

## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 21 January 2020**

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Greg Cochran
- Bob Hurring
- Wyn Birkenthal
- Heather Layton
- Jared Mull – Parks and Recreation Director
- Mandi Bentley - Recreation Manager

Call to Order: Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The commission reviewed the minutes from the November 2019 meeting and approved them unanimously.

### **Public Comment**

- Betty Rogge, from the US Census Bureau, requested help for recruiting for the upcoming census. The starting pay will be \$17/hour and 58 cents/mile. 100 people are needed prior to the end of February just in Transylvania County. Information from the 2010 census was distributed to the members in attendance. Because 25% of the county's population was not counted during the previous census, it was estimated that the county lost out on approximately millions of dollars in grants, project funding, government funding etc. It is her hope to gain help from the Commission in recommending individuals for this job opportunity. The hours are flexible including weekends, evenings, etc. The work would wrap up approximately in August. Betty provided contact information and flyers to be left in the lobby of the Recreation Department.

### **Partner Updates**

City Updates – Jim Fatland

- Jim Fatland did not attend so there was no action under this agenda item.

### **Old Business**

- Fitness Course Update
  - Jared and Mandi were able to visit an existing fitness course similar to the one that will be built in conjunction with the Jameson's Joy Foundation. The turf appeared to have held up really nice with minimal maintenance which was encouraging. The county has hired an engineer along whom met with Jared and other individuals in the county and the playground company to get an idea of what the site exactly needs to be prepped for the implementation of the playground. The site will need two additional handicapped accessible parking spaces that will

be paved and additional work will need to be done to raise up the area due to flooding and drainage purposes and leveling reasons. The county will begin the bidding process for this project and begin the implementation of the playground set. It appears it will realistically be a Fall opening of the playground. However, the equipment for the playground has been purchased.

- Pickleball Courts Update
  - The pickleball courts and a sidewalk have been poured. Jared is currently getting quotes from different line painting companies. The area will house four courts and a fence will line the courts. It has taken approximately two years for the full implementation of these courts, but it is exciting for the plan to come to fruition.
- Showers Update
  - The showers are now complete. The only additional item that may be done would be a locking door that is only accessible by staff for safety reasoning. These showers could be beneficial for a multitude of reasons; including, emergencies, after ball games, etc.

#### Recreation Update

- Past programs: Fun with Frosty at the Rec Department and at TC Henderson, Christmas in the Park. A video was played showcasing Christmas in the Park. The survey results were especially positive.
- Current programs: Play the Day Away on teacher workdays from 8:00 until 4:30, Indoor Fun Play (Pre-K) with 62 kids registered, Reading Connection at Silvermont, Youth Basketball 275 kids registered both on Friday nights and Saturday throughout the day with various age groups.
- Upcoming Programs: Smart Start Basketball for Pre-K, Dodgeball Camp on Friday afternoons, Spring Volleyball, and a Spring Break Camp.

#### Director Update:

- Emily Lowery, Special Olympics coordinator, was here during a previous meeting has resigned. Someone is currently stepping up to volunteer, but Mandi has been speaking with a regional person to ensure the program does not die off.
- On Friday, February 7th, the Rec Department is the host of Night to Shine which is Tim Tebow's prom for individuals with special needs. Brevard Community Church runs the event, but they use our facility and do a great job. Jared encouraged the commission to attend as it is a special night.
- The budget and all that it entails will be arising in the next couple of months. Silvermont will be one of the larger items and the various projects within the county. The budget for Parks and Rec will include the master plan of the new park in addition to silvermont, pending projects, and the daily operations and programs. A new need is serving the community outside of the rec center and going out into the community, such as going to TC Henderson school, etc. The new property acquisition will begin with key stakeholder

groups and public input meetings to start gaining traction on direction for the new property which would begin, hopefully, in early Fall once the budget has been approved.

- Danny Hein, Cody Owen, and Greg Cochran will be renewing their membership on the Commission. We are grateful to have them on board!

Member Comments:

- It was mentioned how incredible it is to have the depth and variety of programs offered through the Rec Department with the size of our county. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the Commission, Director, and staff.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 6:50 pm.