

## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 19 February 2019**

Members Present:

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

Call to Order: Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

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

### **Public Comment**

- Evan Shriner, head tennis coach at Brevard College, reported he is continuously growing as a program and he is looking to grow the sport in the county. His goal is to increase the awareness of tennis, specifically in the schools with juniors, but with adults as well. The United States Tennis Association, USTA, is providing free equipment, including: tennis racquets, caution tape for the nets, chalk, and tennis balls, and providing free instruction for PE teachers or organizations explaining how to teach the game of tennis. If the Recreation Department were to create a program, the equipment would be free as well. A six week program will be offered at Brevard Racquet Club for a one hour clinic to begin teaching the basics of the game. A junior club team will begin that would play other club teams in the area, partnering with Asheville and Hendersonville. Entry level tournaments will be held approximately once per month from now until November for the youth that will last for half a day to begin introducing the younger players to the realm of tournaments. Any recommendation and help from the commission to grow the sport in this county would be appreciated as he has been in touch with the schools and the administrators in the area. He will be placing some flyers and business cards in the lobby of the recreation department.

### **Partner Updates**

City Updates – Jim Fatland

- Jim Fatland did not attend; however, a proposal regarding a crosswalk from the Brevard City Council was presented to see if the county would be interested in funding part of this initiative. Brevard City Council agreed to fund 25% of the implementation of the flashing lights system. The cost for two of the crosswalks would be \$26,000. The city would be able to provide \$6500 and they have asked the county to provide \$6500, which would

come out of the reserve account, and the rest would be funded through raising money. The first crosswalk would be near the college and the other would be on Ecusta Road which have been identified as dangerous areas for crossing with high traffic. It has been seen and researched the effectiveness of these crosswalks. The county has no jurisdiction in regard to roads, that lies within the state, but could be tied to the county due to trail connectivity. The comment was made that the crosswalk on Ecusta Road would be justifiable due to its proximity to the Recreation Department and the ball field; however, the one near the college does not directly relate to Parks and Recreation and the precedence does not want to be set that the Parks and Recreation Commission become involved in issues seemingly outside of the commission's purview. The Commission agreed that they were not in a position to make this decision at this time and would like more information as the Commission fails to see our connection to the crosswalk downtown. The Commission would like to receive more information and explore the matter further prior to making an official recommendation.

## **Old Business**

### Bike Plan Presentation – Joy Fields

- Joy Fields, the full time planner for the county, presented to the meeting to expand more in-depth about the proposed bike plan which came out of a grant that the planning department applied for through DOT. While working on the 2025 comprehensive plan, it was identified that the county needed to work with various partners to look at multiuse trails and the biking infrastructure. Cyclists are coming to the county in a staggering amount, but there are no designated lanes. The grant allowed the planning committee to hire an individual to develop a biking infrastructure which has cost the county, at this point, \$10,000. A stakeholders meeting was held to identify the plans that are currently in motion that have an impact on cyclists, including: the 2025 master plan, neighboring county plans, the Parks and Recreation Commission master plan, among others. The City of Brevard paid for detailed data to identify the roads the cyclists are riding on most frequently, where the accidents happen more frequently, etc. During public input, multiuse paths, road improvements, education and communication, and safety were the biggest concerns the respondents would like to see occur. Greenways were the most liked option by respondents, but also the most expensive. In keeping momentum on the bicycle projects already in development, the state of North Carolina will pay for 80% of the costs for side paths through DOT funding. The other 20% has to come through the local area through grants, private donations, capital improvement budget with the stipulation that it has to be local. For the DOT to provide funding, there has to be a documented and adopted plan through the local government to show that it is important. Without an adopted plan, the improved roads will be done without the bike infrastructure, because it is expensive. By adopting the plan, it allows a discussion for when funding is available, but it takes five years to get the project underway plus two years for construction. This is a long term plan and funding for these projects is not guaranteed; however, without the adopted plan, the 80% funding will be forfeited. Many of these projects identified in the

handout provided to the Commission will require cooperation between the city of Brevard and the county. There is not much funding for mountain biking at this time, but voluntary funding programs could go to the 20% for the paths or for establishing beginner trails which could be adopted by the local bike shops to show they have financially supported riding their bikes. This has been presented to the transportation advisory committee and the planning committee. The county commissioners will have to provide their edits, the other committees that have been presented to will provide their edits, and then the county commissioners will then have the opportunity to adopt it. If the Commissioners choose not to adopt the plan, the research and plan will sit on a shelf and not go anywhere. This commission can choose to recommend this plan to the Commissioners or take it as good information. The Commission has decided to wait for the edited version from DOT and other committees prior to making a recommendation to the County Commissioners.

### Property Acquisition

- The Commissioners have decided to extend the due diligence for the purchasing of the Picklesimer property through the end of October. By that time, the county will be applying for a PARTF grant which could help fund that piece of property. The extension may not allot enough time to see if the grant will be awarded or not, so a continuance may be warranted again. However, this appears to be a good investment if the grant will provide some of the funding. Potential plans for the Picklesimer property have been explored. Jared will be meeting with several special interest groups to try and garner support for the grant to increase the likelihood of acquiring the grant. A motion was made in support of the county applying for the PARTF grant. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

### New Business

#### Recreation Update

- Current programs: Youth basketball has been in motion since the beginning of January and the final Saturday will be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> with the tournaments now underway. Indoor fun play program had 33 participants last month and as of today there are now 105 participants. Chase has started the dodgeball program this past week on Friday afternoons after school and there are 36 participants.
- Upcoming programs: 4-6<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball starts March 12<sup>th</sup> which is already half way full. Play the day away is planned for the teacher workday is now full. Spring break camp is taking registration as well as the summer camps. There are seven camps planned for the summer plus the Rosman camp and three of those are already half full.
- Senior Games barbeque is coming up on March 28<sup>th</sup> as a fundraiser. The senior games will be on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and go through May 13<sup>th</sup>. Opening ceremonies will be held on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Applications and registration will be open March 1<sup>st</sup>. Fifteen dollars application fee will include all of the events, a t-shirt, and two meals.
- Batter for the Belt registration opens on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Transylvania Youth Council will be participating, weather permitting, in the Polar Plunge for a fundraiser for Special Olympics. A middle school dance will be put on by TYC as a fundraiser on March 15th and a golf tournament fundraiser will be held in April.

City Update:

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

Director Update:

- Jared reported he is very excited that the floor in the backroom will only be here for a month or two before it will be getting replaced by commercial grade flooring, not carpet.
- Rosman Community Park recently had a lot of improvements to the softball fields with more sand/dirt being put on the field, protective netting, and new bases.
- Now is the time for looking at the budget and Jared will be working on the numbers. Jared doesn't foresee budget increases at this time due to the school bond being passed.

Member Comments:

- There were no member comments at this time.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:48 pm.