



**AGENDA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2022
5:00 PM
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS
204 ASH STREET
FERNANDINA BEACH, FL 32034**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - 4.1 November 8, 2022 Workshop Minutes
 - 4.2 November 8, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 6.1 Director to Lead Input Session for Parks and Recreation Community Campaign
- 7. STAFF REPORT**
- 8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- 9. NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION**
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

All members of the public are invited to be present and be heard. Persons with disabilities requiring accommodations in order to participate in this program or activity should contact the City Clerk at 904-310-3115 or TTY/TDD 711 (for the hearing or speech impaired).

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Workshop
November 8, 2022

The Parks and Recreation Advisory committee met for a workshop on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 3:30pm located at Bosque Bello Cemetery, 1321 N. 14th Street. Present were Member Chapman, Member Camera, Chair Grant, Member Norris, and Member Mountjoy. Not present, Member Cocchi and Vice Chair Pugh.

1. CALL TO ORDER 3:30pm

2. ROLL CALL

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 Vehicular Traffic in Ancient Section of Cemetery

Reviewed roads throughout the cemetery. Board Members where able to see areas of concerns. Possible solutions where discussed.

4. ADJOURNMENT 4:15pm

The Parks and Recreation Advisory committee met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 5pm located in Commission Chambers at City Hall 204 Ash Street. Present were Member Chapman, Member Camera, Chair Grant, Member Norris, Vice Chair Pugh (via Zoom), and Member Mountjoy. Not present, Member Cocchi.

1. CALL TO ORDER 5:01pm

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 October 11, 2022, Regular Minutes

Member Chapman made a motion to approve the October minutes. Second by Member Camera. All Ayes.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Ybor Alvarez Sports Complex Update (staff)

Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi introduces Nathan Coyle, Airport Manager regarding hangers at the airport being impacted by the Sports Complex design. There is a proposal for more hangers to be built, utilizing a portion of the soccer field property. There will be a vehicular storage area built on the grounds as well. Chair Grant voiced concern for development possibly creating more need for something other than a municipal airport. Mr. Coyle stated that there is no directive in the airport's master plan for commercial use of any kind. Mr. Coyle has plans to meet with various organizations before making any decisions on how the land should be used.

6.2 Cemetery Vehicular Traffic in Ancient Section (staff)

Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi stated she invited the committee to Bosque Bello Cemetery to better understand how the Ancient Section has been affected by vehicular traffic in the past. Miss Vorassi gave examples of different bollards that could be used as markers, that would not be easily damaged, with reflective strips to assist with accident prevention. Miss Vorassi asked the committee for their support in moving forward by looking at the costs associated with adding the bollards in the Ancient Section. This is in lieu of completely blocking off the section; however, restricted access is the goal. Member Mountjoy stated much of the committee also believed adding gates and fencing to the areas where the cemetery has vehicular traffic would mitigate the damage. This would restrict night traffic. Miss Vorassi agreed to look into this option as well. Member Norris made a motion to approve Parks and Recreation investigating the costs of the addition of bollards in the Ancient Section. Second by Member Mountjoy. Motion passed with all Ayes.

6.3 Central Park Playground Update (Chair Grant)

Chair Grant inquired about the current timeline for the reopening of the Central Park Playground. Mr. Mikelson stated everything is scheduled to be completed by the date of February 5th, 2023 and has been in contact with the equipment representative on a daily and weekly basis. The playground equipment has been ordered; however, Chair Grant would like to be able to receive transit updates in order to properly landscape Central Park before the installation begins. Mr. Mikelson explained to the committee that it will be the responsibility of the Parks Department to do some excavation of the grounds prior to the installation date. He will get another tentative date/timeline for Chair Grant as to when that work may begin. Chair Grant also asked Mr. Mikelson if the donor of the funds for Central Park will have a sign erected in her late husband's name as per their initial agreement. Chair Grant stated she would like to utilize a local artist in making this sign for the park dedication. Mr. Mikelson informed the committee that he will be reaching out to her and confirming this so they may start the process. Mr. Mikelson hopes to unveil the plaque on the same day as the new park is to be completed.

6.4 Simmons Road Park Update (staff)

Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi presented the idea of adding a playground, which was previously discussed at the October PRAC meeting. The subsequent discussion is to be on the agenda for the January meeting in order to decide on the addition of equipment. Miss Vorassi and Scott Mikelson have met with 8 Flags Playscapes, who have offered to fund the equipment for the current "nature walk". Miss Vorassi gave examples of how each "station" or "kiosk" will be set up for interaction with patrons of the park. The Parks and Recreation Department is asking for the support of the committee to move forward with this project and keep a positive working relationship with 8 Flags Playscapes. Member Chapman made a motion to approve the collaboration and for Parks and Recreation to move forward with the Simmons Road Park improvements. Second by Member Mountjoy. Motion passed with all Ayes.

