

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 20 November 2018

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Bob Hurring
- Gregory Copeland
- Cody Owen
- Kevin Smith
- Jared Mull – Parks and Recreation Director
- Mandi Bentley – Recreation Manager

Call to Order: Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

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

Public Comment

- Scott Russell, with TYSA, was able to view the plan for the potential purchasing of property and stated that initially it looks alright. However, the land looks low which could potentially have issues with flooding.

Partner Updates

City Updates – Jim Fatland

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

Old Business

Silvermont Master Plan

- The Silvermont master plan was approved by the Commissioners. The only change mentioned was giving the Commissioners flexibility to fund which part of the plan first. Ideally, the first phase would be restroom renovations as well as vehicle and safety issues. Most of the commissioners agreed to provide funding for the phases as they stand over time. It was a long process, but through diligence, we are now beginning to see it come to fruition. The phases should be seen as general guidelines or recommendations, giving the commissioners the ability to provide funding or direct the stages as they see fit over a period of time.
- The next steps, now that the master plan has been approved, will be working with the county manager. Some funds could be available and it will be up to the Commissioners to allocate the funds for specific projects. There could be projects beginning within the next one to two years.

Factory Strong

- Special Olympics will be partnering with the Fitness Factory on the first Tuesday of December. There will be cardio and strength training on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Chase Lance, a program coordinator, and part-time staff members will be helping with this initiative. Phil Kitchen, the owner of the Fitness Factory, has been very supportive and has purchased t-shirts among other things and is very excited about this partnership. Emily Lowery, the Special Olympics coordinator for this area, has reached out to the participants to promote this initiative.

Horse Cove Road Trail

- A map was distributed to the members in attendance highlighting the proposed trail. The city of Brevard came to the County Commissioners to see if they would be willing to fund half of the Horse Cove Road Trail project. The amount would be \$6500. The County Commissioners asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to evaluate further if we would be interested in partnering with the city. This trail would be available for hiking and biking trails from the city into the Pisgah National Forest. The city has received a grant and will also be funding \$6500. This could also pave the way for future collaboration with the county and the city. A motion was made to recommend the Horse Cove Road Trail be funded by the Commissioners for the amount of \$6500. The motion was seconded and approved.

New Business

Potential Park Property

- A packet was distributed to the members in attendance regarding a new potential park property. This piece of property is at the corner of 276 and Gallimore Rd. The property is 54 acres and approximately 30 plus acres are usable. This property is approximately 53% in a flood plain. The Economic Alliance has pitched the idea to purchase this land for approximately \$450,000 for the purpose of redesignating the land the county has for the fields and list it as an industrial park and move the fields to this newly purchased property.
- This would impact TYSA, adult softball, and Brevard Youth Football if the fields were moved and turned into industrial property. However, the new property would have three full sized soccer fields, three full sized softball fields, and a potential site for the moving of the tennis courts. However, the Parks and Recreation Commission can design the new space however they deem fit. It would cost approximately 4.5 million dollars to create the fields on the new property.
- The point was made that Rosman Community Park and well as Tannery Park are in a flood plain. The softball fields would be the biggest concern from a maintenance standpoint with the rain. TYSA stated they were fine with the facilities that are already available to them. Brevard Youth Football stated it would not be a large issue for them should the fields be moved as long as there is a field available to them.

- Cody Owen stated the Parks and Recreation Commission should have been advised of this plan prior to the final stages of this acquisition. He continued stating that there has been a lot of time and money invested by the county into this plan and the Parks and Recreation Commission should have been involved in the earlier stages. There appears to be an urgency to the purchasing of this property which creates some concern from the Parks and Recreation Commission, especially considering the flooding history of the property.
- The board would like to have a study conducted to see the feasibility of moving the recreation fields to this area. If the purchasing of the property were to move forward, a master plan would be required so that money would not be wasted in building amenities that would need to be replaced frequently due to the flooding history of the property.
- The County Commissioners have not asked for the recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission. At this point, it is just a potential land acquisition. The development of this property is contingent on a new industry coming and acquiring the land. The Parks and Recreation Commission was not asked for any action under this agenda item.

Recreation Update

- Current programs happening: Registration for youth basketball is occurring now. There were 211 spots opened and as of now, 137 have already been taken. December 1st will be the assessment. Ed Kota along with several other former professional players will be present to aid staff in distributing the teams evenly. The season will start the first Saturday in January.
- Christmas in the park will be on December 8th from 10 – 2. Santa will be here, there will be a petting zoo, inflatables, food trucks, etc. 387 individuals have already signed up. Admission is free, but if you would like to participate in the activities a \$5 wristband will need to be purchased prior to the event.
- Fun with Frosty will be held on December 13th and Fun with Buddy the Elf program will be held on December 20th. These events will include a craft, a snack, among other activities.

City Update:

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

Director Update:

- There will not be a December meeting for this Commission. Jared took the opportunity to reflect on the work the Parks and Recreation Commission implemented over the past year. In this past year, there has been air conditioning in the gym, there is dirt available to begin the process of building the pickleball courts, the master plan for Silvermont was approved, the funding of the Rosman summer camp for kids and families that otherwise would not be able to afford it, the implementation of facility use and fee waiver policies,

and the approval of the first floor renovations of the Silvermont which looks fantastic. The work that is done in this commission is important and valued.

Member Comments:

- The comment was made that the work Jared has put in has been noticed by the community and it very appreciated.
- Kevin Smith stated that because of other engagements, he has decided to step down from this commission after five and a half years. His service on this commission has been very much appreciated.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:02 pm.