



## MEETING MINUTES

### Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Members Present: Deanna Baumgardner, Alisia Bergsman, Kent Curran, Kathy Lewis, Jason Ma, Magic Cypress-McNairy, John O'Neill, Edward Parks

Absent: John Mielke

Guests: Commissioner Nick Walsh

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Michael Jaycocks at 6:30 p.m. Introductions of all attendees of the meeting were made. We have three new Commissioners for 2020, Alisia Bergsman, Jason Ma, and Kathy Lewis, and one returning Commissioner, Ed Parks.

#### II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Michael confirmed that a quorum of commissioners was present at the meeting.

#### III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Deanna moved to approve the minutes for the December meeting; Ed seconded the motion. All approved.

#### IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

##### Project Updates:

- a. Current List of Joint Use Agreements - Michael handed out a list of all of the current Park agreements as a background for the new Committee Members. A park tour will be scheduled in lieu of one of our meetings, most likely in April or May.
- b. Downtown Greenway Public Meeting - There is a Downtown Greenway open house/ public meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 at Huntersville Town Hall. This is the first public input meeting for this project. The surveying is scheduled to be completed next week. We are just now starting the design process and will be using in-house staff to build the section of greenway that goes through Holbrook Pak. One of our goals for this project is to come up with a nice trail head feature at the entrance of the trail. A neighbor mailing will be sent out this week to the

residents located behind the Huntersville Elementary School and Holbrook Park area. The Public Art Committee has also been invited to this meeting. The tunnel is going to be a great attraction to the area as the plan is to build lights in the tunnel. The lighting of the tunnel is being funded by the Arts and Science Council, which has \$250,000 to spend towards the art and appearance of the tunnel.

- c. CDS Tennis Complex Partnership – The complex is scheduled to open on March 1, 2020, as originally planned. The Town received \$86,000 in grants, which is phenomenal. USTA also donated \$10,000 worth of bleachers, benches and wind screens. Due to the grants we have received, the Town’s investment has dropped from \$200,000 to \$114,000.
- d. Barry Park Turf Project – We are turfing four of the six fields at Barry Park. Submitting for permitting will take place next week. The project is on schedule with construction due to start in May.
- e. Huntersville Athletic Park Fitness Equipment (HAP) - Received our annual \$30,000 from Novant so this was allocated for additional outdoor fitness equipment at HAP. The new equipment can be used for those who are not as physically fit as others as well as being handicap friendly. This equipment gets a lot of use and is expected to get even more with these additional add-ons.
- f. Huntersville Arts and Cultural Center (HACC) – A project to replace the floors in this facility was approved for this fiscal year. The floors were very old and worn out. The facility is used for some of our programs, including Bridge, Yoga, and Art, as well as weekend rentals for birthday parties, showers, family reunions, church services, and various meetings. Our in-house maintenance team took this on, which saved us some money. The project is scheduled to be completed this Friday.
- g. Veterans Park Restroom Project – We opened up the bids for this project a few weeks ago, however, we only received one bid. This is mostly due to the fact that it is such a small project that most companies do not want to bother with it. We are going to open it up again to see if there is any other interest out there.

## V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Deanna thanked Michael and Brenda for the nice advisory board holiday party in December.

## VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- a. Spring Guide is included in everyone’s handout. The guide lists all of our upcoming programs and events for the upcoming season.
- b. SnowFest event scheduled for this Saturday has been canceled due to the weather. It will not be rescheduled this year.
- c. Black History Month Celebration – February 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-12:00 at the Robert Blythe Building.

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

None.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Ranson/Rosedale Park Master Plan Update. At our last PRC meeting in December, the Committee approved the revised Master Plan. It was then submitted to the Town Board for approval, which was approved at the January 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Michael proceeded to go over the rendering and final plan with the Committee.

The next step in the process is funding, which will be discussed at the upcoming Board retreat. We will have a better idea on how to move forward after the retreat.

Alisia asked how many residents are within walking distance of the park. Michael stated that he thinks there are about 5,000 to 6,000.

We will be working on sponsorships and fundraisers to raise more money for additional costs of the dog park (i.e., bricks with pet names on them, etc.). The naming of the park will be selected by asking the public what they would like to see it named.

