

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 19 March 2019

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Gregory Copeland
- Cody Owen
- Greg Cochran
- 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 February 2019 meeting and approved them unanimously.

Member Introduction:

- Greg Cochran was welcomed to the board as he was recently voted on by the County Commissioners. We are excited to have Greg on the board and look forward to his service therein.

Public Comment

- There was no public comment at this time.

Partner Updates

City Updates – Jim Fatland

- Jim Fatland did not attend so there was no action under this agenda item. The request relevant to the crosswalk partnership with the city for more information was not brought up nor was expanded upon.

Old Business

Bike Plan Vote – Joy Fields

- An email was sent to the board members with the finalized version of the bike plan with the requested feedback from various groups, including DOT. The content of the plan was not altered significantly and the comments were minimal. Joy Fields mentioned that if there is an approved plan, DOT will pay 80% of the plan for a multiuse path and the remaining funding will be raised by the county or various other organizations/interest groups. Joy provided a handout regarding the plan and funding to aid in resolving some of the more common questions raised. The approval of this plan does not guarantee that it will be funded; however, without the plan it would definitely not be funded by the DOT. The concern of the board is that when the plan comes to fruition, the monies could be

taken out of the Parks Commission money which is seemingly outside of the scope of the Parks and Recreation Commission in regard to funding. However, it was a general consensus that this initial plan is supported and without the adoption of this plan, it will not occur. Once the plan is implemented, further discussion can ensue regarding the funding. The motion was made to support the plan and recommends the County Commissioners consider it for adoption. The motion was seconded and voted on unanimously.

PARTF Update

- Jared reported he wanted to include the 55 acre Pickelsimer land and the Barkley Road land acquisition; however, the Barkely Road land will not be included. Jared was advised to only include one land acquisition for the grant. As of now, it will not be considered for the Part F grant. The Barkely Road land is priced at \$26,000 for seven acres of land for the public river access. Jared met with the PTO, Boys and Girls Club, French Broad Stewards, and PRC whom are all in full support and will be providing a letter in agreement with the land acquisition. The Chamber and TDA are initially in support of the Pickelsimer land acquisition, but would like to discuss it at their next meeting prior to submitting a letter.
- The grants are awarded in October or November in Raleigh. Jared will be sitting in on the discussion of the grant to listen to their feedback. Jared and an outside entity will be writing the grant. Jared believes there is a strong chance for the acquisition of this grant in the amount of approximately \$220,000 to \$230,000.
- Equinox was asked to do another conceptual plan and was distributed to the members in attendance. This plan includes a disc golf course, a dog park, ADA fishing access, etc. The grant requires a realistic conceptualized plan though it is not necessarily binding and can be changed to meet the needs of the community. This will increase the likelihood of receiving the grant.

New Business

Recreation Update

- Current programs: Chase Lance just finished up dodgeball which was a five week program. The survey results were overwhelmingly positive. Indoor fun play is a Pre-K program held on Mondays and Wednesdays. At this point, we are at 179 participants. The last date will be April 10th. Youth volleyball is currently underway, there are 47 participants on Tuesday nights.
- Upcoming programs: Play the Day Away is a program held for TCS work days and is planned for this upcoming week. There are currently 26 participants for grades K-5. Spring break camp will be held April 15th through the 18th. About half of the spots have been filled. Summer camp registration is currently open. The sports camp is currently full with 40 participants. Dodgeball and extreme camps will also be including 40 participants. There is a camp at Rosman for 24 participants and is fully funded by the County Commissioners. The Senior Games will be holding a fundraisers. Bill Sack, a board

member, has a smoker and has agreed to cook BBQ for the fundraiser. This is one of two fundraisers for the Senior Games. It will be held next Thursday from 11-1. Delivery is an option for individuals in town. Senior Games is available for Transylvania County residents fifty years of age and older. Opening ceremonies will be on April 26th at 6 pm. The Silver Arts show and the performing arts will be held on that night as well. We are still taking sponsorships. Battle for the Belt summer league basketball program filled up in four days. One team dropped out, but a team from Cherokee/Robbinsville has expressed interest. TYC held a dance last Friday and was successful, raising approximately \$500. The golf tournament fundraiser for TYC will be held on April 5th at Etowah. It will be \$60 per player, captain's choice, and a few teams are still needed as well as sponsors.

Director Update:

- Jared is putting in the operational budget, which will not result in an increase in the budget, to pave walking path, renovating restrooms, working on drainage issues at Silvermont if the budget is approved. He wants to ensure we are moving forward with these plans to show the community that progress is being made. Jared will be meeting with the finance manager and the city manager to go over the budget to ensure it is ready to be presented to the commissioners.
- July 1st of last year we took over Silvermont and Senior Games operations. The facility looks completely different and a lot of work has been put into it. The amount of programs has increased significantly. The idea to have one of the commissions meetings there to see the progress made was presented and widely accepted. A capital improvement project will be replacing the tennis court lights. The materials have arrived, maintenance is just waiting for the weather to cooperate.
- On Thursday, we are hosting an update with the advancements for community access to the French Broad River. A variety of agencies will be in attendance to review the progress made, issues that have been raised, among others. Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 12:45 and a bus tour to the proposed land acquisition for the county will ensure directly afterward.

Member Comments:

- Cody Owen has had 110 sign up for t-ball. Little league is now overseeing this program which was originally handled by Parks and Recreation. Enrollment as a whole is at 385, which includes ages 4 to 15. Little League is re-developing an older kids' league which will be playing in a Babe Ruth League for all of WNC.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 6:57 pm.