



## ***Public Recreation & Parks Board***

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January 13, 2021

TO: Mayor Lauren Poe and Gainesville City Commissioners

RE: ***Public Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 2019-2020 Report***

***1. What do you understand the mission of your board to be?***

The Public Recreation and Parks Board shall advise the City Commission and shall offer recommendations as to the needs of the City pertaining to recreation within the City. Including assisting and advising the future policies and directions concerning recreation and open spaces projects for the City of Gainesville. To assist and advise the City Commission in promoting community awareness of the recreation and open spaces projects that are being considered by the City Commission.

***2. What are the three most important things your board has done during calendar years 2019-2020?***

During 2019 the Board, per City policy, recommended name changes to the following parks and building.

- a. Unity Park-January 16, 2019
- b. Oakview Park-May 20, 2019. Name change from Kiwanis/Girl Scout Park
- c. Tumbling Creek Park -10/16/19 Name changed to Cora Roberson Park.

Each requires a citizens' petition, second meeting for public comment and third meeting for Advisory Board vote, if approved to be submitted to City Commission for final vote.

We initiated a park tour by our board members. This is to continue as an annual part of our work program.

We heard requests for action in renaming the park at J.J. Finley School.

We annually recognize, at a combined meeting of the various Park, Arts, and Nature advisory boards an Outstanding Volunteer in the Park and Recreation system. This is the Raymond Massey award.

We develop a work plan annually at our April/May meeting but due to Covid no meetings were held.

**3. *What are the three most important things your board is working on right now?***

Due to COVID-19, the Public Recreation and Parks Board was unable to meet for the majority of the cycle requested. As such, we have been resuming some items from prior to the suspension of advisory board meetings

- a. Oakview Park building naming petition from the Kiwanis Club of Gainesville
- b. Reviewing and providing feedback for 2021-2024 Wild Spaces/ Public Places priority list
- c. Seeking to educate and recommend ways to further recreational and open space opportunities within Gainesville.

**4. *What could the City Commission due to help your board better serve our Neighbors?***

The Public Recreation and Parks Board consists of nine regular members. Currently, six of those nine members all have appointments that end June 2023. Two more end June 2022 and the last ends June 2021. Seven of the members have less than two years of experience, and several began their appointments this past year. We would request that three positions be extended so that the board would have three appointments ending each year. This would prevent a majority of terms ending at one time, and will protect continuity and institutional knowledge that may be lost in the case that two-thirds of the board may leave at one time.

**5. *What else do you need the City Commission to know about your board?***

The Public Recreation and Parks Board is a broad board that receives and hears various requests from the public. We frequently receive requests for creation of new parks, recreational, or leisure opportunities and projects from these members. Often times, these requests are outside of our jurisdiction, and we do our best to direct or refer them to the most suitable agencies or resources available.

Sincerely,

Bill Burger, Chairman

Public Recreation and Parks Board