

CITY OF CLEWISTON
Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services Advisory Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
June 19, 2025

The City of Clewiston Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services (PR&LS) Advisory Board held a regular meeting on February 20, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Melissa “Dusty” McDuffie. The Chair then led all in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Member Joe Foote offered an invocation.

PR&LS Advisory Board Members Present: Melissa “Dusty” McDuffie, Jamie Redish, and Joe Foote.

PR&LS Members Absent: Ryan Duffy, Ian Stone

Personnel Present: Human Resources/Parks & Rec Director Ashly Sergent and Human Resources and Program Coordinator Jeanie Orozco.

Others Present:

Additions/Deletions/Changes and Approval of the Agenda – Agenda approved.

Public Comments – No public comments

1. **Department Reports, Program Plans & Project Updates** Director Sergent covering Sport Complex plans/reports and what’s going on and what we are looking forward to. Summer Camp has started and going very well. Started with about 25 kids and pushing up to 40 kids. Camp Counselors and volunteers are going very well. US Sugar has been great with setting up events for our kids. First Tee are doing it every Friday at no additional cost, K-9 unit has come in as well and we have partnered up with the Library to be involved in the activities she host at the Library. Smaller Summer Camps are mirroring our Summer Camp activities. Positive feedback in the community about our Summer Camp. We have also partnered with Taekwondo to let our aftercare kids attend his classes at no additional cost. Glow in the Dark Pool party went well we had upwards of almost 200 kids in attendance. It was a good time and we did have all of our lifeguards scheduled for this event. Pool is in great shape, Bill from Mr. Splash is helping us maintain the pool. We are having pool parties, the pool is open daily, and the splash pad is open. Natasha, Library Director, mentioned to Ashly that one of her events brought 85 kids and 22 adults through the Library. Lifeguards are doing a great job with their schedule. Tim is no longer in the Parks & Rec department and has transitioned to the Finance department. Rodney is the new Ball Fields Lead and is keeping up with

those areas. Director Sergent wanted to inform the Board that she will not be back filling Tim's position. Jeanie will now be handling the Program piece of Parks & Rec. Summer Camp is our big deal as of now. Paint & Sip is now kicking off and the community loves it. Chair Yoga is now being hosted twice a day up to five days a week. The Youth Center is a sit down location for a free meal that is available to all students in the community. The Pickleball courts now have "kitchens" on them and there have been great feedback on the results. The work was done by our internal crew along with painting the entire interior of our John Boy Auditorium. The new off white color looks a lot nicer and cleaner. Looking into completing the floors in the John Boy Auditorium and Beardsley Room. The Lake now has new lights at the boat dock. The canal has been opened so the canal goes through now. We will now be looking into have events, i.e. food trucks. We partnered with the Christian School and had all the pavilions/picnic tables down there. US Sugar bought signs for all the Parks that were dedication, pictures were taken and posted on our Social Media page. Working a lot with Megan Young who is trying to bring in more events for the summer. We are trying to be more consistent and communicate via Social Media so our community is aware of what is going on. We have a High School intern that Ian actually worked with last year and she is helping us this year. Her name is Amiah White who is extremely intelligent who will be helping us promote the Parks & Rec and we need that help so looking forward to it. Ian reached out to Director Sergent about the Fall Break, week, to see if she'd consider a baby/camp for this week. We will be looking into doing something for this time frame.

2. **Board member comments/questions/future meeting discussion topics** – Chair McDuffie stated that having the number of kids we have at Summer Camp is good for the start of this. Board Member Reddish stated the Fall Break is the 13th to 17 of October. Chair McDuffie says she personally has nothing at all to discuss. She reached out to a few people to see if there were any suggestions and didn't get anything bad to say. She talked to Jackie McGriff and said the Sneaker Prom went off without a hitch and that everything went perfect. She was just talking about how the Tennis courts before had to be locked due to Soccer being played on there but has now been much better. Everything is being taken care of. The bathrooms are looking cleaner and Chair McDuffie sees our crew as she's walking in the area and are very polite. Board Member Joe Foote says he still hears that we can use more shade at the parks. Maybe getting the three posts in shape of a triangle and then attaching a shade to it. Would need to look into what is compliant for the parks at a good cost. Chair McDuffie says the Pool and Splash Pad is busy. Board Member Joe Foote asked if the light in Sugar Festival Field can be turned as it is disturbing a resident who lives on the corner. Her windows are already tinted but light still comes in. Chair McDuffie stated she is glad we have gotten help with the pool so we can be in compliance with the Health Department. It is a big responsibility. Board Member ask if he heard about a Pavilion at the Lake. Director Sergent said it is something she is looking into. Nothing to large but a good size to have small events there. Parking will be challenging on that side of the area in questions. Chair McDuffie stated that what is being carried over from last meeting is the replacing of scoreboards.

Director Sergent said she apologizes for not mentioning it but all new scoreboards are in and in the process to go up this summer. They will be all electronic and will be much easier to use. Board Member Joe Foote asks about the Racquet Ball court. Director Sergent said that she is looking into possibly taking it down. Board Member Foote suggest leaving the pad or concrete slab there for a potential Basketball or Pickleball Court. Chair McDuffie asked what “they” as the Advisory Board could do for us, Parks & Rec. Ashly stated no and that if there are ever any questions she feels comfortable talking to the Board and getting a response. Chair McDuffie asked if there were any donations or money needed for anything. Orozco stated that the City will be providing meals for Summer Camp the last two weeks due to the free meals ending on Friday, July 25, 2025 so if there are any donors that would like to contribute to those two weeks that would be great.

3. **Next Meeting:** Next scheduled meeting is Thursday, July 17, 2025 @ 4:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. Board agreed to cancel the July meeting with vacations and others being out of office. We will hold our regular August meeting on Thursday, August 21, 2024 @ 4:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. The board agreed by consensus.

Adjournment

Board Chair Melissa “Dusty” McDuffie then declared the meeting adjourned with unanimous consensus of the members present @ 4:52 p.m.