

**Town of Windermere  
Parks and Recreation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2024 5:00pm**

Members present: Dena O'Malley, Sue Anne Reichard, Jill Ata, Tracy Mitchell, Tracy McLaughlin, Steven Dimino, Jeanne-Marie Olache  
Christine Yonge, Kelley Duell  
Council Liaison: Mandy David  
Director of Public Works: Tonya Elliott-Moore

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:14pm by Dena O'Malley based on a quorum present to conduct business.
2. Doug Bowman - Town Council approved naming Windermere Recreation Center tennis courts Bowman Courts. The committee would like to set up an event in Doug's honor. Tracy Mitchell will reach out to Marcelo to assist with organizing this event, tentatively scheduled for January 2025.
3. Event Updates:
  - A. 22nd Annual Run Among The Lakes will be held on Saturday October 5, 2024. The new cart path at 9th and Oakdale is too narrow for 10K runners to safely pass through. Therefore, Sommer Sports presented a new route. The goal of the new route is to avoid the barricade, make up the lost mileage in a way that is safe and causes the least amount of traffic disruptions. Kelley volunteered to review the new 2024 Route presented by Sommer Sports and provide input. Dena met with Kim and presented the first artwork sample for the race. We discussed changes to the shirts. Lonnie will DJ/announce the event for a fee of \$600. Advertisement changes were discussed, focusing more on digital advertising for 2024 with a shift in timing.
  - B. Halloween Costume Parade and Hayride will be held on October 26, 2024.
  - C. PetFest was held on February 24, 2025. The title sponsor has since changed ownership and other outlying challenges with the 2025 event were discussed at length. Tracy McLaughlin made a motion to suspend PetFest for 2025. Tracy Mitchell seconded the motion. All members voted in favor to approve the motion. The committee will consider adding a pet costume contest to the Halloween event on October 26th.

4. Tennis: Maintenance discussion took place. Wind screens and door lock breaks to be addressed. Pickleball: Net repair vs replacement costs were discussed. Tonya will look into net repair options. The committee would like to include additional pickleball options in the strategic planning session.

5. Parks:

Windermere Rec Center: The parking lot lights have been repaired by Duke Energy. We are encouraged to continue to report outages on the Duke Energy website.

Lake Down: TOW plans to install fencing with an area for residents to access the park. Tonya reported that a workshop was held on May 8th with residents to discuss the plans.

Central Park: The committee would like to repave the old walking path that is in disrepair and connect the two play areas, adding bumpers, mulch, and proceed with removal of a scrub tree blocking the connection. The committee would like to honor the centennial celebration by calling this new path around Central Park “The Centennial Parkway” or Path.

Palmer Park: Renovations have been progressing well. Jill provided an update. We still need swings moved. We would also like to add additional equipment. Scope will be sent to Tonya. We discussed adding a pavilion for tables in the shade. One soccer goal was purchased for the green space. Tracy McLaughlin made a motion to have Tonya order a 2nd soccer goal for the Palmer Park green space. Jill seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the motion.

Park Signage: Need to consolidate signage and determine exactly which signs we need at each park, and trail signs. Tracy Mitchell has been in contact with the company that makes signs for the town. She will bring information to review at the next regular meeting.

6. New Business:

- a. Nora Brophy submitted her resignation last meeting. She is moving out of state. Tracy McLaughlin made a motion to approve a farewell celebration budget for Nora, not to exceed \$500. Tracy Mitchell seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the motion.
- b. Dina presented the 2024-2025 financial information and 5 year capital improvement plan draft.

- c. New Member vacancy: Sue Ann Reichard made a motion to approve the application for Christine Yonge. Jill seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the application for Christine Yonge as a new Parks and Rec committee member.
- d. Liaison Reports provided by Tonya Elliott-Moore and Mandy David
- e. Jill made a motion to approve April Meeting Minutes. Steve seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the motion.
- f. Dates set for upcoming planning meetings.
  - RATL Planning - June 20 9:30am
  - Strategic Planning I - June 27th at 5:00pm
  - Strategic Planning II - July 18th at 5:30pmDena O'Malley made a motion to move Parks and Rec regular monthly meetings from 5pm to 5:30pm start time. Sue Ann seconded the motion. All voted in favor to approve the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm. The next Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be Thursday June 13, 2024.