7. STAFF REPORT

7.1 Volleyball Net Installation at Seaside Park Update (staff)

Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi stated that the department will not be moving forward with adding the volleyball nets to the original location at Seaside Park, which would be in front of private homeowner's property. This instead is being discussed with other departments, such as Public Works, to move them to the area between Seaside Park and the water. The concern with vehicular traffic here was to ensure safety precautions are adhered to and to keep from taking space away from those who drive on the beach, such as Ocean Rescue, Tourists and Beach Rangers. Miss Vorassi will update the committee once a final location is decided on.

7.2 Golf Course Management (staff)

The City Commission has approved Parks and Recreation to manage the City Golf Course for the continuation of this fiscal year and into the year of 2026. Miss Vorassi stated the current General Manager, Mr. Michael Cooney will be retiring at the end of December this year. Applicants for the new

job posting will be reviewed by Miss Vorassi, Mr. Scott Mikelson and Mr. Dale Martin. Mr. Mikelson and Miss Vorassi have been meeting regularly with the staff of the golf course to discuss how the merging of departments will be implemented. Mr. Mike Meadows, of 2601 Via Del Ray asked the committee if they will be joining the advisory board meetings for the golf course on a monthly basis. Miss Vorassi confirmed that representatives from Parks and Recreation will be present and both committees will be kept abreast of what is discussed and how it relates to each area of Parks and Recreation and the City Golf Course.

7.3 Code Amendment- Park Closures from 12am to 5am (staff)

With the approval of the City Commission, brought to attention by the Fernandina Beach Police Department, the decision was made to officially close all parks from the hours of midnight to five am. This is to allow our police officers to enforce the code and ensure our parks are safe and being kept free from vandalism. Parks and Recreation as a department has fully supported this decision. Member Camera would like special consideration to be taken regarding the baseball, football and soccer fields. The concessions and equipment storage areas are a cause for concern for possible vandalism. Mr. Scott Mikelson informed the committee that at a previous City Commission meeting, the decision was made to unlock the fields for public use. The agreement is to mitigate the time frame between the Babe Ruth Leagues use of the park and the Parks and Recreation Department unlocking the park. Scott Mikelson will look into this and keep the committee notified.

7.4 Impact Fees & Bed Taxes (Board Question)

Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi gave a presentation on how impact fees are used for the Parks and Recreation Department's Capitol Improvement plans. Attachments of Resolution 2020-47 and the Tourism Statutes are included in the agenda packet. Miss Vorassi read through the documents and stated that we have the city council as well as outside council available to help us determine how to allocate those fees properly. Miss Vorassi stated that she wants to keep the committee informed with this information and hopes it assists in their decision making. Vice Chair Pugh asked about the interpretation issues for "new users" and how to find out if something can be used for "x" and how that gets determined? Miss Vorassi responded with how those situations warrant a debate and input from the outside council. Member Norris inquired about where impact fees go before distribution to the city, however, Miss Vorassi did not want to speak on that topic as a professional and would like to place that discussion with another expert on the matter.

7.5 Beach Access Update (staff)

The Parks and Recreation Department worked on Beach Access 24 with the Public Works Department to repair the staircase and boards. Pictures are included in the agenda packet. Parks and Recreation will continue to assess all city beach accesses and make repairs as needed according to the Director, Catherine Vorassi.

7.6 Community Campaign Announcement (staff)

Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi and the Parks and Recreation Department have launched a live campaign to introduce Miss Vorassi to the community and have forums to discuss her involvement with other influencers in the community as well as local sports leagues, businesses, and various committees and organizations. There will be three dates and locations for the events with open

public questioning. Miss Vorassi gave the committee five categories to review for discussion at the December PRAC meeting. Those categories will be on the agenda for each of the community forums.

* Parks and Recreation has been preparing for Tropical Storm Nicole. City staff has been removing various items such as flags and mats. Parks and Recreation Director, Catherine Vorassi touched on the upcoming events in the city and how they may be impacted by the storm but did not have concerns about cancelling any of the special events. Everything will be moving forward as scheduled.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Member Camera discussed the need for fencing for the Central Park Ball Park. The Babe Ruth League has donated toward the equipment but would also like to ask the Parks and Recreation Department for additional funding. The bids they have received are substantially larger than the quotes from the previous years. Member Camera is working with the Parks and Recreation Manager, Jason Brown, to find the best option possible to be cost efficient. Mr. Scott Mikelson would like to review the Parks and Recreation Budget to better understand if financially assisting the Babe Ruth League with their donations would be possible after a decision is made on equipment. Mr. Mikelson is confident that the project will be completed in the January/February timeframe.

