



WINDERMERE PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
July 8, 2021 AGENDA

In order to maintain a 1hour time schedule, the committee will address the monthly agenda items only unless time remains for New Business discussion at the end. Agenda items should always be submitted in advance for committee consideration.

1. OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minute Limit):

2. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Events:

i. Windermere Pet Fest

1. Saturday, March 5, 2022

ii. 19th Annual UMC Run Among the Lakes

1. Race date October 16, 2021
2. Report Nora

iii. Halloween Costume Parade and Hayride Saturday, October 30,2021

b. Tennis

i.Tennis

1. Report from Tennis Subcommittee (Doug, Tracy, Sherry, Dena)
2. Self-locking gates – report from Tonya
3. Main St courts resurfacing
4. Recco for Marcelo – Orange County Parks & Rec

c. Parks

1. WRC

- Playground Equipment
 - Proposal from Swartz to TC for approval in July
- Pickleball –
 - Quote from Varsity Courts – waiting for new quote
 - Nidy Sports - \$48,565
 - Sport Surfaces - \$39,600
 - Report from Subcommittee about leveling pavement
 - Report from Doug on recent survey – see attached
- Kayak Launcher –
- Kayak/Canoe storage – 15 feet long X 6 feet deep X 7 feet tall – 18 canoes
- Paver Walkway to Tennis Courts –
 - Expense approved – report from Tonya on installation date

- Front Entrance
- 2. Fernwood and Lake Bessie Parks –
 - On hold until stormwater repairs are complete – probably early 2022

d. P&R Website – Dena Reports

3. **NEW BUSINESS**

a. Lake St Park & Fernwood Parks – Bill Martini has asked us to consider making these parks private, as the noise and nuisance being experienced by residents has gotten very bad in the past couple of years. See also letter from Leshia to TC.

b. Procurement and Public Notice Requirements

c. Robert – New process for new park amenities?

d. MINUTES

i. Approval - June Meeting and Workshop Meeting Minutes (Attached-Committee Option)

e. Liaison Reports

i. Mandy David

ii. Tonya Elliott-Moore

4. NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday August 12, 2021

5. ADJOURN

Town of Windermere

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Mayor
GARY BRUHN



Town Manager
ROBERT SMITH

Clerk
DOROTHY BURKHALTER

May 26, 2016

To: Whom It May Concern

This letter is provided as a reference for the services of the MG Tennis Academy and Mr. Marcelo Gouts. The MG Tennis Academy has been providing tennis lessons and clinics since 2009. These professional lessons are taught by the academy's tennis pros at the Town of Windermere's 2 tennis facilities.

The MG Tennis Academy has provided for both adult and kid's lessons at the town's recreational facilities. All of the feedback provided by town residents and guests has always been positive. We have been especially happy with Marcelo's support of the kid's tennis activities which is at the core of our interest in helping build a town grassroots tennis program.

With our experience over the last 7 years, we wholeheartedly endorse the services of the MG Tennis Academy, and are happy to endorse the professionalism and service quality provided by his firm. If you wish to contact any of the committee members with any questions, please feel free to reach out to the Town Administration for direct numbers.

Best Wishes,

Windermere Volunteer Parks & Recreation Committee

Results Summary

113 Responses

# Respondents	Respondent Class
52	Tennis Members (Self identified)
61	Non tennis Members

Tennis Member 40% Response Rate (130 paid tennis members)

Overall Pickleball Play Participation

43% Play at least monthly
57% Do not play regularly

Overall Support

86% Somewhat or very likely interested in using courts
69% Very likely to use courts
100% Pickleballers (47) all very likely

Tennis Members (53)

44% Regular Pickleballers
56% No regular players
73% Tennis members, Non Pickleballers : Still Somewhat likely or very likely in using courts

Non Tennis Members (60)

42% Regular Pickleballers
58% Do not play pickleball regularly

71% Non tennis members, Non Pickleballers still 71% somewhat likely or very likely interested

Good evening Council,

When we moved to Butler Street 23 years ago we were thrilled to live next to Fernwood Park. Our children walked to the dock daily, we had quick access to launching our boat and we watched the fireworks nightly.

We have all noticed that things have changed and I would like to ask the Council to look at what we can do to bring Fernwood back to a community park.

Living next to Fernwood has become difficult. In the last few years we have been faced with speeding and drunk drivers, beer bottles being thrown out of windows as cars drive down the street, yelling matches, fighting in the park, people defecating in the park and this weekend I personally watched businesses using our park for profit. We all knew that our park was being used to ferry people for pay to Bird Island but this weekend I personally asked a large group of people exiting a black pontoon boat if they paid the driver to bring them back and forth to Bird Island. They openly said yes as they probably do not know that is not allowed. They were carrying a garbage bag full of trash ready to leave it next to the overflowing trash can and got in their three cars and left. I have given the boat FL number to the Chief but he has unfortunately not been able to identify the boat.

