

**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD MEETING
HAINES CITY, FLORIDA**

March 13, 2018

5:00 PM

Commission Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Stanton called to order the Parks and Recreation Meeting on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 5:12 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers located at 620 E. Main Street, Haines City, FL.

Board Members in attendance were: Joshua Hicks, Chair Daniel Stanton, David Graham, and Linda Kuchta.

Absent: Ben Krezminski and Tyhron Crawford.

Staff in attendance: Parks and Recreation Director Terrell Griffin, Parks and Recreation Supervisor tom Mallerne, Parks and Recreation Supervisor Jillian Latimer, and Deputy City Clerk Erica Anderson.

Commissioner Anne Huffman was also in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Kuchta motioned to approve the minutes from the 2.13.18 meeting. Board Member Hicks seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.

3. SWIM TEAM UPDATE

The City Commission has approved the swim team and will make the final vote on the next Commission meeting on 3/15/18 at 7:00 p.m.

4. OAKLAND POOL UPDATE

Director Griffin presented on the Oakland Pool which was presented to the Commission at the March 1st Commission Meeting. Hydro Solutions was chosen by the commission, the first phase will be design and public input phase 1 will also include 12 boring's' of 20 to 30 feet to decide if it is feasible for the pool. He spoke about the cost of Phase 2 and the impacts of the fees based on the total cost of the pool. Phase 3 will consist of the actual construction of the pool.

Board member Kuchta asked what was the timeline for completion of phase one. It was stated there was no time frame at this time.

Board Member Graham questioned if the monies for design would be approved first. Director Griffin stated once phase 1 is complete, he will come before the board with the findings of whether a pool is feasible, what type of pool and the price associated with construction.

Board Member Hicks asked if the monies included design and borings. Director Griffin stated this is correct.

Chair Stanton inquired what the city's plan was if the monies was spent and it was determined that the space was not feasible for the pool. He further inquired whether the pool would be designed to accommodate the new swim team. Director Griffin informed the board that if in fact Legacy park was not a feasible area for the pool based off the first boring, the city would only be required to pay for the (1) hole. Also, the city is not looking to compete with the aquatics center at Lake Eva but would like to provide a space for the youth and residents in another part of the city. Lake Eva's aquatic facility is sufficient to support the New Swim Team.

5. BUDGET OVERVIEW

Chair Stanton questioned if the budget could be altered to reflect items the board would like to implement and if monies could be earmarked for the board. Staff informed the board that budget talks have not started at this time, however, staff is willing to entertain special interests of the board. He went on to explain the grant process to the board and the importance of providing an exceptional level of service over building programs directed at gaining monies.

Board Member Kuchta asked if the city's park and recreation department received funds from cooperatives within the county. Director Griffin stated there is not such a thing and went on to inform the board of the programs currently offered such as summer camp and the fees associated with these services.

Chair Stanton stated he would like to look at areas that need to be fixed around the city and be a sounding board to offer additional programs currently not offered. He further inquired about the construction of a dog park with little to no cost. Director Griffin stated that Parks Supervisor Tom Mallernee, has identified an area that he thinks would be great for a dog park. He is trying to identify grants that would fund some of the ideas mentioned. He also informed the board that his plan is to bring back the masterplan to the commission in the future as a road map moving forward.

Board Member Graham questioned if the grants would be written by the Parks and Recreation Department. He mentioned a foundation for animals that may help fund the costs of a dog park.

Chair Stanton requested staff bring the possibility of a trail around [AMENDED FROM RANDALL TO CHANLER] Chanler Ridge and new events the city does not currently offer in the form of food, sports, athletics and arts. Director Griffin updated the board on new events coming to Haines City in the next 2 to 8 months.

Chair Stanton stated he would like to have a brainstorming session with staff and the board to bring ideas they would like to see happen.

Board Member Kuchta made a motion to put events and ideas on the agenda for the next meeting. Board Member Hicks seconded the motion, all were in favor.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Commissioner Huffman addressed the board on their duties and purpose to communicate to the commission their recommendations. She stated this would work better at some point there should be some type of feedback other than the minutes provided. As the liaison, between the commission and the Parks and Recreation Department and it works better if the commission sees and knows the board is supporting it's departments agenda by supporting the department at the commission meetings. She stated she is excited to hear about the dog park and soccer field and believes it is an inexpensive, viable project that residents would enjoy. She suggested the board, at some point, send a letter if not able to attend the workshops for the Parks and Recreation Department to sort of champion requests to the commission. She went on to express her appreciation for the volunteer members and their ideas and assured them that by attending the workshops, things could go further. From a residents point of view, monies from the CRA (Community Redevelopment Areas), have been set aside for blighted areas. She went over the qualifications for the city to receive CRA funds and the areas designated and the monies received for these areas. To sum things up, most of the city is in the CRA district and that would be the better place for the board to look at dispensing funds because it can justify the redevelopment, in that the monies are earmarked for redevelopment. She stated that the East side and Randall Ridge is not considered blighted areas and CRA funds would not be distributed for these areas.

Board Member Kuchta inquired who would they need to qualify with and whether there are impact fees built in current city taxes. Commissioner Huffman stated they would need to qualify with the State of Florida and the impact fees come from new development (within the city of Haines City), it is not paid to the city directly but to the county and the monies are distributed to various organizations.

There were no other members of the public to come forward and speak with the Board.

7. BOARD DISCUSSION

Board Member Graham stated the board is definitely in the position to support the department head at the commission meeting and that there is power in numbers and it keeps the board in the loop.

Chair Stanton spoke about the board being in a development stage and that some of the Commissioners comments may be off base.

Director Griffin assured the board that masterplan is going be key for the board to get approval from the commission. He also stated that City Commission meetings are held twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

Chair Stanton suggested that if one Commissioner receives the agenda then all commissioners should receive them. Staff informed the board that Commissioner Huffman has requested to receive the agendas [Amended to remove staff comments].

8. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Graham motioned to adjourn. Board Member Kuchta seconded the motion, the motion carried unanimously.

Without any further discussion, the Parks and Recreation meeting was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting will take place on 4/10/18 5:00 p.m.

APPROVED: _____

BY: _____

ATTEST:

Linda Bourgeois
City Clerk