



FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD  
MAY 8, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

The May 8, 2018 Freeport Recreation Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Racyne Digges at 5:35 pm. The meeting was held at the Freeport Regional Sports Complex.

Board members present: Racyne Digges, Monnie Mixon, Trent DiMaggio, Jeffrey Weller

Staff present: Latilda Neel/Planning Director-Board Liaison, Charlie Simmons/Parks & Recreation Director, Beth McCombs/Planning Technician

Others present: Michael Strickland, Paul McDowell.

Before the group began their tour of the park, Neel handed out an e-mail from Craig Hailey, who was not able to attend. Hailey expressed a concern that Hammock Bay has already outgrown the four pickleball courts and that the Sports Complex could handle some of the overflow. Simmons indicated to the group that he plans to restripe the 3 tennis courts for both tennis and pickleball play.

#### FIELD 4

Paul McDowell presented information regarding a proposed collegiate baseball league. He described the league and requested consideration if the league is approved to add a Fenway Park-style wall to Field 4. McDowell also outlined the fundraising opportunities for Freeport High School in conjunction with the league program.

#### SPLASHPAD

Charlie Simmons gave an update on the grant application for the splash pad; the city will know if the grant is approved within the next month or so. The City placed money in the budget to build the splash pad but are waiting to see if the grant is funded. Simmons indicated the boundaries of the splashpad between the batting cages and play area and talked about the various features

#### NEW RAISED CROSSWALK BETWEEN COURTS/FIELDS

Simmons discussed the new raised crosswalk which has been installed to provide safety for children crossing the road from the fields to the courts/bathrooms. He asked for the Boards assistance in getting the word out that the ADA-compliant raised crosswalk was constructed to improve child safety.

#### REMODEL OF COURTS BATHROOMS STORAGE TO PROVIDE CONCESSIONS

Simmons outlined a plan to add a porch area in front of the storage shed between the basketball courts and tennis courts and to remodel the main storage area to a concession stand for use by the fields.

#### FIELDS MAINTENANCE

Simmons showed the group the aeration that has been done on the fields and explained the weed/grow seasons.



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WEST MULTIPURPOSE FIELD

Simmons noted that while 2 ballfields had previously been approved for the west field, Fields 4 & 5 had been skinned so that the west field could be kept open for events such as the Westwood Rodeo, etc. Simmons noted that he plans to build additional bathrooms and a storage area to replace the one to be remodeled for a concession area at the opposite end of the fields. The group discussed ideas for the area; fencing the area with a perimeter track as a dog park area when it isn't being used for events, adding benches and pavilions under the trees for seating, etc.

TRAILS GRANT UPDATE/SITWORK

Simmons discussed the trails grant application for the area of the park south of Hammock Trail East. He described the sensory stations and fitness stations along the proposed trail. The trail would also provide to an expansion of the disc golf system in the park. Simmons stated that Jay Odom had volunteered some sitework and Walton County was providing some site work. The needed additional disc golf holes will be added along the trail as well to expand that program.

FUTURE AMPHITHEATRE

Simmons discussed the possibility of a amphitheater/stage being located on the north side of the soccer/football fields for large outdoor concerts, festivals and other types of regional events.

PARKS & RECREATION FACEBOOK PAGE

Beth McCombs announced that the newly redesigned Parks & Recreation Facebook Page was up and running. She and Charlie will be coordinating on recreation/facilities updates to the Page. The Board discussed placing the survey for the skatepark and a survey regarding future facilities on the page. Latilda suggested sending out a notice in the water bill about the page, liking and following the page and taking the surveys there.

SURVEYS FOR FACEBOOK PAGE

SKATEPARK

- Yes/No to skatepark
- Yes/No to Active User
- Location Options/ Beside City Pool or FRSC
- Utilization: skateboards/bikes/rollerblades
- Motorized/Non-Motorized
- Budget/Grant/Community Sponsors
- Other considerations
- Demographics on responder

FUTURE FRSC FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

- Yes/No on Converting Storage Area at Courts to Concession Stand



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- Yes/No on adding bathrooms/storage Area to West Field
- Yes/No on Keeping west field open on one-time events
- Yes/No on Fencing West Field Area for dog park
- Yes/No on future Amphitheatre on N side of Soccer/Football fields
- Other Ideas for future improvements
- Demographics on responder

Chair Digges adjourned the meeting at 7.55 p.m.