



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Members Present: Rich Lange, Magic Cypress-McNairy, John Mielke, John O'Neill, Edward Parks, Hank Stiene

Absent: Deanna Baumgardner, Kathy Jones

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

John M. moved to approve the minutes for the August meeting; Edward seconded the motion. All approved.

John O. had some questions about the open gym incident that happened back in July. He wanted to know if the whole program will be discontinued due to this incident. Michael responded that we still have open gym for the middle schoolers and seniors as well as the pickleball open gym program. We are looking at opening it back up for lunch time basketball and possibly one evening per week, however, we are adding new measures to try to make it safer. One of those measures is having a staff person on the court while the games are taking place. We want to add an additional measure to make it safe as possible before we schedule a date to open it up again. John commented that he would hate to see it discontinued due to this one incident.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. Lake Norman Community Sailing Center – Sean O'Donnell was scheduled to present at tonight's meeting, however, he was not able to make it. He will be at next month's meeting. Michael believes the Center is looking for contributions for their sailing program. They currently have a relationship with Cornelius and have received contributions from them in the past.
2. Lake Norman Charter School Update – It appears that the school is on track to open up after Labor Day 2019, however, they will not be moving the students into the classrooms right away. The gym will be open for use to us as soon as it opens up.
3. Downtown Greenway Update – Michael provided a refresher of the path of the new Greenway via a map that was previously provided to everyone. Most of the seven mile greenway is projected to be completed by 2022. A RFOs was advertised and six proposals were submitted.

A vendor has been recommended and will be sent to the Town Board in October/November for approval.

4. Outdoor Fitness Zone / Huntersville Athletic Park – As we discussed last month, the Mayor received a \$25,000 donation from Keffer and Novant contributed \$30,000 for the outdoor fitness zone to be built at Huntersville Athletic Park. The entire project will be paid for by donations. The proposed three-unit set will serve up to 26 people at a time. We are starting to accept bids for the project.
5. Geoff Steele – Geoff resigned from the Parks and Rec Commission last month and has transferred over to the Greenway Commission as they had two vacancies they needed to fill.
6. FY18/19 Capital Items
 - Bradford Park Overflow Parking Area: Planning to send out RFOs for the design sometime next month with the goal of starting the project by next spring. Majority can be done without closing the parking area.
 - HAP Parking Lot Resurfacing: Due to the current park schedule, we will wait until later this fall to do the project (around November/December). Should have pricing by end of October.
 - NMP Driveway Resurfacing: Small project. This project could possibly be done at the same time HAP lot is resurfaced.
 - NMP Playground: We have found one company that has already gone through a national procurement system that would work best for this type of project. This company has always been very responsive to our needs, unlike some other vendors. We will allow the PRC members to also give feedback prior to going to final approval.

COMMISSIONERS REPORT

1. John O. – Feedback about fall guide – noticed that some of the programs/events listed are already done.

PROGRAMMING REPORT

1. Art Committee Meet and Greet – Tuesday, October 2nd at 6:00 p.m. – Arts and Cultural Center. An opportunity to meet the Public Art Commissioners to learn more about upcoming projects.
2. Jazz Night – Sunday, October 14th from 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Veterans Park – no cost to attend.
3. Halloween in Huntersville – Saturday, October 20th from 4:00-8:00 pm, Rural Hill.
 - Egg Hunt
 - Food Trucks
 - Vendors
 - Other Family Activities
4. Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony – Saturday, November 10th – Event starts at 9:00 a.m. with the parade starting at 10:00 a.m. Ceremony starts at 11:00 a.m.
5. Exercise Classes Have Started – Yoga – Monday nights at 6:00 p.m.; Tai Chi – Friday mornings 9:00 and 10:00.
6. Trips – Blowing Rock on October 6th; wine Tour on November 17th.

7. Preschool, Youth Programs – Start Smart Sports, Mini Adventures and Athletes, HomeSchool PE Have all started.

PRC Holiday Party – Would like to get this on the calendar now. How does Wednesday, December 5th – 7:00 p.m. work for everyone? Location TBD – hopefully will be at the same place as last year (Holly Crest Apartments Club House). Will confirm by next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

1. Tournament Selection meeting October 29th at 6:30pm. Kathy, Magic and Rich will attend the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Leash Ordinance for Parks. Michael was not able to get this issue on the Ordinance Advisory Board agenda this month, however, it will be on the October agenda. We would like the PRC Chair or Vice-Chair to be at the meeting. Michael received a call last week from a group at North Meck Park complaining about a dog that is running around there unleashed every morning. Michael reiterated that this is a good time to make a change to the ordinance. We continue to see more and more issues with dogs being of their leashes.

Rich asked if the Town plans on making other changes to the ordinance that do not relate to the parks. Michael is unaware if any other changes are being addressed. The Police Chief is all for the change. We are expecting some push back from the public since there are no dog parks in Huntersville and thus no public areas to bring dogs to be off leash. As was stated at previous meetings, there is a plan in the five-year CIP to build a dog park near Ranson and Rosedale, which would hopefully help the situation. A new dog park was listed as one of the top five suggested amenities in our Parks and Rec Master Plan.

The Ordinance Advisory Board will be meeting on October 4th with Rich and Michael attending.

2. Strikers/Rapids Dispute. Thomas from the Rapids sent another email to Hank and Michael stating that he is still seeing non-Strikers groups on our fields. The Commission ensued in a discussion about what was presented at past meetings when both Andrew and Thomas presented their sides of the story. The consensus was that there is a lot of confusion about the structure of Strikers Soccer Club, which Andrew explained when he was at the July board meeting. The Commissioners were comfortable with the explanation given by Andrew and believed that the issue was closed. It was suggested that we should possibly have Thomas come back and let the Board know exactly what his current concern is since the past issue has already been resolved. Ed Parks commented that the Board should just vote on whether or not there is

an issue or not and go from there. Michael will follow-up with both Andrew and Thomas to get more detailed information.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 17th at 6:30 p.m.