

Parks and Recreation Commission meeting January 15, 2019

Members present:

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

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

Approval of minutes: The commission reviewed the minutes from the November 2018 meeting and approved them unanimously.

Public comment

Josh Hallingse, with the TDA. Gave background of TDA and creating jobs. Identify potential properties for industrial growth and identify new property as potential.

David Guice, county commissioner. Attended to listen to conversation about potential land purchase and give input if wanted.

Partner updates:

City of Brevard – Jim Fatland

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

Old business

A. Horse Cove Road Trail

- Danny Hein asked progress, Jared said we are waiting on City to give update.

B. Pickleball Courts

- Courts are on hold for the possible extension of restrooms to provide shower facilities since the TAC is used as an emergency shelter.

C. Property purchase

- Chairman Danny Hein stated that the commission has not be asked for a formal recommendation and Jared confirmed that. Danny requested everyone to give their perspective. Cody stated that he was under the impression that the county commissioners had already voted to purchase the property and inquired why this was not the case.
- County commissioner David Guice stated that the old commissioners had voted and approved the property purchase before the new county commissioners were voted in. The new county commission board held a special meeting because they felt like the new commissioners coming in should have a voice as well as the public. They voted to ask for a 60 day grace period extension for the purchase of the property. That was granted. Commissioner Guice also stated that he was getting lots of input on this subject for the citizens and is also looking at the site and economic development plans. The decision to purchase this property will be voted on at the County commissioner meeting on January 28, 2019.
- Greg presented flood plain maps of the property which included 100 and 500 year floodplain areas.
- Cody presented pictures of the property after a recent flood which occurred after 8 inches of rain
- Bob stated that he recently walked the property after a rain and the ground was firm and he did not sink up to his ankles. He stated that the run way of the old airport was 2-3 feet higher than the rest of the property
- An article about Asheville Parks and Recreation was handed out because they are having issues with parks being flooded.
- Jared provided pros and cons for the commission on this subject.

Thoughts from commission

- Danny: We are not required or been asked to give a recommendation. We have our masterplan, limited amount of money and this plan affects the masterplan. Does not want to take resources that we currently have (BYF, TYSA, Silvermont)

- Gregory: This property reminds him of the tannery property that the city has with wetlands and floodplains. The only kind of things these properties are good for are walking pathways. Has concerns about engineering problems. Stated that the water still has to go somewhere. The purchase of this property will take away from progress made at Silvermont.
- Jared stated that the county commissioners would be voting whether or not to purchase the property and then it would be decided what goes on the property
- Wayne stated that a green space would be nice but constant cancellations are not good for recreation programs. It is a huge financial decision to make this property playable. (Master planning, purchase, implementation, etc.)
- Danny is still unclear about what the commission can do and doesn't want to get the cart before the horse. Does not want to go backward from progress already made.
- Cody: stated, why would you buy property if you don't have a plan? Recreation is the plan. The goal is job creation through manufacturing.
- Josh with TDA stated that the economic alliance spent \$5,000 on the proposed current plan.
- Cody: commission was informed but not included on any decision. Thanked commissioner Guice for coming and listening. He stated his frustration because the board should have been included from the beginning. He questions what the commission is here for because it was not included on the front end of this decision, just the back end.
- Gregory stated that the land acquisition should be based on feasibility
- Cody stated that the masterplans include a lot of the amenities but none were proposed in a floodway. Rosman Community Park is currently in a floodway and it would be a slippery slope to push all of recreation in floodways. Softball used to be held at south broad park where the library is, Strauss Park used to have a public softball field, now because of manufacturing the 2 fields we have are possibly

being pushed to a floodway. He is cautious about moving forward and worries that they little league fields will eventually be pushed out. Is cost worth the gain?

- Danny: Does not want to move backward. We have current facilities that do not flood. Funding is required for this purchase. They plan on using recreation funds. If the county does not use the property for recreation, will we lose that money that could go toward what is already master planned? Stated that if the county wants to purchase the property for economic or recreation reasons, it should be their decision. He does not think that the county should use recreation money for the county strategic plan. He does not see how this purchase affects P&R commission if the county does not have a clear use for it for the future.
- David Guice: Confirmed that what he is hearing at this meeting is what he is hearing from the public. He does not agree with talks that have not include the P&R commission. It is important to him to ensure the right people are at the table on January 28th. He knows the need for recreation from the master plan and being around little league. He has concerns about how the current plan out and places all of our current amenities in a floodplain. States that other things could go on this site and that having river access in Brevard would be an asset. He knows that a decision has not been made by the county commissioners but there is a serious need for job creation in the county. The proposed property does have water and sewer, which is appealing. He does see where someone could purchase the property and use it for some of the recreation needs. He knows that the county commissioners have to decide on a way to find resolution for recreation and economic development. He does not want to take away from what we currently have.
- Danny Hein asked if the county does not have an exact plan for the property. Why would parks and recreation fund the purchase?
- David Guice: the property would be used for recreation in some capacity. Examples include picnic shelter, walking trail, Dog Park, soccer, etc. But it would be hard for him as a commissioner to support all current amenities in a wetland

- Heather: Schools could use the river access for lessons. The B&G club could use it as well as surrounding community. Muddy sneakers program pays to use a park in Flat rock. This property could be used to make income through community partners.
- David Guice apologized for not including the P&R commission

New business

A. Recreation Update

Christmas in the Park: 576 registered with 1000+ at event

Current Programs: Youth Basketball: 208 participants. 2nd week of games this Saturday. Indoor Fun play – 33 participants

Upcoming Programs: Play the Day Away, Dodgeball 2/15, Volleyball 3/12, Spring break camp 4/15 – 4/18

B. Directors update

Night to Shine: February 8th. The facility is being used for this event and the commission is invited to drop by.

Silvermont: Wheelchair swing will be installed soon. Jared will let commission know when this is going in.

Joy Field will be coming to the next meeting to discuss the bike trail plans

Member comments

Jared: Thanks to Josh and David for attending meeting. He is excited about seeing what will happen either way of the vote and is ready to make things happen with the masterplan either way to help our amenities. Danny agreed

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn by Chair, seconded and approved unanimously at 7:22pm