For those of us who live next to the park we are unfortunately paying the price for the open access this park encourages. I do understand that our parks are public but I ask again that we look into limiting the parking to those who have a boat ramp pass. With the new stormwater plan coming to Fernwood I am guessing the parking will be even more limited in size. Limiting the parking for residence pass holders will make it more difficult for those who are abusing our park and using it for profit as well as ensure that the residences have a place to park once the stormwater is in place. On big weekends and Holidays there can be up to 25-30 cars parked at Fernwood.

Another discouragement would be to move the gate forward. If the ramp gate moves forward (but far enough off the street not to block driveway access, rarely is there more than two boats ready to launch) it would deter people from driving through the park and dropping off their friends and alcohol. A walk through gate would be accessible to anyone.

I do understand that by cutting off the general public parking at Fernwood people may park on our road. Would we be able to place "Residence Only" parking signs on Butler 6-7th and Forest Street. Some of our streets already have No Parking signs next to the parks. I understand that it may inconvenience our small town staff slightly by having to print "Residence" passes but it is not near the inconvenience that the residents who live next to Fernwood have had to endure over the last few years. Giving each house 3-4 signs for their cars should be sufficient. From my observation our home is typically the one who parks on the street and typically only when we have multiple kids back at home.

The block of Butler and Forest currently has 13 kids under 6 that live on it. The fact that we have let our little neighborhood park turn into a park where people from Orange and Lake County come to get to the Bird Island Party is not safe. Cars leave speeding, drinking is heavy at Bird Island and fights have broken out between rival groups of people. I know our hope is that Bird Island gets shut down but we have endured a lot and if there are a few steps that we can take to help the issue I believe it is worth the effort, don't you?

A few changes will really help deter the issue we are having at Fernwood.

-Move the locking gate forward so the drive access is towards the entrance of the park.

- Place "Residence Only" parking signs on Butler 6-7th and Forest.
- Print "Residence" signs for those who live in that area so they are able to use the street for personal parking when needed.

I have met with almost all of the Council at Fernwood on this issue and very much appreciate your time. I know each of you that I have met feel this concern. It is now time that we all work together to help curb this issue and take an action step.

I emailed each of you separately so that you may share your thoughts back with me and what next steps we can take.

Thank you so much for serving our town.

Lesha Miller
625 Butler Street

**Town of Windermere
Parks and Recreation Committee
Proposed Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2021**

Members Present: Doug Bowman, Nora Brophy, Tracy Mitchell, Dena O'Malley, Cindy Hunter, Leshia Miller

Others Present: Mandy David, Tonya Elliott-Moore, Karen Fay, Danielle Couch

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Nora Brophy based on a quorum present to conduct business.

Business Agenda

- A. **Resident Guest Comments** – Karen Fay recommended to the Board to research plexi-cushion tennis court construction similar to what is at the USTA Center. The committee commented that they will follow suit and research for the resurfacing of courts at WRC within 2 years. Doug noted that these were resurfaced by Nidy Sports, and they will interview Nidy for ideas.

Old Business/Events

- A. Windermere PetFest – Nora indicated that there is now news for the spring 2022 event
- B. 20th Annual UMC Run Among the Lakes – Nora noted that the 10% discount brought in 125 registered participants, and the new t-shirt design is beautiful
- C. Halloween Costume Parade & Hayride – Event Chairperson Tracy Mitchell indicated that the bulk of the activities will be outdoors for the event. Tables will be placed outside with the goal of attracting outdoor entertainment as well.
- D. Tennis Updates – Doug noted that 11 kids had participated in the first summer camp session. The committee also discussed the continuing problem of tennis pros occupying the courts with non-residents and depriving residents of play time. Tonya indicated that she will have estimated costs on a key fob system that could assist with the non-resident play issue. Dena also noted that the WRC tennis lights have been on as late as 10:30 pm, and Tonya noted this concern.

Council Member and Liaison Mandy David mentioned that the Main Street court resurfacing had been approved by Town Council.

Parks Updates

- E. Central Park – Nora indicated that the trees are in and the waste stations are in as well.
- F. Windermere Rec Center – Playground approval to go on the next Town Council agenda for October. The committee requested clarification if the

neighborhood surrounding WRC needed notification per a new standard mentioned by the Town Manager.

- G. WRC Paver Walkway to Tennis Courts – This was approved and seconded as a \$3217.50 expense from PR funds
- H. WRC Pickleball – Development of a pickleball survey was discussed by the committee. Doug mentioned he could work up something in Microsoft forms for the next meeting. Doug also noted that the committee had an appointment with Varsity Sports to discuss the asphalt surface leveling issue.
- I. WRC Kayak Launch – No additional news or discussion on this topic

New Business

- A. Minutes Approval – Meeting minutes from the May meeting was approved and seconded.
- B. Liaison Reports – No official Liaison report was presented.
- C. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 8th at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall.