

Farragut Parks and Athletics Council Minutes
Farragut Community Center Large Classroom
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Present: Mark Geller, Dian Hall, Riley Honken, Jeff Ullian, Derek Wright, Anabel Zablah (youth representative), Joe La Croix, Debbie Pinchok, guests David Smoak, Mayor Ron Williams, Ron Pinchok

Absent: Brian Walker

Staff present: Ron Oestreich, Park and Recreation Director, Lauren Cox, Parks Manager

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 by chairperson Jeff Ullian.
2. Drew moved to accept the minutes of the October 17 meeting. Seconded by Derek Wright and approved.
3. Added to the CIP/and or general fund budget for 2024 were the electronic gates for the McFee Park entrances. They are on hold presently due to the pricing of the gate installation.
4. Ron Oestreich shared information on the topics that were opening for discussion with the large group of pickleball supporters and the small group of Brass Lantern and other neighborhoods close to McFee Park courts who were concerned about noise issues. There were many interested in speaking and he asked visitors to keep their remarks to two minutes and to focus on solutions. Some want to continue playing and see what has worked in other locations. Ron Pinchok shared that the POP (Pavilion of Pickleball) at Cedar Bluff Racquet Club is adding four more pickleball courts and that the tennis complex on Ball Camp Rd. is being converted to multiple pickleball courts. There were ideas of having certain hours daily for pickleball and it was mentioned that there are times of day due to weather during different seasons that no one is on the courts at all. Suggestions were offered to research pickleball quieting measures, do another noise study, to start later in the morning and stop earlier in the evening. Ron Oestreich said there had been a sound decibel study done and when 8 courts had pickleball games going the volume was 80 decibels on top of the hill by homes in Brass Lantern and 80 decibels right on the ground next to the courts. The north courts (closer to the homes) was 65 decibels for only four courts and 55 decibels for only the 4 south courts.

Ron Oestreich suggested a community subcommittee be formed of three members of the Brass Lantern group and three members of the pickleball players group. They are to meet some time in December and bring ideas to the Parks meeting in January. Then a workshop will be held on the topic, and recommendations will be made to BOMA. The long-term solution appeared to be building courts where they will not impact anyone with noise issues. For now the two North courts will be tennis only and the 2 south courts will be for pickleball as well as tennis.

5. Volunteer opportunities are available for "Light the Park" on November 20, "Celebrate the Season" on November 30.
6. Lauren Cox, current Park Manager, is resigning. She was presented with flowers and thanked for her many years of exemplary work and leadership for the town.

Drew moved to adjourn and Riley seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:34.

Respectfully submitted,
Debbie Pinchok, Secretary

