

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

17 January 2017

In Attendance: Kevin Smith, Sammy Kicklighter, Coty Ferguson, Danny Hein, Wayne Rundell, Jared Mull and Carleen Dixon

Call to Order: Kevin called the meeting to order at 6:31

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve October 2016 Minutes moved by Coty Seconded by Wayne – unanimously approved

Old Business:

- a. *Silvermont Museum and the Future*
 - a. Carleen met with Jan Osborne and Mike Mossburger to discuss how the museum might be managed in the future since they are going to be stepping down from this role. The challenge is that there are no other Friends of Silvermont (FOS) members who feel they can take this on and it is a large responsibility. There might be some interest in the local DAR chapter to take this on but not likely the entire amount of work; it is a lot! We left the outcome of our meeting that Jan was going to speak with a few people on options but that we might need to consider a part-time staff person to manage the museum with the help of volunteers. Jan will be getting back in touch with me soon to discuss further. Also, the FOS have a volunteer hours report for 2016 that I will be sending out to this board to review.
- b. *Project Updates*
 - a. Strategic Plan Update – The City Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee stated that they will be recommending to City Council at the January 17th meeting to support a joint City/County parks and recreation authority.
 - b. NC Connect Bond Grant Update – The grant was approved for submission by the Board of Commissions and submitted in 2016; we should hear back in late March/early April on the outcome.

New Business:

- a. *Memorial Tree Request*
 - a. French Broad Garden Club has requested an Eastern Red Bud be planted in memory of Judy Turner. They had initially requested the tree be planted at Silvermont, however, due to continued improvements to the Silvermont property Carleen suggested that the tree be planted at South Broad Park. The French Broad Garden Club welcomed the alternative site.
 - b. Coty moved that that the memorial tree and plaque application be approved, seconded by Wayne. Motion was unanimously approved.
- b. *Recreation Update*
 - a. Youth Basketball – participation increased 39% year-over-year
 - b. Breakfast with Santa – reached registration maximum before Thanksgiving. The quick registration informed the Rec. Dept. that the event needs to grow to accommodate more participants.
 - c. Art Adventures – New art program that runs on Wed. afternoons

- d. SNAG Golf – NRPA program that utilizes modified golf equipment to help teach/train kids the game of golf. Participation is limited to 12 kids due to need for one-on-one instruction. Might offer multiple times if popular.
 - e. Youth Volleyball – Registration opens soon, will begin at the conclusion of the basketball season. Plans include partnering with the Rosman High School volleyball program to provide coaching and instruction.
 - f. Lobby Additions & Scorer’s Table – New furniture was added in the lobby area, creating a much more welcoming environment. New contract with Pepsi resulted in updated vending machines and a scorer’s table that will be added to the gym.
- c. *Parks Update*
- a. Busy conducting facility maintenance, painting Parks & Rec. Dept. building, and snow/ice removal.
 - i. Maintenance plans involve a partnership with Duke Energy to upgrade lighting at park facilities that will increase energy efficiency.
 - b. Chad will be attending the National parks and recreation maintenance management school in WV
 - c. After nearly 40 years Richard Frye has submitted his retirement papers
 - i. A job posting is in the process of being created for this position
 - d. Volunteer Opportunities
 - i. Brainstorming session for opportunities to best leverage the amazing volunteers present in the county – discussion ensued
 - e. Stakeholder Groups
 - i. Sensing session on whether the commission would like to invite a stakeholder group to each of our meetings to develop better relationships and build the pathway for open dialogue.
 - f. 2017-2018 Budget
 - i. Will present Parks and Rec. accomplishments, trends, and goals as part of the budget discussion with the county commissioners in February
 - ii. Carleen sought input from the commission on items they would like to add or emphasize in the presentation – discussion ensued
 - iii. Sammy moved that the Parks and Rec. Commission recommend the county commissioners immediately fund HVAC improvement to the gym, seconded by Wayne – unanimously approved

Member Comments:

Sammy shared that TYSA is considering the purchase of a trailer to store equipment and that they will approach the Parks and Rec. Dept. about storing the trailer on site.

- Jared added that he had already spoken with the president of TYSA to let them know that they would not be able to use our program storage space for balls and goals after this season. With our growing programs we need the space for our own equipment.
- Carleen shared that discussion of long-term storage solutions are ongoing with the county and programing partners. This is something that we will need to discuss further.

Motion to adjourn moved by Wayne, seconded by Danny, and unanimously approved at 7:53