



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, July 22, 2020

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

Absent: Jason Ma

Guests: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was conducted virtually and called to order by Ed Parks, Chair, at 6:30 p.m. via RingCentral.com.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Kent moved to approve the minutes for the June meeting; Deanna seconded the motion. All approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Project Updates:

- a. Barry Park Turf Project – Michael shared a drawing of the project and provided a brief update on the status. Sprinturf is currently treating the sub-drain under the fields. The project should be completed by late September early October. We have decided to allow the contractors to work later hours due to the heat.
- b. Veterans Park Restroom Project – Should be done in late August in time for fall events.
- c. Downtown Greenway – At our last meeting, I shared two renderings showing the options for the entrance to the Greenway next to Cashion's gas station, one without the house and one with it. At last Monday night's Town Board meeting, the Board ultimately voted not to keep the house and stated that anyone who wants to move the house off of the property can do so, free of charge. It is our hope that someone will be willing to take the house. Michael has received several calls asking about it. We are therefore moving forward with this project without the

house and are looking at having the ground breaking ceremony next month. Once a date has been set, we will send out the information to the committee.

- d. Holbrook Park Tennis Courts Resurfacing Project – Five bids were submitted for this project, which were read aloud this past Tuesday afternoon. Our budget is \$300,000; we received two bids under that amount. This project is scheduled to start in mid-August.

Kent asked if we will be getting any grants from the tennis groups. Michael said no. Kent then asked if we could put down lines for pickleball. Michael responded that we could go ahead and do that but we would not be able to host any state tournaments at this location. If we decide to add the lines, we will need to vote on that at our next meeting so we can change the plans and notify the contractor. Ed recommended that everyone think about this and we will vote on it at the next meeting. Michael will provide the proposed layout for everyone to review. We do have funds available in the existing project budget to change two of the courts to pickleball.

- e. Tournaments – We have had 6 or 7 tournaments so far this summer. We have received a few complaints about the groups not being in compliance with the restrictions but instead have had more than 25 spectators present and not observing social distancing. Staff has reached out to the groups to advise them that they need to make sure they are observing the restrictions, however, it is difficult to make sure they are complying. We have a big tournament this weekend at Bradford so we will see how that goes. We will most likely have extra staff on duty there to make sure procedures are being following. If we continue to get complaints and the issue gets worse, we will have to make some changes including canceling tournaments altogether. The tournament groups were all provided with guidelines and policies for playing and agreed to abide by them.
- f. Michael met with the woman and her son who requested that a splash pad be built and more special events be held in Huntersville. Michael and explained to her that we need to find the right place to install a splash pad. Had a great meeting – she understood the reasoning behind what needs to happen before we can provide this amenity.
- g. Other Matters - Kathy Lewis asked if anyone has requested using any of our facilities for remote learning. Michael said we will be offering some of our facilities to be open during the day for remote learning, recreation and Wi-Fi access. We will use Rec Center and possibly the Robert Blythe Building for this program. Our part-time staff is, for the most part, available to work this program so we can have this sufficiently staffed during the day.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

No reports.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- a. Drive-In Movie @ Rural Hill – We partnered with Rural Hill to provide a drive-in movie last Friday night. Went really well – we sold out. We also provided food and drinks for sale. Only glitch was company that Rural Hill hired to coordinate parking did not show up so Town Staff had to jump in and handle it. We will be offering this event again on August 14th.
- b. Summer Adventure Camps – All indoor camps are going well. Last day of camp is August 14th.

- c. Summer Sports Camps –
 - Soccer Camps - only offering half day camps, which are going well. This Friday is last day of this camp.
 - Volleyball Camps – had to cancel three weeks of camp in June and converted the remaining time to outdoor grass volleyball, capping the number of campers from 40 to 24. This camp ends next Friday, August 7th.
 - Tennis Camp – This camp is being run by Altitude Tennis Academy and goes all summer.
- d. Hello Huntersville – Originally we rescheduled this event to the fall, however, due to Phase 2 being extended, we decided to cancel altogether.
- e. Opening up adult softball – running those this fall.
- f. Disc Golf – The Wednesday night program is going great but we are limited to 24 people who can enroll. We have had to turn 10-15 people away each week so we are looking at adding another night to accommodate the need.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. System-Wide Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update. Michael shared the updated draft of the plan, which Brenda will send out to everyone after the meeting. This draft will be presented to the Town Board in August and hopefully adopted in September.

One of the areas updated falls under Benchmarking – the “Amenity Level of Service” category showing Tennis Courts, Softball/Baseball Fields, Playgrounds and Multipurpose Fields. The updated numbers in this area show that Huntersville is in good shape in comparison to the other jurisdictions.

An extensive discussion ensued regarding the Plan Goals and Objectives Map, which encompasses the four pillars – Connect, Provide, Preserve and Partner – which is the crux of the entire Master Plan.

The map identifies which parks, facilities, and amenities we currently have as well as areas we would like to expand. One of our top goals is to build parks, trails, and facilities so that all residents are within a 10-minute walk of recreation services.

Two “connect” projects we are currently working on (Downtown Greenway and Rosedale Nature Park) will provide access to several residents who currently do not have close connection to any parks or greenways. This will close a big gap we currently have in this area and will be a great start to accomplishing our goals over the next ten years.

An area where connectivity is really lacking is at Bradford Park. Since this park is across the street from Davidson, there really is only one residential neighborhood that is located close to the park

and therefore Huntersville residents are not able to walk or have close access to this location. We need to work on connectivity within this park as well (i.e., sidewalks, wheelchair access). Michael continued to go over the other areas that need development and improvements. He mentioned that when the Cook property is developed, there will be a lot of other residents in that area that will be served.

The map also includes four major undeveloped areas in Huntersville that we need future park land in. The map also includes the downtown area for additional park land. Michael mentioned that it would be more advantageous for the Town to own some of its own land, which would allow for a lot more flexibility on how the land would be developed and the timeline for completing projects would be much quicker.

Several committee members provided comments on what other items they would like to see added to the map and the plan in general. There was a request to add technology at the parks such as Wi-Fi. Also, it would be helpful if a timeline was included outlining the projected amenities, parks, greenways, trails, etc., and when they are projected to be completed. Michael agreed that this level of detail should be included in the plan. He will talk to McAdams about including a breakdown of what we want to see accomplished for every two to three years.

Michael would also like to see a life cycle spreadsheet that shows the maintenance costs for all of our existing parks and amenities, estimating what the maintenance costs will be in the future so we make sure we have ample funds set aside. It is important that we maintain what we have and include those cost estimates in the plan.

Michael asked if everyone would provide any additional feedback regarding the plan by sending him an email.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

None.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 19th at 6:30 p.m.