

Recreation and Open Space Advisory Committee

Date: July 18, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Extension Auditorium
22712 W Newberry Road, Newberry, FL 32669

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 pm

Members Present: Sarah Bruning, Stephen Rodriguez, Steven Scott (Chair),

Members Absent: Leonard Caillouet (alternate) Christopher Potts

3. Approval of the Agenda

Stephen Rodriguez made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Sarah Bruning second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sarah Bruning made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, Stephen Rodriguez second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

5. Parks & Open Space Director Update - Jason Maurer

Parks Director Jason Maurer provided an update on the Departments and the parks amenities new, old and the ones that are currently in the works, such as West End. Cuscowilla swimming lessons on the weekend have been going great thus far, there are currently waitlist, because we do not have enough lifeguard to accommodate everyone.

Summer camp has been going great as well, each week there is new activities and new adventure for the kids to dive into.

Work is currently going on over at Wes End, the survey was done, and certain trees have been tagged.

There will be an annual conference in August that Jason will be attending, for educational purposes for the parks.

Poe Spring has been really busy since the start of the season. Improvement for the bathroom facilities is in the works to take place after the season is over.

6. Park Projects Update - Ed Williams

- **Veterans Memorial Park** - Construction continues with projected completion around Labor Day. A ribbon cutting with the Board & stakeholders will be scheduled in the coming weeks.
- **MKR/Kate Barnes** - After several meetings & correspondence with the water management district, it seems we've addressed their concerns allowing JBPro to move forward with finishing the construction documents. Once that's done, we will put this project out for bids with construction scheduled to begin later this year.
- **Poe Springs** - Two projects underway here, the first being replacing the existing spring-side restrooms and the second being improvements to the boat launch.
 - Restrooms - Construction documents have been completed and we are working with Procurement to put this project out for bids with construction slated to begin October 1st.
 - Boat Launch - The water management district requested delineation of the wetlands and high water levels in the vicinity of the proposed improvements. JBPro brought on an environmental subconsultant to assist with this work. The SRWMD came for a site visit, and we are awaiting their feedback.
- **Copeland & Monteocha Parks** - We've just received the boundary & topographic surveys from our A&E consultant. The next phase will be schematic design for the proposed improvements to each park. We anticipate this work will take 6-8 months, after which the bidding & construction phases will occur.
- **Cuscowilla**
 - Pavilion - Construction was completed in mid-June.
 - Lighting - After several months of coordination with Duke Energy we have a photometric lighting plan for the main parking lot and a lighting service agreement outlining the upfront & continuing costs. This was submitted as an FY25 budget proposal and was tentatively approved provided a more affordable solar option cannot be found.
- **Jonesville Park** - Two capital projects underway here, the first being construction of a new soccer stadium and some new pickleball courts and the second being renovation of 2 soccer fields.

- Soccer Stadium & Pickleball - Purchase order for A&E was issued on 6/4. Survey work is almost complete, and we already have a schematic design for the bleachers & press box building with changing/restrooms for the officials and storage below. We anticipate this work will take 6-8 months, after which the bidding & construction phases will occur.
- Renovation of Soccer Fields 2 & 3 - Sod installation took place near the end of May, and top-dressing, stabilizing, and final fertilization was completed the second week of July.
- **West End Park** (former golf course) - The County closed on this property on 6/14, and with the assistance of Parks & Public Works staff cleaning & demolition operations are well underway. We are working as quickly as we can, in coordination with the local organizing committee, to get the site ready for the World Masters Athletics (WMAi25) event. The impervious footprint onsite will actually be very small with the cross-country course as well as the throwing area being mostly turf. Many of the amenities for the event itself will be temporary in nature such as tents, bleachers, portable toilets, etc. A community engagement meeting is scheduled for Aug 13th to receive feedback on what the community envisions for this park moving forward.

7. Discuss Day/Time/Location of Future Meetings

September 19th @4:00pm

Veterans Memorial Park

8. Public Comment

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 pm

2. Election of the Chair and Vice Chair

Stephen Rodriguez made a motion for Mr. Scott to remain the Chair; Sarah Brunning second; unanimous approval; motion carried.

Seth Wood resigned from the Committee. The election of the Vice Chair was tabled to our September 19 meeting.