



**AGENDA
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 11, 2023
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 June 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes
 - 4.2 June 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**
- 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - 6.1 Bosque Bello Fencing Design
- 7. STAFF COMMENTS**
 - 7.1 Project Updates (Fencing, renovations, awarded bids, upcoming bids, etc.)
 - 7.2 Webpage Redesign - Now LIVE and nearing completion
- 8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**
- 9. 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).

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 5pm located in Commission Chambers at City Hall 204 Ash Street. Present were Member Chapman, Vice-Chair Cocchi, Chair Camera, Member Mountjoy, Member Norris, Member Burrero.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 4.1 May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Cocchi made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes, motion second by Member Chapman. Motion passed being all Ayes.

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

No Public Comment

- 6. DISCUSSION ITEM**

- 6.1 Disc Golf at Simmons Park

Ms. Vorrasi presented a document explaining what the city's costs would be if a disc golf course was put in at Simmons Park. Ms. Vorrasi responded to the board's inquiry about other possible locations for Disc Golf Course, it has been determined that there are no other locations suitable for the course. Ms. Vorrasi introduced Tom Goad, stating that Tom would give an overview of what he reviewed with those who attended the site visit at Simmons Park earlier in the day as well as an overview of the project. Tom and his group approached the city with this idea, it is a donation, and this discussion item is placed on the agenda to see if it is something the community wants.

Tom Goad reviewed the locations within Simmons Park his group would utilize if the project was approved.

Member Borrero asked if there was a designation from the first home to the first T. Mr. Goad said he did not have the number but would provide it if necessary. Member Borrero asked if night Disc Golf would be a possibility, Mr. Goad responded No.

Member Norris asked what the estimate of Disc Golf participants would be; Mr. Goad said between 25-50 people in a day.

Chair Camera stated the following: The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee meeting is open to all residents and tonight's meeting is no exception, as we can see from the attendance at tonight's meeting, the Disc Golf discussion is an important one. The Advisory Committee welcomes public comment (both pro and con) in order to

ensure the interested parties are afforded the opportunity to speak this evening. The Advisory Committee would like to remind everyone of the process we follow:

- There is a request to speak form at the back of the room for those individuals interested in addressing the Advisory Committee.
- The Chairperson will call upon members of the public in the order in which they appear on the request to speak sign in sheet.
- When I call your name, please approach the microphone at the front of the chamber and state your name and address for the record.
- To accommodate everyone who wishes to speak, each member of the public will be limited to three minutes for presenting his or her remarks.
- We respectfully request that individuals in the chamber do not speak out of turn or when fellow members of the public are at the podium.
- Under no circumstances will profanity be allowed. Anyone who uses profanity or is being disruptive may be asked to leave the meeting.

Public Comments regarding Disc Golf at Simmons Park

- Richard Deem
- Andrew Elise
- Scott Merit
- Sheryl Whit
- Pat Foster Turley
- Elise Pearlstein
- Chris Nickloff
- Debbie Within
- Michael Within
- Mary Libby
- Jack Amber
- Lauree Hempkee
- Janice Nickloff
- Margret Kirkland
- Michael Rudon
- Agnes Lydon
- Cameron Moss
- Margaret Davis
- Scott Sirnacker

David DeMay, City of Fernandina Beach Golf Club General Manager, stated he was open to hearing about the potential to host Disc Golf at the golf club as he has been making many improvements. Upon further research and discussion Mr. DeMay deemed it unsafe to have a disc golf course alongside the golf course due to the potential to be hit with a golf ball.

Member Chapman read from the Parks and Recreation Website that it is their (parks and recreations job) to preserve the communities' natural environment he does not feel that Disc Golf is keeping in line with that statement. Member Chapman asked what staff

costs would be and how we are going to remove city staff from current projects to give time to this. Member Chapman asked if Mr. Goad inquired with the county.

Vice Chair Cocchi thanked Mr. Goad for bringing this idea to the city. Vice Chair Cocchi was not in support of the first project of Simmons Park and is not in favor of further disturbance in that area at all. Vice Chair Cocchi brought up parking and safety risks regarding wildlife and discs hitting people. Vice Chair Cocchi said there are no dollars in district one for parks and recreation and she encouraged Mr. Goad to reach out to the county to pursue this project. Vice Chair Cocchi asked Mr. Goad who did the initial push to pursue Simmons Park, Mr. Goad said he was told to pick a location to present and this was the one he choose.

Mr. Borrero encouraged Mr. Goad to try to find another location to pursue his project.

Ms. Mountjoy asked who will oversee preparation of the trails and maintenance? Ms. Vorrasi said this is very preliminary because the department knew the sensitivity to the property, so we wanted community input first before looking in deeper regarding exact staff costs. If the project moved further, she would be able to develop exact costs.

