



Freeport
Recreation Board
April 2, 2024
Regular Meeting Package



FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD
April 2, 2024 Bi-Annual Meeting
6:00 pm /Freeport City Hall Council Chambers

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Meeting Called to Order
- II. Invocation / Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Election of new Chair
- IV. Election of new Vice Chair
- V. Approval of Minutes – Bi-Annual Meeting September 12, 2023
- VI. City Parks Updates
- VII. Planning Updates
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD

September 12, 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 6:02 pm.

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

Staff present: Samantha Graves/Senior Planner, Charles Bartlett/Parks & Recreation Director, and Anne McKenzie/Events Manager/Recreation Coordinator.

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 January 23, 2023

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

- The paving at the Barrier Free Park has been completed.
- Laird Park boardwalks have been pressure washed.
- There is a new Roads employee, Mr. Gene.
- The project to change the decking at Marse Landing from wood to composite is being completed in phases. The first phase is complete and the next phase will begin when this winter.
- Holes 8, 9, and 10 at the Disc Golf Course have been relocated due to the construction at the Middle School. Hole number 7 was also moved to keep them on the same side of the road. The parks department will be installing new trash cans at the course.
- A new “Spider” climbing net will be installed at the Barrier Free Park to replace the old one behind City Hall. The old one is being removed due to the expansion of the vehicle access area at the Government complex in conjunction with the construction of the new Community Center.

FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD

September 12, 2023, Bi-Annual Meeting Minutes

- New safety netting will be installed on baseball fields 3 and 4 at the Sports Park. Charles is investigating options for installing a wind screen on the tennis court fence. Jeff Weller suggested that Director Bartlett reach out to Russ Tommy at Southern Image, he might be a good resource for the screen. Bartlett told the members that some of the playground equipment was also being replaced at the Sports Park due to wear.
- Director Bartlett has received requests for more batting cages, so he is working on a plan of where they can be incorporated at the Sports Park. He suggested that a location between fields 4 and 5 might be an option. Chairman Dimaggio suggested that Charles take a look at the cages at Dunes Lake baseball fields; they are more flexible and probably less expensive.
- Parks and Recreation has three new employees. Bartlett introduced Anne McKenzie, the new Events Manager/Recreation Coordinator. William Canaday is a new full time Parks employee. Bill Thompson is the new evening and weekend Parks and Recreation employee. The members were pleased that there is now an employee on duty in the evenings and on weekends.
- There were 2 separate lightning strikes that caused damage at the Sports Park. The Little League shed power was damaged but has now been repaired. There was fire/smoke damage to the concession stand; Charles is getting quotes to pressure wash and paint it.

Jeff Weller asked if Director Bartlett thought the Multi-purpose field would again suffer damage during the soccer season. Charles explained that the field is in better shape now than it has been in the past, but it would probably take a beating due to high usage. Chairman Dimaggio noted that staff is moving the goals around and commented that he thinks leaving the goals out there is a good idea.

Larry Cato asked that since Hole 7 has been moved, would it be possible to move the “no parking” signs across the street as well. Director Bartlett agreed, noting that it might help keep the construction trucks from damaging the irrigation.

Trint DiMaggio asked if there was any update on the possibility of using the Rodeo field for other purposes. Charles said that he has discussed it; if that were to be done, it would need to be sodded and irrigated. When the rodeo used it, the sod would probably need to be replaced. Denise Lassiter asked if that might be a good place to install the batting cages; DiMaggio agreed that would be a way to pull some of the traffic away from the ball fields. Director Bartlett pointed out that the area is also used for overflow parking.

FREEPORT RECREATION BOARD
September 12, 2023, Bi-Annual Meeting Minutes

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 6:26pm.

Minutes prepared by Samantha Graves and adopted by the Freeport Recreation Board on _____.

Chairman Dimaggio

Attest:

Kathie Gatewood, City Clerk