



## MEETING MINUTES

### Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Members Present: Deanna Baumgardner, Magic Cypress-McNairy, Rich Lange (Chair), John Mielke, John O'Neill, Edward Parks, Geoff Steele, Hank Stiene

Absent: Kathy Jones

Guests: Commissioner Nick Walsh, Andrew Steedman (Strikers)

#### CALL TO ORDER

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

#### APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Ed moved to approve the minutes for the June meeting; Hank seconded the motion. All approved.

#### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Annual Report – Michael presented a high level summary of the annual report for this past fiscal year that ended June 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Attendance: 1.4 Million visits at our parks and gym facilities. An increase of 2% over last year.
  - Hours of Reserved Usage: Reserved usage was down by approximately 3,000 from the previous year due to the soccer fields at Bradford at HAP being down. Anticipating the numbers will go up this next fiscal year.
  - Cost Recovery: Our cost recovery for this past year was 30% - an all-time high. Last year's percentage was 27%. The Town's policy is 10%. Had a very good year.
  - Revenue: Netted over \$900,000 in revenue, an increase of 30%. This is mostly due to the following factors:
    - additional athletic programs we are able to offer at the Rec Center;
    - big increase in after school and summer camp participants that can now meet at the Rec Center.
    - increase in fees for tournaments;
    - sponsorships

2. Public Art Committee - Met last week. Looking at Town Center or Veterans Park for next piece of art. We are working Atrium Health Care to purchase our first art piece. Potential donation could be valued up to \$30,000.
3. Upcoming Tournaments: Top Gun Summer World Series is this weekend. World Disc Golf tournament next week.

#### COMMISSIONERS REPORT

1. John O. – Talked to Miners. So happy to have the use of fields twice a week at Bradford Park.
2. Geoff – His neighbors commented they have enjoyed the movies at Veterans Park this summer.

#### PROGRAMMING REPORT

1. Most of the fall programs have opened up for registration: After School, Volleyball, Senior Softball, and Adult Softball League.
2. Lalacaboosa Events – There will be two more events for the summer: July 26<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup>. We are currently planning on scheduling more events for this fall.
3. Movies in the Park – There is a movie tomorrow night (Despicable Me 3) and then two more, August 2<sup>nd</sup> and August 18<sup>th</sup> (make-up for the last movie that got rained out).
4. Just Kidding Around – Preschool age event run by “Bach to Rock” – free – includes music, story time, puppets, etc. Held on the stage. July 20<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30 a.m.
5. Rising Stars Tour at Veterans Parks - Partnering with Bella Love Inc. for these events. The Rising Stars Tour 2018 features a showcase of the area's premiere up-and-coming talent! The last one in the series will be on Saturday, Aug 11 (2 pm - 9 pm).

This event will also include craft beer from [Eleven Lakes Brewing](#), food trucks, and plenty of great local bands, songwriters and special performances!

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. Strikers Soccer Club. Andrew from Strikers came to talk to us about the concerns brought up regarding their usage at Bradford Park.

Andrew provided some background about Strikers and how the club started here in North Carolina. They started out with offering adult programs at their location off of Alexandriana with the four wall field concept. His brother then offered some small summer camps for kids and they grew from there. The club has been around for 18 years.

Then, they partnered with North Meck Soccer Club and were using Huntersville fields at that time. They later partnered with Lake Norman Soccer. During that time, only one issue came up with using our fields and Andrew went through the proper procedures to settle. We haven't had any other issues with them. Strikers parted ways with Lake Norman Soccer.

Strikers currently partners with Charlotte Soccer Academy Huntersville (CSA Huntersville) to offer training and games to be conducted in Huntersville using the Strikers soccer center, fields at North Meck Park, Bradford Park and Barry Park. Andrew oversees all operations for CSA Huntersville, including coaching, training, etc. All registrations, however, go through Charlotte Soccer Academy (CSA). The majority of the kids that participate in these programs are from Huntersville and Cabarrus County. There are very few programs that offer pre-development and development academies. Andrew believes that the Rapids do not want another development academy in this area, which would compete with the Rapids.

The recent incident that caused concern for Thomas was when he was at Bradford Park practicing with his teams and the CSA Huntersville teams were also there practicing. The coach for the Strikers (CSA Huntersville) team happened to be a former Rapids coach (who is now coaching for the regular CSA club) but was covering for a CSA Huntersville coach that could not be there that night. (A very confusing situation.) Thomas confronted the coach and asked if he was now a CSA coach and he said yes. Thomas, therefore, assumed that Strikers was subleasing space out to CSA teams for the discounted co-sponsor rate, which is a violation. Andrew explained that only CSA Huntersville teams were using the field. Andrew then mentioned that they do scrimmages between other CSA teams from time to time.

After Andrew left the meeting, the commissioners discussed the situation in further detail.

Rich wanted to clarify that we want to make sure that other organizations Strikers is partnering with do not use our facilities. Since CSA Huntersville is being operated under Strikers and several of the players live in Huntersville, their partnership with CSA Huntersville would not be a violation.

Hank commented that the various names are confusing since they are all not called Strikers.

It was also mentioned that to avoid further confusion in the future, the coaches under CSA Huntersville need to properly identify themselves. Also, Andrew should identify the different teams so we know who will be using the fields.

Michael commented that Andrew has always been honest with what is going on and has always been clear on what he has been doing. It was suggested that we should ask Andrew to breakdown the rosters for the Academy and identify the teams that are under Strikers as well as the names of the coaches.

Since the committee was provided with a copy of the contract between CSA and Strikers, which clearly states that Andrew is the director of CSA Huntersville, they have a better understanding of the relationship between Strikers and CSA.

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Community School of Davidson (CSD) Update. CSD has not signed the agreement yet and will not until they are 100% sure that the project is moving forward. The costs have changed so they want to make sure the money is there before finalizing the agreement. They will keep us updated on the status.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.