

Town of Windermere
Parks and Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 10, 2023

Members Present: Nora Brophy, Dena O'Malley, Tracy Mitchell, Sue Ann Reichard, Jill Ata

Others Present: Travis Mathias, Mandy David, Lesha Miller, Steve Dimino, Tracy McLaughlin

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

Business Agenda

Open Forum

A. Lesha Miller addressed the committee. She complimented the new pickleball courts and said they are a great addition to the town amenities. Lesha also feels that the improvements made at Fernwood Park to increase security have been effective and have cut down on loitering. Currently, gates are secured at dusk. Lesha made a request to the committee that the gates could stay open later so that residents could enjoy a sunset cruise or firework viewing on the lake. A request was made to change the gate/park hours to operating hours from 5 am – 11 pm.

B. Members discussed the memorial service held for Doug Bowman. Everyone agreed the service went smoothly and was well attended. Dena O'Malley made a motion to approve expenditures up to \$500 for reimbursement for memorial service. Sue Ann Reichard seconded the motion.

C. The committee discussed a tribute to Doug Bowman. Dena O'Malley made a motion to rename the Windermere Recreation Center courts to the Bowman Courts in honor of Doug. Sue Ann Reichard seconded the motion.

Old Business/Items

Parks & Events Updates

A. 22nd Annual UMC Run Among the Lakes – There was general discussion around the t-shirts for this year’s race. Nora presented a new type of shirt material with a fully printed design. She will procure a detailed quote from the vendor. The committee discussed color combinations.

New sponsorships have been secured with Florida Ski School and Paradise Grills.

Dena will coordinate volunteers again this year.

Nora noted that she has contacted Orlando Health to renew their contract for RATL for the following year.

B. Halloween Costume Parade and Hayride - scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2023. Lakeside Realty Windermere will sponsor the event for \$500. Committee must come up with alternatives for controlling the crowd waiting on the hayride.

C. Tennis – signage at both courts needs to be updated and consolidated. Tennis/Pickleball socials will be postponed until the cooler weather arrives.

D. Parks – signage at all parks needs to be updated.

Jill reviewed several options available for both activity areas at Palmer Park including a zipline. Three quotes will be requested from vendors for new playground equipment.

Sue Ann will coordinate the purchase of a soccer goal not to exceed \$2000. This goal will be secured in the grassy area behind Town Hall.

E. Membership – committee member Cindy Hunter has submitted her resignation.

The committee discussed new member applications submitted by Tracy McLaughlin and Steve Dimino. Sue Ann Reichard made a motion to accept both new members and Dena O’Malley seconded. All in favor.

New Business/Items

A. Meeting Minutes – A motion was made and seconded to approve the June 8, 2023 meeting minutes.

B. After discussing the request by Leesha Miller to extend the hours at Fernwood Park, Dena O’Malley made a motion to change park hours to 5 am – 11 pm. Sue Ann Reichard seconded the motion. All in favor. Council member Mandy David will present the recommendation to Town Council

C. Liaison Mandy David – Council member Mandy David told the committee that Town Council will reevaluate all the events held at Town Hall throughout the year. Several neighbors have complained about noise and limited parking. Nora reminded Mandy that P & R has two big events that raise funds for the town. If the town limits P & R events, funding for the parks would need to be added to the Town's budget.

Mandy reported that Town council will reevaluate their relationship with Healthy West Orange moving forward.

Discussion regarding construction of public bathrooms near Town Hall has been tabled for the time being.

D. Public Works, Travis Mathias – Travis reported on a few P & R items. He noted that work will begin shortly at Lake Street Park and the dock.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:47 p.m.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 14th at 5:00 p.m. in Town Hall.