

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting- 15 October 2019

Members Present:

- Wayne Rundell- Vice-Chair
- Greg Cochran
- Cody Owen
- Bob Hurring
- Wyn Birkenthal
- Jared Mull- Parks and Recreation Director
- Mandi Bentley- Recreation Manager

Call to Order: Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:11pm. The meeting began by welcoming Wyn Birkenthal to the Board and everyone introduced themselves and explained how they came to be a part of the board.

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

Public Comment:

- Kevin Smith spoke on behalf of local skateboarders about the skate park that is being built in the community. He invited Board members to attend the Parks and Trails Committee meeting at 3:30pm on October 16th, as well as the City Commission meeting on October 21st. Kevin shared about the community wide vast interest in the success of the skate park and urged the Parks and Recreation commission to look into this.

Old Business

- A)** PARTF Update: County Commissioners Meeting approved the grant portion of the purchase of the Pickelseimer Property. By the next meeting the property should officially be in the hands of the Parks and Rec Department. The first step in the process will be to look at how to handle the initial maintenance of the property. This could mean the addition of more maintenance staff. Wayne asked biggest initial maintenance and the answer was mowing of the grass. Jared is beginning to get quotes from the larger companies for a Master Plan.
- B)** Fitness Course Proposal: Jared has submitted this proposal for consideration for the Commissioners meeting for October 28th at 6pm. There is a grant for this program that will expire in November.

New Business

- A)** Conserving Carolina: Torry Nergart came in to speak with Commissioners about the role of Conserving Carolina in our community. Conserving Carolina was the product of a merger. They cover Transylvania, Henderson, and Polk Counties. They are a land trust that focuses on conservation and land protection. In Transylvania County they focus on public lands.

They work a lot with private land ownership easements. Their focus is land protection through a warm network, not forceful, but wants people to come to them. They also promote conservation. Torry Nergart's title is the Conservation Easement Manager. He wrote the grant proposal for the grant that is being used to purchase the Pickelseimer Property. He will continue to be a part of the Property planning process.

B) Recreation Update-Mandi

- -Indoor Fun Play- Mon. and Wed. 81 participants registered. And average of 27 on Monday and 11 on Wednesday
- Volleyball – 28 participants, coming to an end on Tuesday, Oct. 22
- Reading Connection-program has grown from 2 participants to 17 participants in 3 sessions. Have 27 registered and next program is Oct. 24th
- Dodgeball- has 24 enrolled and ends on Friday, Oct. 18
- Flag Football- 4th through 6th grade, ended on Saturday, October 19
- Senior games BBQ- delivered over 330 meals, Profited \$1,200
- Youth Basketball registration is now open through December 6th:
 - K-1 co-ed
 - 2nd-3rd co-ed
 - 4th-5th boys
 - 3rd-6th girls
 - 6th-8th co-ed
- Halloween Fest: Booth with GET SET imagination blocks and handing out candy
- PARI: Nov. 4th and 15th, ages 3-6, mobile planetarium
- Christmas Programs
 - Buddy the Elf
 - Fun with Frosty
 - Christmas in the Park

C) Director Update: Jared

- Gym utilized 93 to 95% during the summer and 75% of the time during the school year.
- Pickle ball Court plans were passed out. The second option will allow for sun to not be in people's eyes while they play. Wayne expressed concern about balls crossing into other people's courts. Fencing will be included with Phase 2 of the completion of the courts. Concrete will be poured this month or next month. Concrete slab will go all the way to the lobby window. Once the outdoor courts are completed pickleball will not be given as much indoor space. Will explore additional preschool options to fill these time slots.
- Parks and Rec Hall of Fame: this will be a program that will recognize the public for assisting in Park and Rec activities throughout the years. This program is still in the planning process.

Reminder to not forget about Pumpkin Fest. The Rec Department has provided staff to assist this year.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:08 PM.