



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Parks and Recreation Department
Central Area Parks Operations
840 Forrest Avenue
Cocoa, Florida 32922

**Cocoa West Recreation Complex Advisory Committee Minutes
August 2, 2021 6:00 p.m.**

Members Present

Betty Wells, Chair
Izeal Battle, Vice-Chair
Leartis Brothers
Jesse Guest

Members Not Present

Kim Gipson

Staff Present

Terry Lane, Central Area Parks Operations Manager
Courtney Kellem, Central Area Recreation Superintendent
Felicia Fallen, Cocoa West Recreation Complex Recreation Coordinator

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Wells called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Mr. Lane introduced Courtney Kellem as the new Central Area Recreation Superintendent.

II. Approval of February 3, 2020 Minutes

Mr. Guest made a motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020 as written. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Brothers. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Old Business

Mr. Lane stated that the motor for the fountain that Housing and Human Services installed burned out and has been recently replaced by maintenance.

IV. New Business

Mr. Lane stated that the Parks and Recreation 2021/2022 Fiscal Budget had been presented to the County Commissioners in July, and that there would be two public hearings in September prior to the final approval and adoption of the Budget by the County Commissioners at the end of September.

Mr. Lane informed the Committee the new playground would be replaced by the end of September, and that the old wooden sign at the entrance was going to be replaced with a recycled plastic sign.

Chair Wells asked about the condition of the fence around the park.

Mr. Lane stated that because of the hogs going under the fence and tearing up the grounds, staff had a fence company come in and install bottom railings on the fence to secure the fence and make it stronger.

Mr. Lane stated that staff was researching the possibility of resurfacing, repairing or replacing the outdoor basketball court for the 2021/2022 budget year, which would be the end of September next year.

Chair Wells stated that she was considering retiring from the Committee at the end of the year.

V. Report from Recreation Staff

Special Events

Mrs. Fallen informed the Committee that the Mother's Day program was held on Saturday, May 8th and had 15 participants; the Father and Son Basketball Shootout was held Saturday, June 19th and had 50 participants.

Mrs. Fallen informed the Committee that Cocoa West Recreation Complex would be hosting its Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, November 20th, but that it would not be a sit-down dinner; participants would drive up to pick up their dinners between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. People wishing to participate will be asked to sign up in advance so staff knows how many meals they will need. Staff is also considering delivering some meals to those seniors that are not able to drive to pick up meals, but had not made a final decision on that.

Program Reports

Mrs. Fallen stated that summer camp started on June 4th and will end on August 9th and participants fluctuated between a low of 11 and a high of 35.

Mrs. Fallen stated the Seniors at Lunch program started back inside the community center on July 28th, and they have had between 6 and 11 participants. She further stated that the participants were given a choice prior to opening back up fully if they wanted to continue participating in the two-week meal pick up or come back to lunch inside the community center.

The Committee would like an update on what the rules are regarding Covid policies for the Seniors at Lunch for the participants, and how the information is being communicated to the public. Mrs. Fallen is to provide the information to the Committee prior to the next meeting.

Mrs. Fallen stated that Pickleball started up again Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon and had an average of 15 participants.

Mrs. Fallen informed the Committee that the Community in Motion Line Dancing classes started back up on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and participation was increasing.

Attendance

Mrs. Fallen stated that attendance at the community center was slow possibly due to Covid, and a lot of the kids have moved away from this area and closer to town.

VI. Report from Committee Members

Chair Wells stated that for the last 27 years she Chaired the Seniors Christmas banquet. During those years she stated that she collected donations from the local churches and various local organizations to help put on the banquet. Chair Wells stated that last year she sponsored the entire banquet herself because 2017 or 2018 the State of Florida changed the rules stating she would need an Employer Identification Number (EIN) in order to collect funds and donations, and that she didn't want to go through all that it would take to obtain an EIN, therefore she would not be sponsoring the Seniors Banquet this year.

Chair Wells stated that if Parks and Recreation would provide the funds she would be willing to assist.

Mr. Lane stated that if Parks and Recreation provided the funding the function would have to open to everyone. He further stated that staff has had discussions, and that if the community would participate like they do with the Thanksgiving Dinner, then it would be a possibility.

VII. Public Input

None

VIII. Adjournment

Chair Wells adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Signature Line for Betty Wells, Chair