- b. System-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan Survey Results. The first step in this process is to solicit feedback from the public on what they would like to see happen in the community. We did this by posting a survey on Facebook and the Town website, as well as presented it at the Huntersville Christmas event in December. There was a great response to the survey. Four Hundred and Eighty-Three (483) people filled out the surveys online. As a comparison, Mecklenburg County is also working on their Parks and Rec Master Plan for which they also submitted a survey for public feedback, however, only 280 people filled out the survey. We also received responses containing over 700 comments about various amenities the public would like (and not like) to see.

We were a little concerned that possibly some special interest groups may come together and share the survey with friends who would then suggest the same types of amenities that they want, which could throw off the survey. We did have one example of this as we received several people suggesting another disc golf course all in one day. To balance the survey process out, we are also doing a mailing to 500 random residents in Huntersville asking them to complete the survey. The mailer provides a link to the website and a QR scanning code to access the survey. We also provide the option for anyone who wants to complete a hard copy version to contact Brenda and she will get that to them.

So far, the survey results reflect the following demographics: 40% in the Northwest part of town, 26% from the Northeast, 18% from Southwest, and 13% from Southeast.

Michael went over the results of the survey, including the following: One question in the survey asks if Parks and Recreation facilities and programs were important to the quality of life in Huntersville. One Hundred Percent (100%) of the people thought it was important. Another

question asks what additional or new recreational amenities would the person like to have in Huntersville's Parks. The top five amenities ranked as follows: (1) Greenways, (2) Natural Hiking/Fitness Trails, (3) Playgrounds, (4) Picnic Shelters/Pavilions, and (5) Paved Walking Trails within a Park. Michael was surprised by the fact that 48% of the survey was taken by men and the rest by women. Pretty even representation. Michael also observed that 90% of the people who took the survey identify as "White" for race/ethnicity. A very small amount of the residents identified as "African American" or "Hispanic/Latino."

Kathy Lewis suggested that we reach out to a few of the churches in the area that could provide a more balanced response from both the African American and Hispanic communities. For instance, in the Dellwood area, there is St. Phillips Church, which is attended primarily by African Americans, and the Methodist Church on 115, attended primarily by the Hispanic community. Kathy also suggested reaching out to the businesses near the Joe Gibbs headquarters where she has observed several employees running or walking around in the area. They may be able to provide some feedback for that demographic as well.

Alisia asked if we were including Novant in the process. Michael said he will be reaching out to them and Atrium to ask for their feedback. Will also invite our co-sponsors to participate.

As a side note, we have a consultant who is working on providing recommendations and ideas on what the current conditions of our existing parks are. This will help us with what we need to do to get them looking better.

## IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appoint Chair for 2020. Deanna nominated Ed Parks as Chairman of the Committee; Magic seconded. All in favor.
- b. Appoint Vice-Chair for 2020. Kathy Lewis nominated John O'Neill as Vice-Chairman of the Committee; Deanna seconded. All in favor.
- c. Appoint Members to the Master Plan Sub-Committee (4 Members Needed). We continue to need a subcommittee for the 2020 Master Plan. The Plan will take a while to work on and will require several meetings. The following Commissioners volunteered to serve on this Sub-Committee: Deanna Baumgardner, Alisia Bergsman, Kent Curran, and Magic Cypress-McNairy.
- d. Appoint Members to Tournament Sub-Committee (4 Members Needed). This committee meets once a year, usually in October, to decide on which tournaments we want to approve each year. The following Commissioners volunteered to serve on this Sub-Committee: Kathy Lewis, Jason Ma, Magic Cypress-McNairy, and John Mielke.
- e. Appoint Members to All Co-Sponsor Groups (10 Total). Brenda circulated a sign-up sheet for each PRC member to be assigned to an organization. We do this annually. Below is the list of co-sponsors and the corresponding Commissioners assigned to those co-sponsors:
  - a. Carolina Miners – John O'Neill
  - b. Carolina Rapids – Ed Parks
  - c. Dream Big – Jason Ma
  - d. HOYAS – Kent Curran

- e. HYAA – Alisia Bergsman
- f. Lake Norman Giants – Deanna Baumgardner
- g. Lake Norman Little League – Kathy Lewis
- h. Nothing But Net – Magic Cypress-McNairy
- i. Stewards of the Game – John Mielke
- j. Strikers Soccer Club – Ed Parks

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.