

Keri O'Brien

From: Sara Pilat <sara.pilat@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 7:05 AM
To: District I; District II; District III; District IV; District V; District VI; Mayor E-Mail
Cc: Keri O'Brien
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of Agenda Item #47 and Opposition to Agenda Item #48

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Mayor Henriquez and City Commissioners,

I am writing today to voice my support for this Wednesday's City Commission Agenda Item #47 while also opposing Agenda Item #48.

It has become clear over the past month that no real plan at Bayview Park exists, and therefore, no city funds should be used there unless they were already directed specifically to developing a comprehensive plan.

Thankfully, as Agenda Item #47 points out, the city still has more than \$300,000 set aside to develop a master plan. Considering this, it is imperative that we continue down that path in order to allow for community input and professional advice, rather than following the movement led by only a few to force the issue of turfing the field.

At the outset, my opinion had a lot to do with the simple fact that artificial turf at a historic park in Old Town simply felt like a poor fit. But the reality is, after looking more into the issue, it's clear that there are so many other reasons not to support artificial turf — increased injuries, extreme heat, and more importantly overall long term costs make it clear that a small, historic community ball field on a hot tropical island will find no benefit in installing plastic grass.

In closing, I want to thank you all for last month's decision to bring this matter back to Parks & Rec for further discussion. I'd also like to thank the Parks & Rec Board for then further recommending a clear and comprehensive plan with postponement until July. You all have made it clear that the community deserves input and a plan moving forward.

Thank you in advance for your consideration in this matter.

Kindly,

Sara Pilat