9. ADJOURNMENT 6:19 pm



Categories for Discussion:

Downtown Landscaping

Recreation Centers

Athletic Fields/Sport Courts/Aquatics

Parks/Playgrounds/Trails/Beaches

Multigenerational Programming

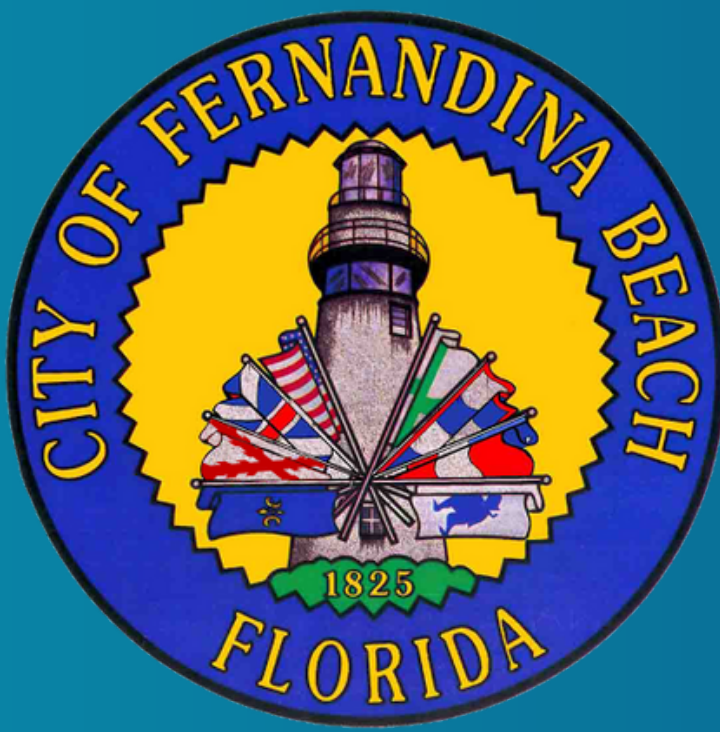


****Campaign Dates and Locations****

November 29, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center at 6:00pm

December 1, Atlantic Avenue Recreation Center at 6:00pm

December 8, Peck Center Auditorium at 6:00pm



PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

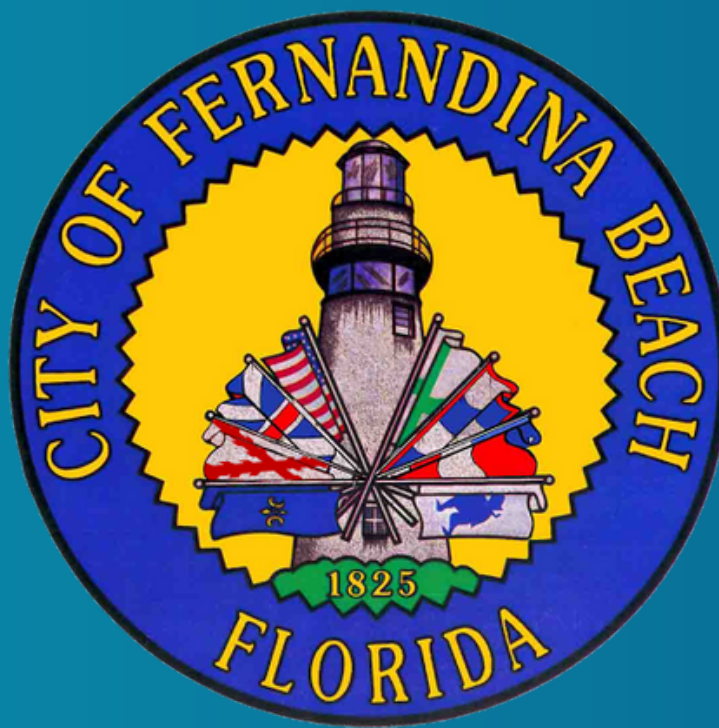
COMMUNITY MEET & GREET FORUMS

NOV 29 **COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. RECREATION CENTER
1200 ELM STREET @6pm

DEC 01 **COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**
ATLANTIC RECREATION CENTER
2500 ATLANTIC AVENUE @6pm

DEC 08 **COMMUNITY MEET & GREET**
THE PECK CENTER
516 S 10TH STREET @6pm

**FOR MORE INFO, PLEASE E-MAIL US AT
WeAreListening@fbfl.org**



DEPARTAMENTO DE PARQUES Y RECREACIÓN

CONOCE Y SALUDA A LA COMUNIDAD FORO

NOV CONOCE Y SALUDA A LA COMUNIDAD
29 CENTRO RECREATIVO MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
1200 ELM STREET @6pm

DEC CONOCE Y SALUDA A LA COMUNIDAD
01 CENTRO RECREATIVO ATLANTIC
2500 ATLANTIC AVENUE @6pm

DEC CONOCE Y SALUDA A LA COMUNIDAD
08 THE PECK CENTER
516 S 10TH STREET @6pm

PARA OBTENER MÁS INFORMACIÓN,
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