

FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD
January 23, 2023, Bi-Annual Meeting Minutes
6:00 pm /Freeport City Hall Council Chambers

I. Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Dimaggio at 6:00 pm.

Board Members present: Larry Cato, Jeff Weller, and Peter Dimaggio Chairman, Denise Lassiter, Monnie Mixon.

Staff present: Samantha Graves/Senior Planner, Marge Gay/Planning Coordinator and Travis Digges/Parks & Recreation Director.

II. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance

The Invocation was given by Chairman Dimaggio, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

III. Approval of Minutes – Regular meeting February 9, 2022

Monnie Mixon made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Denise Lassiter and approved unanimously.

IV. City Parks Updates

Director Digges updated the Board on new additions and projects that the Parks and Recreation department has accomplished since the last meeting.

- The pavilion at the Barrier Free Park has been completed and the packet for paving the pathway was sent out for bid. No one returned a bid so the packet will be resent.
- Laird Park boardwalks have been pressure washed.
- There is a new Parks/Roads employee.
- Marse Landing packet for redoing the parking lot were sent out but no bids were received. May combine several paving jobs the city has and resend packets. Framing and deck repair has begun. We are in the process of transitioning from wood decking to composite decking as repairs are done.
- New addition to the baseball/softball storage building at the Sports Complex is completed. The Disc Golf Course is being redesigned and the locations of holes 8, 9 and 10 must be relocated due to the start of construction on the new Middle School. These holes were located on the edge of park property and on property Jay Odom allow us to put them.

FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD
January 23, 2023, Bi-Annual Meeting Minutes

Once Director Digges completed his update, Chairman Dimaggio asked about the smell coming from the lift station in front of the Sports Complex. Director Digges advised that the smell was coming from the new lift station and that the Sewer Supervisor, Paul Johnson is working on the issue and trying different options to reduce/eliminate the odor.

Director Digges moved on to discuss the location of the new pickleball courts approved by the City Council. He offered 2 locations for consideration.

- At the City Sports Complex in the current location of the shuffleboards
 - Room for 4 courts
 - Some drainage issues which would need to be overcome.
 - Additional Lighting
 - Plenty of parking
 - Concern that the existing basketball courts are very busy at night and crowd that uses them may not mix well with pickle ball crowd.

- Behind City Hall in the area where there is currently a basketball court
 - Room for 3 courts
 - Would create an adult presence.
 - Plenty of shade/trees
 - Plenty of parking

A discussion ensued regarding the preferred location.

Denise Lassiter stated that her experience is that the older citizens tend to use the pickleball courts in the morning and a younger crowd tends to use it at night so the mix with the basketball crowd may not be a problem.

Jeff Weller stated that moving some recreation away from the Sports Complex and over to the City Complex may be of some benefit but would not outweigh the 4 courts space available at the Sports Complex.

Denise Lassiter advised that she plays pickleball at the Dune Lakes location and some parents bring their children to sports practice there and while their child is practicing, the parent will play pickleball so that would be a possible benefit for the Sports Complex location.

Citizen Doug Dunham spoke on the subject. He wanted to know if lighting would be part of the budget and how the budget was calculated.

FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD
January 23, 2023, Bi-Annual Meeting Minutes

Director Digges advised that the City Council came up with the budget based on the County bid sheet for the Dune Lake pickleball courts.

After discussion was completed, Chairman Dimaggio called for a recommendation.

Jeff Weller recommended the Sports Complex as the preferred location of the new pickleball courts. Monnie Mixon seconded the recommendation, and all were in favor. The motion to recommend the Sports Complex passed unanimously.

Chairman Dimaggio asked if more batting cages at the Sports Complex could be considered. Director Digges stated that the location of those cages could be an issue. The only place there may be room is between fields 4 and 5. He would add this item to his budget list for next year.

Lighting contracts, issues and electricity budget were discussed. The city allowed for \$100000.00 budget for lighting so Director Digges is working of estimates for a 3 phase plan from 2 different companies to see what can be done within the budget.

V. Adjournment

Chair Dimaggio called for a motion to adjourn. Monnie Mixon motioned to adjourn. This was seconded by Larry Cato. The meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Minutes prepared by Marge Gay and adopted by the Freeport Recreation Board on

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Chairman Dimaggio

Attest:

Kathie Gatewood, City Clerk