

**MINUTES  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
CITY COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
CITY HALL  
THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2018  
6:00**

**Call To Order:** Chairperson Gary Johnson

**Invocation:** Board Member Yvonne Thornton

**Pledge Of Allegiance:** Chairperson Gary Johnson

**Roll Call:** Those in attendance were, Chairperson Gary Johnson, Vice Chairperson David Fawcett, and Board Member Yvonne Thornton

Also in attendance were Parks and Recreation Director Richard Weed, Deputy City Clerk Mamie Drane

Not in attendance were Board Member Mike Jones, and Board Member Becky Roach

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: NOVEMBER 16, 2017**

**Chairperson Johnson** asked to make a motion to approve the minutes for November 16, 2017. **Vice Chairperson Fawcett** made the motion, seconded by **Board Member Thornton** and motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

**Chairperson Johnson** opened the public hearing.

Seeing no one

**Chairperson Johnson** closed the public hearing

**NEW BUSINESS**

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN DRAFT BY GAI CONSULTANT, KRISTEN ABORN.**

**Parks and Recreation Director Weed** announced that **Kristen Aborn** was not able to attend, **Patrick Panza**, Assistant Project Manager, GAI Consultant will be presenting and answering any questions.

**Mr. Panza** 618 E South Street, Orlando started his presentation with a review of the project to date covering the Focus Group Meetings, which started in December; they worked with staff to recognize what the structure of the groups should be. In January they promoted the web survey while attending the Blue Grass and BBQ Festival. In February there was Public Workshop, held at the Lions Club, presenting the emerging themes. Last there was a Staff Workshop giving staff an opportunity to weigh in on the process. He explained the Level of Service, and the Existing Comprehensive Plan Standard; this dictates that the City should have 5.5 acres of parkland per one thousand residents. The City's actual level of service is 28.65 acres per one thousand residents; that is an astronomical number. Even by the year

2045, with the City's projected growth, the level of service would still be high at 19.5 acres per one thousand residents. With the analysis of the City and realizing the amount of parkland that's already available, they started looking at the quality of the parks, which was identified by the public as a concern. The Existing Service Area is within the ten to fifteen minute walk radius. However, Mr. Panza stated that some of the existing areas defined as parks are boat launches without any park amenities such as, playgrounds benches etc. Looking at the ten minute service areas, without the boat launch facilities being considered, there were parks within the fifteen minute walk service area so they settled on a fifteen minute walk, which is industry standard. This covers all the existing parks in the City. They would like to replace the acreage requirement with a service requirement, instead of 5.5 acres per thousand residents; the new standard would require a publicly accessible neighborhood park within a fifteen minute walk of all new residents within the City limits. The neighborhood park standard would set a minimum level of development, in order to be considered a neighborhood park there would have to be sidewalk access to the park, the parks would meet or exceed ADA requirements, it would also have playgrounds, open space, shade and benches. This list was developed with lists supplied by the public. Once the public has the Guiding Principles in front of them they understand, not just their needs but the community needs as well. There are six Guiding Principles Safety and Security, giving an example of the boardwalk at the Twin Lakes Park and Boat Ramp, in between the park and boardwalk there is a lot of natural growth he would like for that to be evaluated and rectified.

**Chairperson Johnson** asked if the vegetation is in the water or on shore, and asked also if they are talking about leaving a line of clearing, or if there would still be the natural buffer.

**Mr. Panza** replied that there are invasive plants in the water that have grown to incredible heights.

**Parks and Recreation Director Weed** stated that the growth would be half and half, the City would leave a three foot buffer, also we could take out the invasive plants and the other vegetation that have taken over the area. He is working with Cathy Butcher about educational programs on clearing the areas close to the lakes.

**Mr. Panza** continued, Community oriented, health and wellness, activities and facilities, A five year review of the Master Plan and maintain and Encourage links to nature. There are great opportunities at Mackay to make connections there is a great trail system, but there's a large area on the east side that could use additional trails. More nature programs could be held at Mackay, along with clean-up projects.

Moving forward with a Master Plan like this is a big decision for any city. They are confident that the Master Plan they are presenting represents the needs of the public.

**Chairperson Johnson** stated the City needs a Master Plan to qualify or apply for different grants. Will the consultants aid the City in preparing these grants?

**Mr. Panza** Helping with grants is something they have experience with, creating the Master Plan enables cities to have the tool they need to write grants.

**Board Member Thornton** stated the Consultants did a wonderful job in compiling the information and with the forums the consultant at one of the meetings said they don't really help with grants.

**Parks and Recreation Director Weed** stated the City has partnered with grant writers in the past and the documents Mr. Panza provided have specific recommendations for grants applicable to Lake Alfred along with recommendations about how the scoring of the grants are processed. Ameer Bailey is a great asset for grant writing as well.

**Board Member Thornton** stated she is excited about the Master Plan and thanked Director Weed for his dedication.

**Vice Chairperson Fawcett** made the motion to accept the Master Plan Draft, seconded by **Board Member Thornton** and motion was approved by unanimous voice call vote.

**Mr. Panza** thanked the board members and Richard and Lake Alfred staff.

**The Board** thanked Mr. Panza.

**Parks and Recreation Director Weed** Bluegrass went well there was a good turnout. The Clean-up effort was well attended and everyone helped clean up the City. There were fifty three bags of garbage picked up in a three hour clean-up. This Saturday there will be the Easter egg hunt at Lions Park; the hunt is a partnership of the Lions Club, First Baptist and Presbyterian Church, this is the 70<sup>th</sup> year that the hunt has been held. There will be a Sunrise service at the First Baptist Church at 5:00am, and an Easter sunrise breakfast at the Lions Club at 7:30am. Summer Rec will start June 11<sup>th</sup> at the Lake Alfred Elementary school, it is a seven week program and it is \$450 dollars for the summer. For the month of June there will be hot lunches, open to the community. The age is under eighteen.

**Board Member Thornton** asked if the hot lunches will be available for the program at Highland Center.

**Parks and Recreation Director Weed** stated that if Mrs. Daley wants to bring the kids to the school they can have hot lunches. The school is hosting Summer School this year which is the reason for the hot lunches at that location. If you can attend the Commission Meeting Monday City Manager Leavengood will be introducing the Master Plan. The larger items would come before the board for anything over twenty thousand. Updates will be constantly coming.

**Chairperson Johnson** When the City starts implementing the Master Plan will there be a need to come before the Parks and Rec Board.

**Chairperson Johnson** Open public hearing,  
seeing no one

Closed public hearing

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00

Respectively submitted,

Mamie Drane  
Deputy City Clerk