

Parks Safety Council

Meeting Summary

Monday, March 24, 2025

Ed Ball Bldg., 214 N. Hogan Street, 4th Floor Conference Room

Meeting Attendance

- **Park Safety Council Members:** Chair Bruce J. Tyson and Don Oulton.
- **Zoom Members:** None.
- **Staff and Elected Officials:** Daniel Piastuck; James Taylor; Terrence Hurst; Lindsey Smith; Michelle Godwin-Ware.
- **Zoom Staff:** Wallen Magnus.
- **Visitors:** None
- **Zoom Visitors:** None

Meeting Summary

1. **Call to Order/Verify Quorum:** Bruce J. Tyson, Park Safety Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Michelle Godwin-Ware verified that there was no quorum.
2. **Approval of Previous Meeting Summary:** Meeting summaries will be approved when the Park Safety Council has full membership.
3. **Elected Officials Report:** None.
4. **Park Safety Council Member's Comments and Questions:**
 - **Chair Tyson:** Chair Tyson expressed the need for the required quorum to be changed from four members to three. The Park Safety Council has three members and cannot thoroughly conduct its duties as a committee without a minimum of four members.
 - **Dan Piastuck:** Wendy Jones has inquired about two applications that were said to have been submitted by citizens. He will research whom they need to speak with or how to request a change in the quorum from four members to three members.
 - **Chair Tyson:** It would be very beneficial to change the quorum requirements so that the PSC can approve the completed safety standards.
 - **Don Oulton:** Volunteers who apply may no longer be interested or have moved on to other things if their applications have not been reviewed, and no one has communicated with them. Is there a suggestion on how the PSC can request the change to the PSC quorum?
 - **Dan Piastuck:** This would have to go through the City of Jacksonville's legal department because they created the Executive Order.
 - **Chair Tyson:** If someone could investigate soliciting additional applicants/members and lowering the required quorum from four to three, that would put the PSC in a good position.
5. **Review of Safety Report/Updates:**
 - **Chair Tyson:** My primary concern is the repeated discrepancies in the report that go back two years. For example, the report shows that the Murray Hill Parks issue with their chain link fence being cut open is still open. There is no comment on it. Please provide an update on this issue.
 - **Terrence Hurst:** The link has been repaired, but it keeps getting cut open every time we repair or replace it.
 - **Dan Piastuck:** Some items in the report are repeated, but a few are new. My concern is that there is an accurate report with all the items in it. How are items indicated as new?
 - **James Taylor:** To differentiate, I will list items and indicate what is new and if there is a repeat issue when they are sent to Lyndsey. An update on the progress of the reported items would help reduce the unsatisfactory items.
 - **Lindsey Smith:** Unsatisfactory items are made a priority.
 - **Chair Bruce Tyson:** There were no unsatisfactory items in reports from January through March.