Chair Camera appreciates the turnout for this important decision that this Parks and Recreation department must make in regard to preserving what the community wants. Making sure we are making the right decision for our community, and it's perfectly clear you all came out here tonight to support the community in a unanimous decision to ensure Simmons Park stays Simmons Park without any changes.

Ms. Vorrasi reminded the board that the committee did vote to have six educational signs, stumps and benches donated by 8 Flags Playscapes along Simmons Park trail.

Vice Chair Cocchi made a motion to keep the changes that are going to be made at Simmons Park limited to the ones that have already been approved for the educational activities for the children and that no further activity can be done at Simmons Park going forward. Second by Member Chapman. Passed 6:0

7. STAFF COMMENTS

7.1 Catherine Vorrasi, Parks and Recreation Director introduced Leland Honaker, New Parks and Recreation Superintendent.

Ms. Vorrasi thanked Human Resource Department for filling the seasonal vacancies. The Parks and Recreation Department still has openings full-time and part-time positions available.

MAE contracting was approved by the commission and will start various fencing projects around the city. The baseball fields at Central Park, the fence at Veteran's Memorial Park and fencing as Bosque Bello Cemetery with help from the friends of Bosque Bello.

Ms. Vorrasi said she would inform the board as these projects are complete.

Stephen Moreno was awarded a contract for Pickleball Ms. Vorrasi will be meeting with Stephen this week to discuss this program.

Mr. Borrero asked if Stephen will put on tournaments, Ms. Vorrasi said he will be taking over tournaments going forward. Mr. Borrero asked if the Skate Park Fence will be

addressed. Ms. Vorrasi apologized for not mentioning it earlier, but the Skate Park Fence is at the top of her list and will also be addressed.

Member Chapman asked why the cemetery information was not placed on this agenda as it was said at the last meeting. The city needs effort in the cemetery a lot more than disc golf. For a long time, we have been hoping for a columbarium. Ms. Vorrasi said it is not a case of priority we just don't have the information yet when Parks and Recreation is ready, she will present it to the board, the department will not move forward without the Advisory Committees input. Member Chapman asked when the new website will be revealed. Ms. Vorrasi said when we have that information it will be presented to the board.

Vice Chair Cocchi asked when the annexing of the land next to the skate park will be. Ms. Vorrasi said the second reading of the land will be on the June 20 City Commission agenda.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Member Chapman asked if the rumors of the city tearing down the brick walls downtown are true. Ms. Vorrasi said absolutely not. Flowering Fernandina takes care of the flowerpots and the landscape beds along center street are taken care of wastewater.

Vice Chair Cocchi thanked everyone who came out to support today's agenda. She encouraged everyone to not just be focused on this but to be engaged and pay attention to what is going on around the community.

Chair Camera stated that on behalf of the Advisory Committee, he would like to thank Cheryl Grant for her Leadership as the past chairperson and for her commitment to the work of this advisory committee. Her talent and expertise will be sorely missed. However, this advisory committee has grown under her leadership, and he is personally grateful for the opportunity to have worked with her. Chair Camera thanked Parks and Recreation for their dedication to the Babe Ruth tournament, the feedback from visitors was great. Chair Camera thanked those who came out to speak tonight, we need the community's help in making this decision and the board is dedicated in making sure that they make a positive impact on this city.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:34pm

1. CALL TO ORDER: The Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Regular Meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm at Simmons Road Park.
2. ROLL CALL: The following Committee members were present: Chairperson Tom Camera, Vice Chair Shelia Cocchi, Committee Members William Norris, Jennifer Mountjoy, Waldemar Borrero, and Philip Chapman. Others present were Parks and Recreation Director Catherine Vorrasi, Parks & Recreation Manager Kaitlyn Rivera, and Legal Assistant Katie Newton serving as Recording Secretary. Several dozen members of the public were also present.
3. PRESENTATION: Ms. Vorrasi explained that the Committee was convened at the Park to receive a presentation from Mr. Tommy Goad regarding a proposal to put a Disc Golf Course on the property. Each Committee Member, along with 8-10 members of the public, would walk with Mr. Goad. No Board Discussion or Public Comment will be taking place at Simmons Road Park. All comments and discussion will take place at the Commission Chambers at the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Scheduled for 5:00 pm.

Chair Camera went in the first group, and then the other committee members took their turns touring with Mr. Goad and members of the public in the following order: Member Norris, Member Borrero, Member Chapman, Member Mountjoy, and Vice Chair Cocchi. Each Committee member heard the presentation and was able to ask questions of Mr. Goad. Once their tour was over, the Committee members and members of the public dispersed.
4. ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, the meeting was adjourned at **4:22 pm**.

Recording Secretary
Katie Newton

Chairperson
Tom Camera