

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 19 June 2018

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Cody Owen
- Gregory Copeland
- Bob Hurring
- Jonathan Griffin – Interim Parks and Recreation Director
- Jared Mull – Recreation Manager

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the May 2018 meeting will be read and approved during the next meeting.

Election of Officers – 2019:

- A motion was made to keep the current chair and the vice-chair as is for the upcoming year. The motion was seconded, discussion ensued, and was approved unanimously. Danny Hein will continue to serve as Chairman for one year, Wayne Rundell as Vice Chair for one additional year.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Partner Updates

City Updates – Jim Fatland

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

Old Business

Silvermont Master Planning Process Update:

- SiteWorks Studios with design recommendations for Silvermont.
- 330 individuals responded to an online survey in regard to the Silvermont property.
 - Meetings with key stakeholders – 50 individuals were in attendance: Friends of Silvermont, Senior Center, Master Gardeners, and the Historical Society.
 - Public Input Meeting: May 31st, 2018
 - Friends of Silvermont: primary concerns were ADA accessibility, erosion, maintaining the historic atmosphere of the mansion, basketball court locations, safety was key, parking lot, and entrances and exits. The pumpkin fest and the Thursday night music fest were listed as huge successes.

- Master Gardeners: would like to know the long term plan so that they can prepare for new beds, etc.
- Historical Society: outdoor gathering spaces. County being able to generate money off of outdoor events (weddings, parties, etc.). Places for the public to meet.
- Each group had a lot of input on the basketball courts, pedestrian access, parking, and safety. Lack of conflict regarding the inclusion or exclusion of various components to the park from the stakeholder groups.
- Survey: Renovation of the existing restrooms was the biggest area of improvement needed, followed by playground improvements, as well as vehicular guidelines. Additional children play opportunities was listed as the feature most liked to see added. Of the respondents, most people did not play tennis as well did not play basketball. It was appreciated that the park feels like a family park. Twelve observations from the data: people love this park, restrooms-existing conditions, splash park, additional children's play opportunities, pedestrian access, lack of public meeting space, concerns regarding vehicular and pedestrian safety, walking trail upgrades, desire for open law/passive recreation opportunities, challenges with the tennis courts (maintenance), basketball (perhaps ½ of the court size), and no mention of the Master Gardener's raised beds.
- Site Analysis Plan: Structures, bathrooms, sports courts are in need of repair, lighting not functioning at the basketball courts, circular parking was one of the primary concerns presented, playground is a large attraction, opportunity to create more shade around the playground area, passive play not centered around the one piece of equipment, master gardeners aren't integrated into the park, southern wooded area have remnants of old playground equipment, walking paths are a big advantage, really nice trees throughout, signage, potentially additional cross walks to add more accessibility from the surrounding neighborhoods and community.
- Conclusion: Fix the entry, existing parking that was in agreement should be changed, dead end parking lot which can be chaotic, open lawn usage space, blue lines=pedestrian access. Open lawn recreation space, storm water issues were addressed. Behind the house, another children's component or open law usage, accessibility is going to be met long term. Master Gardener's sent to another space that could use them more often, potentially South Broad. Will have detailed phasing recommendations.
- Comments from the Parks and Recreation Commission:
 - a. It's a historic park, which this plan keeps in line with its original purpose.
 - b. There is a need for both type of courts, but is not sure if Silvermont is the best place for both of them.
 - c. Age band of the usage of the park is large.
 - d. Basketball and tennis would be the very last to come out. It would be ideal to say these courts will be moving to this location which could result in potentially 10 to 15 years.

- e. Time to get an acceptable location for the moving of the courts. Tier in priority: parking is priority #1, etc.
- The board unanimously endorsed the plan, acknowledging it would be ideal if the sport courts had alternative locations clearly ironed out in the future. The courts will not be discarded until a new location is identified.

New Business

Recreation Update:

- Summer Camp Update:
 - Finished the Little Explores Camp last week.
 - Volleyball camp is currently going on this week with 19 girls in each age group.
- Adult Basketball:
 - Great competition from around WNC, season is going well.
 - Save the date for the All Star Night (Thursday, July 19th)
- Flag Football:
 - Registration opened on June 1st for girls and boys in grades 1st through 6th.
 - Adding an All Star Game for the kids this season.
 - Applied for another \$1,000 grant through the Panthers and should hear back soon if we received it.
- Staff Transitions:
 - Mandi is moving to Silvermont and will oversee the senior center operations effective July 2nd.
 - Chase Lance has been hired as the new Recreation Program Coordinator and will lead and assist with summer camps, youth sports, TYC, etc. Chase has a bachelor's degree from Brevard College in Business with a minor in Sports & Event Management.

Director Update:

- Jonathan sent documents with updates on the Master Plan to the county commissioners, the Board of County Commissioners recognize that the main priority for Parks and Recreation over the next five years needs to be the acquisition of additional park land.
- The County Commissioners approved the by-law change regarding seven members which is effective now.
- The director search is still underway. There were a total of 60 applicants. The search has been narrowed down to 15 applicants.

Member Comments:

- There were no member comments.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:17 pm.