- **Lindsey Smith:** Staff are sent unsatisfactory issues and given a time frame to complete them. A spreadsheet with only the unsatisfactory items was created, and Daryle Joseph sent it out to all the supervisors with a time frame to complete everything.
- **Dan Piastuck:** Moving forward, would the PSC prefer to review only the unsatisfactory items so they can investigate them further? The list is very long and doesn't include daily items that the staff addresses that don't make it on the safety report.
- **Chair Tyson:** No, we would like to see everything because some items listed as satisfactory may be unsatisfactory to the PSC and vice versa. We know some parks consistently have problems, but any electrical issue with open circuits, open wires, or a removed cover on an electrical outlet box should immediately be handled.
- **Dan Piastuck:** We are having problems with parks near homeless encampments breaking into the electrical boxes to charge phones and other items. For example, electricians report to Warrington Park to repair the electrical issues. Someone broke into the electrical panel room and dismantled everything. Tearing out all the copper wiring throughout the park. Staff are constantly working on electrical issues to keep safe. The fencing is a problem with some pools as well. Unfortunately, most of the time, staff are coming up against vandalism. Fencing is the number one vandalism problem. Parks, Recreation, and Community Services are tracking the vandalism of fencing and the cost to replace, repair, or try an alternative method of keeping vandals out. The first goal is to remove it so it is not a hazard, and determine if it makes sense to move forward based on the amount of dollars assigned for maintenance and how it is used. Terrance and Lindsey prepare the list based on the safety inspections; they must also address the MyJax entries and daily work items.
- **Chair Tyson:** The repeat discrepancies are what concern me the most. I would like to see those items highlighted or grouped together
- **James Taylor:** If the Parks Department doesn't already have them, perhaps they can add these items to a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). There have been repeated inspections of playgrounds, which are set to be demolished and replaced. Knowing which parks are scheduled to be demolished or replaced ahead of time would elevate some of the repeat discrepancies.
- **Dan Piastuck:** A list of the CIP projects can be provided.
- **Chair Tyson:** The Stinson Park erosion problem in the safety report is unsafe.
- **Dan Piastuck:** The park's maintenance staff is not in charge of erosion problems. This could be added to the 2027 CIP. Depending on where funding is aligned, it may not be addressed right away, but it can be noted on the safety report that it has been included in the CIP.
- **Terrance Hurst:** We placed barricades around the area, and they are tossed in the water.
- **James Taylor:** The wave has undermined the sea wall, producing holes. I have no idea how to fix it without putting quarts or some rock and something flexible enough to handle the wave action. Previously, the holes were filled, and bricks were laid out, but they have now been washed away.
- **Don Oulton:** How do you decide if a park is a neighborhood or community park?
- **Lindsey Smith:** Neighborhood parks are designated in a neighborhood. A community park could be determined based on its amenities or acreage.
- **Don Oulton:** How is the income for repair expenses determined? Does the city obtain income if a park is rented out or hosts travel teams and tournaments?
- **Dan Piastuck:** Not necessarily. Sometimes, it's a long-term license agreement with a \$0 cost to the athletic association. We have 30 to 40 entities with long-term licenses in many of our larger parks. All the revenue they generate goes to the athletic associations.
- **Don Oulton:** Are the athletic associations not required to maintain the parks?
- **Dan Piastuck:** They maintain the concession stands and the bleachers, but the city is responsible

for maintaining the infrastructure. Sometimes, we partner with the organization if they have funding, and we have financing.

- **Don Oulton:** Is there access to these parks during the day?
 - **Dan Piastuck:** All the parks with license agreements should allow access to the park and a minimum of one field during the day. Some of the joint-use parks are not accessible during school hours. It is up to the school to lock and unlock the park. Generally, the park should be accessible on the weekends.
 - **Don Oulton:** Are the Safety Officers who live on the property responsible for locking and unlocking the entrance at night?
 - **Dan Piastuck:** No.
 - **Chair Tyson:** There is a park on Old Middleburg Road south of 103rd where baseball or football games are held on Saturdays and Sundays. At least 500 cars are parked in the area and the hollow. My primary concern is that they are parking in the hollow near a gas valve pipe that is sticking out. Can the city place a steel cage around the pipe or place yellow tape to keep people from parking in or near the valve? I believe it is the Argyle Athletic Association. They are there sometimes after 10 p.m.
 - **Dan Piastuck:** I will talk to the association about parking. The lights go out at 10 p.m. The park can be accessed from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Some lights are on timers, some are on a remote control. The association controls the lights.
 - **Don Oulton:** Does the safety report include MyJax requests and complaints?
 - **James Taylor:** No, the report is created based on my inspection report. I visit the parks in alphabetical order. I inspected 350 parks in six months. Each park is inspected twice a year. All parks are treated the same, whether they are community parks, recreational parks, or pocket parks. If I see something that needs addressing, such as a park with an athletic association, I reach out to Terrance or Lindsey, and they speak with the association.
 - **Chair Tyson:** I will be out of town in May. We will move the next meeting to June 23, 2025.
6. **Public Comments:** None
7. **Subcommittees and Liaisons:** None
8. **Chair Tyson, Park Safety Council Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.**

NEXT MEETING: June 23, 2025, 11 a.m.

LOCATION: Ed Ball Bldg., 214 N. Hogan Street, 4th Floor Conference Rm.

Meetings are recorded. A copy of the audio recording can be obtained through a public records request at MyJax.com or 630.CITY

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