



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, February 20, 2019

Members Present: Deanna Baumgardner, Kent Curran, Magic Cypress-McNairy, Kathy Jones, John Mielke, Rich Lange, John O'Neill, Edward Parks, Hank Stiene

Guests: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Rich, Chair, at 6:30 pm with a quorum present.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Magic moved to approve the minutes for the January meeting; Kathy seconded the motion. All approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Outdoor Fitness Zone – Officially opened up this past Monday. The project is pretty much completed. We are leaving some fencing up around the sod since it has been so wet out and we do not want anyone else walking on it. Eventually, the sod will be converted over to turf. This is the first time we have had staff work on this type of project. They did a great job. The Mayor would like to have a ribbon cutting ceremony with sponsors attending. Will most likely take place when the weather gets better. Most of the exercises are cross fit exercises. There are some exercises for any level of fitness.
- b. NMP Playground – The old equipment has been removed. The new equipment was delivered this past Monday. We originally thought the project would be done by March 1st, however, due to the weather it will be delayed.
- c. Our first baseball tournament for the season is scheduled for this weekend but due to the weather, it will be canceled. Will lose a lot of revenue due to the weather.
- d. Bradford Park Lot Expansion – We are currently selecting a design team to start working on the plans for the parking lot.

- e. The baseball groups requested additional batting cages at NMP so Steve spoke with several co-sponsors and they donated a total of \$14,000 to pay for two new cages.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- a. Magic – Sent email to Nothing But Net and HYAA. Both responded. Will be meeting with both groups this Friday. Michael suggested starting out the conversation by talking about the plan to update the master plan and what they think should be included. Rich also commented that we just started this process of contacting co-sponsors a few years ago. The goal is to ask them if they need anything from us and find out if we can do anything better in their view.
- b. Ken – Asked if there was any type of format to follow when reaching out to co-sponsors. Rich reiterated that the communication is meant to see if they need anything from us or if they can provide more about their program so that we can report that information back to staff.
- c. Jon – He is meeting with the Miners tomorrow night.
- d. Kathy – Someone contacted her thru the Historical Society – his name is Kyle and his company is called “Pro Local.” He asked her about our parks and recs facilities. He is starting a website that lists historical properties in the area. He videotapes them via 3d walk-thrus. He would like to include some of our historical sites like the Caboose at Veterans Park, the Old Jail, etc. Kathy was thinking that he should include Dellwood as well since that used to be the Rosenwald School years ago. He is not charging for this service.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- a. The Black History event this past Monday at the Robert Blythe Building went really well. Approximately 30 people attended. There were several speakers and African dancers and drums. Received great feedback. Next year we are planning to expand the event by adding more speakers and other performances.
- b. Summer Camp registration starts March 1st – includes the following camps:
 - Preschool age
 - Elementary age
 - Middle School age
 - Lego Camps
 - Girls on the Run Cap
- c. Athletic Camp registration also starts on March 1st. Some of the sports include golf, tennis, volleyball, soccer.
- d. Mini-Athletes Basketball – starts March 1st.
- e. Adult Softball registration ended last week – games will start March 4th and 8th (co-ed/men’s).
- f. Senior Softball registration ends this Friday – games will start March 12th and 13th.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Regional Recreation Center Public Informational Meeting – 2/26-6:30 p.m. at Bailey Middle School. Just a reminder about this meeting. There will be some really good new information presented about what amenities will be in the Rec Center. If you can make it, please do. If you are unable to, I will provide an update to everyone.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Carolina Rapids Agreement Discussion.

I previously briefed you all about the potential agreement with the Rapids for the turf fields at Barry Park. After talking to Thomas, he suggested turfing four fields instead of two. Some of the reasons why we should do this project including the following:

- It is killing us to maintain these fields.
- We have been averaging field closures of 50 days a year for weather and 30-60 days for rest and maintenance.
- We would have a net budget gain of \$100,000 per year.
- Rapids would pay \$3.035M of the \$3.6M of the cost to build the fields over a 12.5 year period. This includes extending their existing agreement for Barry Park and adding Bradford Park.

Current Barry Park Agreement – The current agreement goes until 2028. They are paying \$535,000 over a ten-year period, which goes into the capital reserve fund. Some of the terms in the agreement include the following:

- Rapids cannot use their first right of refusal to exclude other users.
- The Town can book up to five outside tournaments per year.
- Rapids can sell concessions when using the fields.
- If field rental rates ever become higher than the yearly agreement payment, then they would pay the higher rate.

We use the same allocation method for all co-sponsors. They then send us their field needs.

The question about life expectancy of the turf fields was asked. Michael responded that the fields have a 10 year warranty, however, he is seeing that they last approximately 12 years. Replacement would then just be turf and not all of the other expenses when converting over to turf. The cost will be a lot less.

New Agreement – The new agreement will extend the Barry Agreement for an additional 5 years, including the 15 years at Bradford. The \$2.5M contribution equates to \$200,000 per year. All of the terms in the current agreement mentioned above will also be in the new agreement. In addition, the new agreement will state that if the Rapids Huntersville numbers drop below the required allocation number for all the fields, the Rapids would just get priority on the fields that they qualify for. Currently they have 1,336 residents per season. They would need 900 residents to qualify for all fields.

The Town Board seems to be amenable to the agreement. Thomas wants to have the fields turfed by this September but we cannot have them done by then. The agreement will be effective the date when the fields are open for use. This agreement will affect Strikers and the Miners. We need to consider whether or not we want to approach these groups to find out if they are interested in contributing towards the cost of the fields as well. We have not approached any other groups at this point. Rich asked if Strikers and Miners will get field space allocations. Michael mentioned that the Miners used Bradford fields on Sundays, which they initially took but eventually didn't need them all. Recently, they contacted us and asked if they could have them back but we had already offered them to Strikers. We will discuss this issue in further detail when a draft of the agreement is ready to review.

- b. FY20 Parks and Recreation Fees. Last year we talked about some fee increases we implemented. We are recommending to increase some fees this year.
- Ball Fields – We increased our fees by \$2.50 per hour for residents; \$5.00 for nonresidents. We are now the highest in the area. Residents are primarily using the fields so there really is not much time for nonresidents to use them. We have a higher rate for turf fields. Not recommended to increase any more this year.
 - Tournament fees – Increased \$25 per field per day. No one has pushed back on the increase. Last year we started charging for turfage, which has brought in quite a bit of money. Michael does not recommend increasing these fees again this year.
 - Tennis Courts – We recommend an increase of \$1 per hour per court for residents and \$2 per hour per court for nonresidents. We have only had one increase in 13 years.
 - Indoor facilities – We recommend an increase of \$5 per hour for residents and nonresidents. We have been having trouble with the weekend renters lately. Some of them are serving alcohol (which is prohibited) and are staying several hours past when they are supposed to be out. Effective immediately, we are changing the hours so that all events end by 8:00 p.m. on the weekends. We will have staff check on the weekend parties throughout the events and at the end to make sure they are leaving when they are supposed to.
 - Afterschool Program – Last year we increased our fees by \$10 per month. We are recommending that we increase the fees another \$10 per month for the 2019-2020 school year. This will probably be the last increase for a while.
 - Summer camp – We increased these fees by \$10 per week. This is the third increase in a row, however, we have not received any negative feedback. The fees are very reasonable considering the quality of activities and field trips we provide. We continue to cover our costs, which is the goal.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 20th at 6:30 pm.