



City of Largo  
Agenda Item 2

Meeting Date  
10/02/18

Presenter: Joan Byrne, Recreation, Parks & Arts Director

Department: RP – Recreation, Parks & Arts

TITLE:

PRESENTATION OF FLORIDA RECREATION AND PARK ASSOCIATION AWARDS TO THE LARGO RECREATION, PARKS AND ARTS DEPARTMENT FOR 2018

The Florida Recreation and Park Association sponsors an annual awards program. Awards are made in several categories and this year the Largo Recreation, Parks and Arts Department received two of the statewide awards.

The first award was for an individual who is considered to be a "Rising Star" in the profession. The recipient must have been employed for at least one year, but no more than five years, in a full time professional position in parks and recreation. The recipient must have performed special service in the field of parks and recreation as well as rendering service in the community. Megan Leary, Southwest Recreation Supervisor, was selected as this year's recipient of the Young Professional Rising Star Award. Her nomination was supported by letters of recommendation from the City of Largo, the City of Winter Haven, where she started her career, and Pi Beta Phi Sorority at the University of Florida.

The second award was the Agency of Excellence Award for the department's health initiatives. This is the fourth time the department has been honored with the prestigious Agency of Excellence Award and it is the only agency in the state to have received the award four times. The excellence in health award is particularly important, because it supports the citywide focus area of public health and safety. Some of the initiatives cited in the nomination include the department's involvement in: Fit 2 Play, an evidence based program of physical activity and nutrition in after school programs in cooperation with the University of Miami; the annual Playing Unplugged event; the installation of five outdoor fitness zones in cooperation with the Pinellas County Health Department; programming that includes monthly themed family 5K races; Walk with Ease programs sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation; Better Balance through Tai

Continued on Page 2

Budgeted Amount: \$0.00      Budget Page No(s): NA      Available Amount: \$0.00      Expenditure Amount: \$0.00

Additional Budgetary Information: Not applicable

Funding Source(s): NA      Sufficient Funds Available:  Yes  No      Budget Amendment Required:  Yes  No      Source: N/A

City Attorney Reviewed:  Yes  No  N/A      Advisory Board Recommendation:  For  Against  N/A      Consistent With:  Yes  No  N/A      Not Applicable

Potential Motion/Direction Requested: FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY

Staff Contact: Joan Byrne, Recreation, Parks & Arts Director      587-6720      jbyrne@largo.com

Attachments: Page 2

Chi classes for seniors; and a commitment to healthy eating called “Fun Bites”, which includes a nutrition policy for child care programs and a requirement for all food vendors to offer lower cost healthy menu items at City events.

The City of Largo has made a significant investment in Parks and Recreation in the community and the department has worked hard to make sure that the community receives a high quality benefit from the investment.