

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 16 October 2018

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Bob Hurring
- Heather Layton
- Kevin Smith
- Jared Mull – Parks and Recreation Director
- Mandi Bentley – Recreation Manager

Call to Order: Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Approval of Minutes: The commission reviewed the minutes from the September 2018 and approved them unanimously.

Public Comment

- Tom Sweeny inquired about the railroad tracks that have not been used for a substantial time now in the county. There are several private organizations and studies that have been conducted that have looked at converting those tracks into trails, however, those plans have been in the works for quite some time. The Parks and Recreation Commission has not formally taken a stance on this issue nor has it been an issue brought to the commission. There was not an interest from the railroads to sell or forming any sort of cooperative agreement at this time, though not all of the information is known. It was mentioned that Henderson County has been working toward a “greenway” initiative to establish trails/paths throughout their county. It is outside of the commission’s purview, but could be something the commission explores in the future.

Partner Updates

City Updates – Jim Fatland

- Jim Fatland did not attend so there was no action under this agenda item.
- Jared attended the last city meeting and the Skate Park for Tannery Park proposal was presented which is exciting because it appears to be a need in Brevard and Transylvania County. It is projected to be completed by the end of the year. A large majority of the work is clearing the land. A grant was obtained along with individual fundraising efforts. The materials and labor are largely being donated.

Old Business

- Silvermont Master Plan
 - The final input meeting was held on September 25th and approximately 25 people were in attendance. A new and updated plan was presented to the commission. A large concern discussed at the public input meeting was the issue of getting rid of

the basketball courts. Based on the input received and their recommendations, it was decided to take the basketball courts out of the front of the mansion and relocate the court in front of the pavilions.

- This plan also includes getting rid of the raised planter beds and moving towards more of herbal gardens. The Master Gardeners are an integrative part of the park and was one of the primary concerns voiced at the public input meetings.
 - Phase I would be the paving of the walking trail and fixing safety concerns with the funds available.
 - In regard to the tennis courts, they will not be moved until an alternate place is identified. It is anticipated that the removal of the courts will be one of the last items implemented which could be approximately ten to fifteen years down the road.
 - A motion was made to approve the recommended plan as drawn. The motion was seconded, discussion ensued, and approved unanimously.
 - Jared is planning to present this updated plan at the November 13th County Commissioner meeting. It is the hopes that this will be the last planning meeting and implementation will begin.
- Facility Use Policy
 - The Facility Use Policy was presented for review to the commissioners. The county attorney and commissioners provided minor changes which have been completed. Jared will be presenting for approval at the next commissioner's meeting.

New Business

Horse Cove Road Trail Funding Request

- The city is looking for the county to partner with them on the Horse Cove Road Trail which connects the city's property, Bracken Preserve, with the Pisgah national Forest via Joel Branch. The road currently runs behind Schenck Job Corps and follows Joel Branch, west towards the Art Loeb Trail. This would provide a more direct connection from the city's existing trail system to Pisgah Forest and the commercial center on the north end of town. The funding request is \$6500 for the county partnership. There is a grant through TDA for approximately \$25000 and the city has budgeted for the remaining amount. This could foster future collaborations between the city and the county. This is a \$38000 project. At this time, there will be no future monies required or maintenance.
- At this time, the commission is requesting additional information and plans for a more detailed presentation prior to making a recommendation.

Friends of the Parks

- The Parks' employees, outside of mowing, have struggled with pruning, pulling weeds, and picking up the dead fall after losing the horticulturist position which was not refilled. They are doing all they are able to do with the man power they have. Jared has been brainstorming a way to keep up the parks and maintaining them. He would like to

establish a friends of the parks which would be volunteers passionate about keeping up the parks such as Silvermont, South Broad Park, Rosman Community Park, etc. The master gardeners could potentially be involved. The individuals would be asked to volunteer their time rather than monies and would be supervised. The commission was in favor of this initiative and would like more specifics and structure put in place.

Recreation Update

- Flag football and the future football starts program has ended and surveys have been sent out. The surveys have provided primarily positive feedback.
- Currently, youth volleyball will end next week with a pizza party and indoor play.
- There are five participants in the State Senior Games in pickleball. Next week, 26 participants will be going down to play basketball in Greenville, NC to compete in the Senior Games.
- The Friends of Silvermont have the pumpkin trail going on right now as a fundraiser and have worked diligently in getting the property ready and on the pumpkins.
- Partnering with the friends of Silvermont and with Melinda, the turtle and the dolphin have been re-painted at Silvermont. There has been a significant amount positive feedback on the newly painted turtle and dolphin.
- Transylvania Youth Council have a middle school dance this upcoming weekend which is ran by high school students. Youth Council will also be in charge of the costume contest and parade on October 27th the Halloweenfest in downtown Brevard in cooperation with the Heart of Brevard whom has provided prize money for the costume contest in the form of \$1000. Youth Council will play a small part in the early childhood initiative at Halloween Fest. Sesame Street is coming to Halloweenfest as well as the imagination playground will be there.
- Youth basketball registration is currently underway. It is anticipated to have 250 participants along with the boys and girls club teams, which includes adding an all girl's league and 7th and 8th grade league.
- December will have the Fun with Frosty and Buddy the Elf programs which are for Pre-K programs that are an hour long and include a picture, craft, snack, etc. Christmas in the Park will be a full day from 10am until 2pm which will be both inside and outside. This will include Santa, a train, ice sculptures, inflatables, Frosty, Buddy the Elf, food trucks, petting zoo, crafts, etc. This will be \$5 per person.
- There will be a Battle for the Belt Christmas classic tournament which is a three day event and will be a double elimination tournament.

City Update:

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

Director Update:

- Jared and Chase will be gone Tuesday through Friday of next week, October 23rd-26th, at the state conference.

- Jared will be meeting on Friday with the owner of the Fitness Factory to partner with him, the county, and Special Olympics so that there will be designated times that participants can weight train and cardio train.
- The next meeting will be November 20th which is the Tuesday before thanksgiving.

Member Comments:

- Heather Layton stated she was excited about having an all girl's basketball league. TYSA has had several all girl's leagues this year which have been successful. She was especially appreciative of having the concerns of parents being heard and implementing leagues specifically for girls in a variety of sports.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:04 pm.