



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

Members Present: Deanna Arnold, Kathy Jones, Rich Lange (Chair), Selene “Magic” Cypress-McNairy, John Mielke, Edward Parks, Hank Stiene

Absent: Geoff Steele, John O’Neill

Guests: Commissioners Dan Boone and Nick Walsh

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Rich Lange, Chair, at 7 pm with a quorum present.

INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions of all attendees of the meeting were made. The new Commissioners for 2018 are as follows: Deanna Arnold, Selene “Magic” Cypress-McNairy and Ed Parks. Welcome new Commissioners!

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

John M. moved to approve the minutes for the November meeting; Kathy seconded the motion. All approved.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. One of the Parks and Rec maintenance staff, Sean Bradley, resigned after 13 years with the Town. We had a send-off for him today. He was a great employee and will be greatly missed.
2. Huntersville Recreation Center Grand Opening – Had the grand opening/ribbon cutting event this past Saturday. There was a great turnout. Great weather. Included in the event was our first basketball game with the HYAA kids – was a huge hit. The Center has been very busy since it opened on Monday, January 15th.
3. Bradford Park Turf Fields – Michael provided the background for this project as well as an update. The park covers 213 acres, including five softball fields, a playground, shelters, three soccer fields that did not have lights or turf. This project includes adding turf and lights to the

three soccer fields. We are hoping to open up February 5th before the spring season starts. The project has been delayed due to the snow we had last week.

4. Veterans Park – Michael also provided the background and update for the Veterans Park Memorial. We partnered with the American Legion to build the Veterans Memorial park on Maxwell and Main. The Memorial includes a 15,000 square foot lawn that will be used for multiple events throughout the year, which is expected to bring more people to the downtown area. There have been a few major delays hindering us from completing the project, which are due to circumstances beyond the Town's control. We anticipate the project being completed by the end of March in time to hold the Memorial Day ceremony there.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

1. Kathy Jones – Glen Jones from Lake Norman Little League contacted Kathy, providing her with their annual report. Kathy has been unable to actually meet with Glen but will continue to reach out to him this upcoming year and hopefully, at some point, get together with him.

PROGRAMMING REPORT

1. Rec Center – Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting was this past Saturday, the 20th. Had a very good turnout. Nice event. Several new programs are scheduled there for this spring, some of which include:
 - Mini Athletes (3-5 year olds – intro to basketball, soccer, baseball, etc.)
 - Two new volleyball programs: Spike City (ages 12-18) and Bump Town (ages 9-11)
 - Senior Adult Pickleball (Tuesday/Thursday mornings and Wednesday evenings)
 - WERQ fitness program
 - Lunchtime Basketball
2. Girls Volleyball – Spring volleyball league registration started January 1st.
3. Adult Softball Leagues (Men's/Co-Ed/Senior) - registration coming up the end of this month
4. Provided copies of the Spring Guide to everyone.

Ben Benshoof (Recreation Facility Manager) and Pat Bowles (Athletic Coordinator) stopped by the meeting to introduce themselves and explain use of the Rec Center so far, including upcoming tournaments.

Rich asked Ben and Pat about pickleball and if there were lines drawn in the gym specifically for the sport – yes, there are four courts available for pickleball. He also inquired about birthday party packages. Ben explained the various packages we offer. Anyone wanting to inquire about packages or to book a party should contact the front desk at the Rec Center.

John M. asked what percentage of revenue we can expect to recover for the Rec Center. Michael replied that he believes we can recover about 50% of costs starting next year. The goal is to receive \$125,000 each year. In recent years, overall, we have been able to recover costs above what the Town's policy states, which is 10%. Last year our cost recovery was 27%.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1. Appoint 2018 Chair. Kathy Jones nominated Rich Lange to continue as Chairman of the Commission. John M. seconded the nomination. PRC voted unanimously in favor of the nomination.
2. Appoint 2018 Vice Chair. Kathy Jones nominated John Mielke to be Vice-Chair of the Commission. Hank Stiene seconded the nomination. PRC voted unanimously in favor of the nomination.
3. Sub-committee appointments. Last year we decided to appoint PRC members to each of the various co-sponsors to open communication lines. Michael described why this subcommittee is needed (e.g., help with the application process for new co-sponsors when needed; make changes to policies; program issues, etc.). Last year, several co-sponsors attended the meetings and explained their programs and how they have impacted the community.

A sign-up sheet was circulated to commissioners.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community School of Davidson Partnership (“CSD”). Michael provided the background regarding the partnership with the Community School of Davidson (“CSD”) and U.S. Tennis Association (“USTA”). The Town regularly partners with Mecklenburg County schools, CSD, USTA, and others on various projects. This three-way partnership would allow for funding of additional tennis courts at the new athletic complex at CSD. Discussions for the partnership started about 4-5 months ago. The partnership would be a 25-year agreement with contributions by USTA/LNTA of \$50,000 and \$150,000 by the Town. The Town and CSD would split the cost of resurfacing the tennis courts every 5 to 7 years as needed. There was a concern that the courts would be too close to the baseball fields so it was determined that they would be moved closer together to avoid that issue.

Negotiations of the joint use agreement are pending. Michael outlined the highlights of the agreement. Due to the growing need for pickleball courts, Michael suggested that four of those tennis courts have lines drawn for pickleball. The other courts will have junior quick start lines. It needs to be determined, however, if the Town wants to fund the lines as well. We were advised that no grants would be available for tennis in the future if we include pickleball lines. Staff is following up with USTA to find out what consequences there might be if we decide to do pickleball lines.

Next steps are as follows:

- This same presentation will be presented to the Town Board;
- PRC will provide their recommendation in Feb/March;
- The Town Board's decision will be made in late March/early April;
- CSD to begin construction in spring of 2018 and completed in early 2019.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 21st at 7:00pm at Town Center.