

**PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COUNCIL  
MINUTES FROM MEETING OF MAY 21, 2025**

The Marion County Parks & Recreation Advisory Council (PRAC) held a public meeting on May 21, 2025, at the Marion County Parks & Recreation Main Office, 111 SE 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Ocala, FL 34471.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jerry Furlong, Chair  
Curt Bromund  
Joe Reichel  
Brian Cretul

**COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT**

**STAFF PRESENT**

Jim Couillard, Director  
Sara Lambert, Community Engagement Coordinator

**CALL TO ORDER**

Jerry Furlong officially called the meeting to order at 3:07 PM, followed by the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Sara Lambert took roll call.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jerry called for a motion to approve the minutes. Brian motioned to approve the minutes, Curt seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

**STAFF ITEMS**

- A. Park Rules Resolution Review and Comments - PRAC members were asked to review the Parks & Recreation Rules Resolution and provide comments and recommendations for changes.
  - 1. Jim introduced the Resolution and opened the floor for comments and questions.
  - 2. There was some discussion regarding wording, with the Council having clarifying questions. Overall, the Council was very pleased with the way the Resolution was presented to them. Jim brought forth the only amendment to be made
    - i. Amendment to Section III Recreation Activities- Carney Island Recreation and Conservation Area should be added to the list of parks where metal detecting is prohibited. The State of Florida has labeled the park a master file site.
  - 3. Jerry called for a motion to approve sending the Resolution to Administration and Legal for approval as amended. Curt made a motion, and Joe seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.
- B. Draft Sponsorship Policy
  - 1. Jim introduced the policy sponsorship policy and explained why this is an excellent topic for PRAC's review. He opened the floor for questions and comments regarding the policy.

2. Council had a few questions or comments regarding the following: mandatory minimums for naming rights, valuation of in-kind donations and services, how the level of recognition corresponds to the donation amount, and valuation for “substantial donations.”
  3. Recommended amendments to the Policy include adding a “naming registry” under Sponsorship Options and developing a corresponding flow chart to illustrate the process for potential sponsors, as well as creating a clear list of specific exclusions for sponsors.
  4. Jerry called for a motion to approve the policy as reviewed with the recommended amendments. Joe motioned, Curt seconded. The motion passed unanimously without discussion.
- C. Belleview City Ordinance 2025-04 Banning Tobacco Use
1. Jim introduced the ordinance and reiterated to PRAC that we oversee the Belleview Sports Complex.
  2. Jim shared that the City of Belleview will soon erect signage on the portion of the park owned by the City.
  3. Jim shared the ordinance with our Assistant County Administrator and reiterated that PRAC has always been somewhat against smoking in parks.
  4. Curt shared a potential Marion County ordinance that he drafted after comparing the State Statute (386.209 Regulation of smoking preempted to state.) and the City’s ordinance.
  5. Curt shared with the Council data showing the efficacy of signage as enforcement.
  6. There was discussion about the potential for pushback should Parks & Recreation present our ordinance regarding smoking in parks.
  7. Jim shared that from a health standpoint and with parks being very kid-centric, people don’t care for smoking in parks.
  8. There was discussion about having designated smoking areas in parks.
  9. Jerry remarked that he is in favor of this draft ordinance.
  10. Joe asked how PRAC can help move this forward and Jim shared that we will run the ordinance through staff, make any necessary edits then run it up the hill to Administration and Legal at which point, we will bring it back to PRAC before going to the Board.
  11. Brian- Does the City of Ocala have a comparable ordinance? Jim- We would need to look into that.
  12. Curt suggested using creative language on signage versus saying “No Smoking.”
  13. Joe- Is it good that Belleview has brought this forward? Jim- Yes, it is.
  14. Jerry called for a motion to present the draft ordinance as presented and to move forward with Parks & Recreation staff review. Brian motioned, Joe seconded. The motion passed unanimously with no discussion.

### **Old Business**

None.

### **Council Items**

### **Closing Comments**

Jim shared that Chair Bryant has selected a replacement for Pat Gabriel, her name is Kathy Funke. He also shared that we have hired an Airport Manager and he is set to start soon. Jim gave a brief outline of the new manager’s work history and shared that

we are looking forward to adding him to the team.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:16 PM

**SIGNED** \_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Furlong, Chair

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

Minutes submitted by Sara Lambert