

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 19 November 2019

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Greg Cochran
- Bob Hurring
- Wyn Birkenthal
- Heather Layton
- Jared Mull – Parks and Recreation Director
- Mandi Bentley - Recreation Manager

Call to Order: Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

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

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.

Old Business

- Fitness Course Update
 - The partnership with the Jameson Joy's Foundation for the fitness course was approved unanimously by the County Commissioners. The Foundation has submitted their check to the playground company and the county has submitted their PO as well. Everything has been ordered. Maintenance will be taking down the existing fence and the old equipment soon. Jared is potentially looking at the drainage conditions of the area and conversations have been had regarding raising the ground slightly to ensure it is level. The goal is for the install from the playground company to begin in March. Implementation will take approximately 6-8 weeks. It would be ideal to have the opening during May and have a large unveiling of the project. There will be a memorial sign including Jameson's picture and incorporating his handwriting with an explanation of the meaning attached to the park. The question was raised if there would be an individual familiar with the course for an exhibition during the opening ceremony. Jared stated he would try to have a representative attend to showcase the new course.

- The course itself would not have an issue with drainage; however, it could impact the area around the course with standing water. Jared would ensure the process continues moving forward in a timely fashion.
- Tobacco Free Parks
 - The County Commissioners have decided to make county buildings and property tobacco free and vape free areas. The first step will be implementation of signage within the parks. Jared will be speaking with Jamie Laughter to direct on how to handle various situations that arise with staff. The suggestion was brought up to have a more gentle reminder as opposed to commands and the utilization of intentional coloring on the signage to aid in the communication of this new policy.

New Business

- Friends of Silvermont - Joe Dapkins
 - The Pumpkin Festival wrapped up at the end of October. The sign at Silvermont is now updated in alignment with the other signs in the county. Joe Dapkins thanked Jared for aiding in staff coverage and ensuring the park was in pristine condition for the festival. This was the fifth annual festival to raise money for various estate improvements. This year, 55% of individuals in attendance were from outside of the county bringing awareness to the area and the estate. There were two nights with over 700 individuals. Unfortunately, it rained three out of six nights; however, there was still a significant amount of money raised. The hope is to have more volunteers and to continue making the event larger and more successful.
 - The debate among the Friends of Silvermont for the upcoming year is whether they should have the festival during Halloween weekend. The concern is primarily for safety reasons, as it is a very congested area, and also that there is no vandalism or destruction of the park. The Friends of Silvermont will be reaching out to other organizations to gain their input prior to making a definitive decision. The times will be pushed forward to begin earlier in the hopes of generating more revenue for Silvermont. A need in the master plan is for community-wide special events which is exactly what this event focuses on and the Parks and Recreation department will continue to aide wherever possible.

Recreation Update

- Current programs: Indoor Fun Play will continue until December 18th which averages approximately 30. The Reading Connection continues to grow with partnerships from various organizations in the county, including PARI. In December, Youth Basketball is currently having sign-ups. The 6th through 8th grade league is already full and there is a waitlist. Christmas in the Park will be held on December 14th with 212 individuals are already registered. There will be two Pre-K programs in December as well.

Director Update:

- The new park property has been officially acquired. The only existing plan currently is to mow where it has already been mowed and bush hog around the perimeters to have walking trails. During the upcoming fiscal year in July, there will be a new master plan developed with public comment and board comments with the final approval coming from the County Commissioners.
- Cody Owen could not be here tonight as he and his wife had their little girl during the previous week. She is in the NICU, but appears to be doing well. Thoughts and prayers for their family are appreciated.
- Typically there is not a meeting in December, but Jared encouraged the Commission to attend Christmas in the Park. Input from the Commission on various events is always appreciated.

Member Comments:

- Danny Hein thanked the Commission for their time and efforts. Wyn Birkenthal was welcomed to the Commission and thanked for his input.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 6:50 pm.