

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS
CITY HALL
THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2016
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 David Fawcett, Board Member Becky Roach, and Board Member Yvonne Thornton.

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

Members not in attendance were Vice Chairperson Michael Jones and Board Member Tom Bryan.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: MAY 19, 2016

Chairperson Johnson asked to make a motion to approve the minutes for May 19, 2016; **Board Member Roach** made the motion, seconded by **Board Member Thornton** and motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

NEW BUSINESS

1) UPDATE ON NUMBER OF BOARD MEMBERS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD.

Chairperson Johnson opened the floor for **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** to speak. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** first wanted to talk about the invitation he brought in for the board members to attend a meet & greet with the candidates that are running for State Senate, and it is taking place at the Auburndale Parks & Recreation Building. The times were listed on the invite. He then moved on to the order of business, and stated Mr. Tom Bryan's passing the previous month, leaving more open seats on the Board. He explained how the Planning Board, which is also a seven (7) member board, went to a five (5) member board with an option of having two (2) alternates that can fill in as needed. He thinks this would be a good choice for this board as well, since there have been times where quorums have been missed because of not enough board members attending. The City Commission would have to vote and approve on this, and it is also not a change to the Charter but to the Code of Ordinances. The Board would consist of five (5) board members and can sign up the two citizens that have shown interest to fill in accordingly. This way, there is a consistency with the Boards. As this is not a voting item, he still asked if there were any questions he could answer. All the board members said that it sounds good to them. **Chairperson Johnson** inquired about **Board Member Bryan**, he asked if the City was informed about his passing. **Parks and Recreation Director Weed** answered that he was not aware until meeting he attended at the Lions Club the

previous month, but that he mentioned to the City Manager to maybe do something for him. **Chairperson Johnson** suggested that if anyone on the Board was ill, or in the hospital, etc., to be made aware if at all possible, but also understanding that the information would come as the family allows it. He also asked if there was any more discussion.

There was none.

Chairperson Johnson moved on to the next business.

2) UPDATES ON CURRENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS.

Parks and Recreation Director Weed started by saying the Fourth of July event that had recently taken place turned out real good, with a car show, the Mr. & Ms. Firecracker Pageant, a bass tournament, an animal show that was really entertaining. He mentioned the sponsors for this event and thanked them for their help. He had a slideshow presentation and he talked about the animal show that was there at the event, and will use him for next Summer Recreation Program as he was more involved than previous acts. He then mentioned the Memorial Day service that took place in front of the Magnolia tree, and it was well attended. The Lake Region ROTC participated this year in it and lowered the flags. He explained how each ROTC is broken up into the different cities. He proceeded to move to the ongoing project that is going on at the Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve. This project is being done by the matching \$50,000.00 grant that was received by the Department of Historical Resources through the State. This is to restore the upstairs part of the Mackay House. He showed pictures of before and after the restoration still in progress. LTO Contractor was who worked on this project. There were some change orders and the budget was exceeded by a little bit, but overall, it will turn out looking great. It will be more open and maybe there can be a picnic area there where people can go and have a picnic lunch or take pictures. The next slide he showed on the presentation was the lakefront at Lions Park. Currently being worked on is the torpedo grass. Applied Aquatics is under contract to help clean up the lakefront that he cannot get to with the back-hoe. He talked about other things he has been doing to make the beach look better even though there is still no swimming allowed. He explained the clarity factor for the lake and other factors that fall into place with the no swimming allowed. He then moved on to Summer Recreation, currently taking place at the Lions Club. There are about 40 kids enrolled and he thanked the Lions Club for allowing the Camp to be at their facility. It is going really great this year with the counselors and the field trips. Have gotten compliments from the fieldtrip locations about the camp. The Good Ole' Days event will be moved to Downtown this year. That way Pomelo can be closed and the cars can be lined up, the Historic Society can participate as well, the Fire Department can get involved and it can be a great event. This is something that has not been done in a while. Also stated that we received the Uplands Funding through FWC which is money that was applied for, where they will come in with a contractor and remove invasive plants and bamboo from the Mackay Gardens and Lakeside Preserve. He talked about the bridge that is also at the Mackay property, that was damaged and it has now been restored. **Chairperson Johnson** shared a story of the bridge when he was a child. For the final item, he said that the City submitted for a grant through the Florida Historic Department to purchase the Gardner House. It will not be until next year that the City hears back if the grant is approved or not.

Board Member Thornton had a question. She asked if there can be a fence put up by Lake Swoope at the park there for children because it is so close to the waters and there are gators there. It looks dangerous, and anything that can be done to help with that would be appreciated.

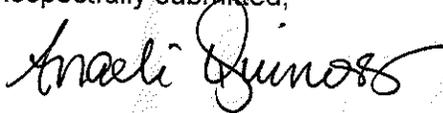
Parks and Recreation Director Weed answered that maybe he will get a "special projects line" in the capital to be able to take care of things like these, but he does not know if it was put in or

if it will be for next fiscal year. But he is doing the same thing there as at the Lions Park to have some kind of buffer with getting rid of the tall grass.

Chairperson Johnson asked if there were any comments or remarks. He also asked for a motion to adjourn. **Board Member Roach** made the motion, seconded by **Board Member Thornton**.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anaeli Quinones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "A".

Anaeli Quinones
Parks and Recreation Administrative Assistant