by explaining that at the last meeting this issue was discussed. He stated that there is already a "no animals in the park" rule and it is also stated on the sign at the park. If someone wanted to have a private party with pony rides, they can come to the City, fill out a special events application, and it will be treated as such from there. Proof of insurance would have to be provided by operator and the City would have to be added as an additional insured entity. Other than that, if they are allowed to go passed the boat ramp, to the west where the big clearing is located for them to ride, then that would be ok since it is more of an open area where the airboats are taken to be launched as well. He wanted to discuss the matter since the rules were already in place and believes there is no need to proceed any further. **Board Member Fawcett** suggested having the renter/owner pay some kind of deposit if bringing horses or ponies into the park. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said that would fall under the special events application, just like the Lions Club with cleaning up after. He stated that he has only ran into one example of someone wanting to bring a pony for rides and that was at the Mackay Gardens. As far as leisure at the Lions Park, keep it to the west end of the boat ramp and that will be ok, not in the park itself. **Board Member Bryan** asked if horses are considered pets. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** answered that for

our purposes they are considered pets. He also thinks that no action needs to be taken at this time on this matter.

**Chairperson Johnson** asked if there were any other discussions.

There was none.

**2) DISCUSSION OF HAVING A POLICE OFFICER FOR ENTIRE WEDDING AND RECEPTION AT MACKAY INSTEAD OF THE PARTY'S ESTIMATED TIME FRAME ON WHEN AN OFFICER WILL BE NEEDED.**

**Chairperson Johnson** opened the floor for **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** to speak on this item as well.

**Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** explained that when a party takes place at Mackay or the Highlands Center the customer has the option to have alcohol present and pay an hourly rate of \$30.00 to have a police officer from Lake Alfred while alcohol is being served. Recently, some issues have come to surface where the officer gets there and they have already been drinking. In that particular instance, two windows were broken at Mackay. There are two ways that he thinks this can be resolved. This is just up for discussion to get opinions and thoughts of the board members on this. If the renter says that they will have alcohol from 6pm until 8pm, officer is there for just two hours but they continue drinking through the night, or they are drinking before the officer gets there. Let's make it from the moment the wedding starts, from the moment it begins to the moment it ends. They are expecting to pay money and thinks that extra cost will not be affected. **Board Member Fawcett** said that in Winter Haven they ask the renter if any alcohol will be served and they require two officers from the time it starts to the time it ends, and he thinks it is a smart thing. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** stated that it is not feasible to do two officers but one is required and thinks that if they are going to have a party and serving alcohol, an officer needs to be there the whole time. **Board Member Roach** asked what is the cost to have an officer. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** responded it is \$30 per hour. The other option that he suggested was to have the officer 30 minutes to an hour before the ceremony begins and a lot of times people are there setting up, but to do it when the guests start showing up for ceremony which is usually 30 minutes to an hour before. And the problem can be easily eliminated with the cocktail hour by having the officer there beforehand. **Chairperson Johnson** asked if the renters had to give up their deposit on the broken windows. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said yes they did. **Board Member Roach** said it seems reasonable to her. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said he did not think this was something that needed voting on, just suggestions that we can go to the renters and let them know that police officer has to be there beforehand. Instead of having them be scheduled for two hours and then they end up staying longer to where it has to be deducted from the security deposit. This way it is done upfront and they know that the officer will be there to make a better situation. **Chairperson Johnson** stated that he thought not so much about the alcohol but the gift table if it is not being watched. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said that is something that is pretty common and has friends that have had gifts stolen. He stated that would fall more on their part to have somebody watching their things like he did personally for his wedding. He does not think that the City should be or would be policing the whole event, just making sure that they are not getting out of control. **Chairperson Johnson** said that even if someone were thinking of stealing by just seeing the patrol car they would not do so and think it is a good idea.

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

### 3) DISCUSSION OF INCREASING THE SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR MACKAY GARDENS.

**Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** explained the security deposit guidelines at the Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve. Feels this is the second step so that renters might think twice before it gets to that point of broken windows and the like. Board Member Roach asked what is the comparable deposit for other cities. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said he did not have that at this time but could find out and definitely bring it to the next meeting. He stated that the deposit at the Highlands Community Center is \$200.00 and we try to make the deposit equivalent to the facility itself. \$500.00 may be more than reasonable for the Mackay House. That was the same amount that he paid at Sackett Ranch in Lakeland which can be comparable, and it was just a barn. **Board Member Fawcett** said that if there is no alcohol present and then you find out there is then it should be a non refundable deposit. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** answered by saying that it is currently like that. He mentioned a few times renters will say they will have no alcohol and when inspection is made there are beer bottles in the trash and the deposit is taken to cover that cost. He wants to get everyone's opinions and try. **Board Member Roach** stated that she would not want to hurt the affordability factor because sometimes it can be a turn off to pay that much money up front especially when other places require to pay a lot of money up front as well. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** thinks it is all part of the two step process.

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

### 4) UPDATES ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.

**Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** talked about all the flags being at half staff because of the shootings in Tennessee. He spoke about summer recreation going on with a few hiccups that is nothing major, just learning curves for next year. Mentioned that we will start working on Veteran's Day and Grillin' & Chillin'. Veteran's Day will be on November 11th and Grillin' & Chillin' will be on November 7th. Fireworks will be held at Grillin' & Chillin' to do something different to have more participation in it than just a bbq competition. The night before the route for the Christmas parade was changed as well, going back to its original route starting at Central Park, go west on Cummings to the highway, then go right at the highway and come up to Gardner Park. It will be nice because of Cummings being a high volume traffic street as well as the highway. This way it will be easier on the participants to give out their candy and stay on track. There will also be new Christmas decorations for the highway; it will be a poinsettia and it will be on every other pole. Also, just ordered a brand new 26 ft panel tree that will be lit after the parade and it will be really nice. Talked again about the new route for the parade since the last one it was too dark, and it even caused a person to fall. **Board Member Fawcett** stated that last year's parade was better than previous years because it comes down on 17/92. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said it keeps Glencruiten wide open to reroute the cars from the highway to go towards Haines City. Also some changes will be made so the cars won't be so spaced out, like putting Joey Foley and the Midnight Cloggin Express right at the front since they stop to perform, when they stop, everyone else stops as well. If it gets spaced out between cars, people will start leaving and it confuses the city guys, will start to go through, etc. He has considered having a pre-parade meeting and letting everyone know what needs to be done like

the 20 feet rule to keep it continuous. He had another update concerning the Parks and Rec Department. We will soon be moving to the new building right by the water department. There is a lot of work that needs to be done, but it is a lot of space for the tools and everything else. Really nice facility and it will be nice when it is finally done. **Board Member Fawcett** said that the Fourth of July went well this year with 28 fishermen and 38 cars for the car show. **Parks and Recreation Manager Weed** said that it was a really nice time and thanked the Lions Club as well as Ron and Judy Schelfo for spearheading that. He also thanked the Lions Club for the use of the Summer Camp.

**Board Member Bryan** made a motion to adjourn, after **Chairperson Johnson** suggested to make a motion and it was seconded by **Board Member Roach**. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. ( it started at 6:14 p.m.)

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anaeli Quinones". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Anaeli Quinones  
Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant