

## **Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting**

21 February 2017

**In Attendance:** Kevin Smith, Sammy Kicklighter, Coty Ferguson, Wayne Rundell, James Newby, Cody Owen, Jared Mull and Carleen Dixon

### **Call to Order:**

Kevin Smith called the meeting to order at 6:34

### **Introduction of New Members:**

James Newby and J. Cody Owen, Carolyn Ashworth (Carolyn was not present)

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Approval of January 17, 2017 Minutes:**

Moved by Wayne, seconded by Coty and unanimously approved

### **Old Business**

#### *a. Silvermont Park Update*

- a. French Broad Garden Club donated \$1000 to Friends of Silvermont intent on landscaping improvements
- b. Current plantings are very old and were initially planted without a landscaping plan, shared a new proposed plan seeking any feedback or suggestions – board was in favor
- c. Trail improvements have held; only one spot on entire trail where any ruts have appeared, this is a big improvement
  - i. Trail designer is doing quarterly trail work to keep the trail in good shape
- d. Parks Dept. has requested stump removal quotes along the front of Silvermont; the Friends have requested these be removed and there is a potential donor who might pay to have them removed for the Centennial Event
- e. Friends of Silvermont museum curators/volunteers are ready to retire. They have spoken with Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) as a potential replacement for them, but DAR does not believe they can take on management of the museum. Carleen is continuing to work on a permanent solution to the issue with the volunteers

#### *b. Silvermont Centennial Event*

- a. There will be live music, Master Gardeners will host lessons, and many more activities. The event is being hosted by the county in partnership with the Friends of Silvermont.
- b. The County was successful in applying for a TDA in the amount of \$1500 to help with the Centennial event

#### *c. Project Updates*

- a. Parks and Recreation Strategic/Master Plan
  - i. The next Task force meeting is still on hold. The Task Force is waiting for the City of Brevard and Transylvania County to both approve further work into

determining what an authority might look like with both agencies working together on Parks and Recreation. The City has yet to approve this work.

- ii. Ferguson mentioned that at yesterday's (20 Feb) City Council meeting the master plan was briefly discussed in the Little League presentation. Ferguson stated that Little League felt that they were taken aback by not being considered a stakeholder by the master plan consultants. Owen, Little League president, reiterated those concerns as a new commission member.

- 1. Discussion ensued

d. *NC Connect Bond Grant*

- a. Carleen informed us that she submitted a letter of support signed by Larry Chapman (County Commissioner), Daniel Cobb (City Planning Dept. Director), and Kevin Smith (Parks & Rec. Commission Chair), with a goal of strengthening our application. Carleen shared that applications total \$9million and there is only \$3million available in grant funds. We should know outcome in March.

## **New Business**

### *Recreation Update*

- a. Youth Basketball
  - a. There have been complaints that rec. league basketball is too competitive. Jared is modifying the post-season survey seeking participant feedback and potential solutions.
- b. Youth Volleyball
  - a. Begins March 7<sup>th</sup>
- c. SNAG Golf (new program)
  - a. Begins March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Space is limited to 12 participants, currently have 6 enrolled
- d. Senior Games BBQ Fundraiser
  - a. March 23<sup>rd</sup>, options for both dine-in or delivery at \$7 a plate
  - b. Games begin mid-April
- e. Transylvania Youth Council Dance
  - a. March 4<sup>th</sup>, Mardi Gras themed dance for middle school aged children
- f. Summer Camps
  - a. Registration opens March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - b. Carleen will be sharing the Parks & Receptions Commissions motion recommending that the Board of County Commissioners (BOC) fund AC additions to the gym immediately at the Feb 27 BOC meeting.
  - c. Camp offerings will be determined by the presence (or lack thereof) of AC
- g. Battle for the Belt
  - a. Registration opens March 1<sup>st</sup> for adult basketball league

### *Parks Update*

- a. Chad has just completed the first year of the national parks maintenance management school
- b. Maintenance, such as mowing, has begun early this year due to unseasonable weather

- c. Parks Manager has been task with working on improving efficiencies as much as possible; they are continually task with more work with the same amount of staff so, they are working hard to be as efficient as possible
- d. Parks Manager is working to complete a very detailed Parks Maintenance Management Plan for all of our parks, this will be a working document that guides their short term and long term work.

#### *Director's Report*

- a. Rosman Middle School softball coach Ann Daves has requested outdoor power outlets at Rosman Community Park; we are working to accomodate
- b. Horticulturist, Richard Fry, retired after 32 years of service to the county
  - a. Carleen is working with the county to post a vacancy announcement for the part-time position of horticulturist
- c. Carleen suggested that the commission consider making an annual presentation to the County Commissioners, and/or each of us act as a liaison to a commissioner to keep them informed on parks and recreation efforts.
  - a. Sammy moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission make a presentation to the Transylvania County Commissioners in October, seconded by Cody Owen – passed unanimously.
    - i. Ferguson inquired as to the role of commission members and how the presentation would differ from the Dept. 6 Month Report. Carleen stated that the 6 month update is very limited and is limited to 5 minutes, the proposed presentation would provide the opportunity to focus on the entire department include programing details, user groups, etc...
- d. Carleen will present 6 month update at the County Board of Commissioners meeting on Feb 27 and will discuss two funding issues that require action at the following commissioners meeting (AC and Rosman Summer Camp)

#### *Consideration of County Land on Ross Road as a Potential Park Location*

- a. Carleen shared info on the site and its feasibility as a dog park. The site is suitable for use a dog park and has amenities (septic and well) for public restrooms and ADA compliance.
  - a. Ferguson shared concerns over asking for funding for a new park while also asking for funding for other large capital improvements.
  - b. Kevin shared concerns over user safety with the site being somewhat removed from population centers.
  - c. Overall, the board felt that a dog park would be good use of this land but they did not want to loose funding for other higher priorities in Parks and Recreation because of this opportunity.
  - d. Finally, it was suggested that the “Barks and Recreation” group be a key stakeholder in this project and the board felt fund raising efforts from this group should be used to help fund this project if it moves forward.

#### *Solar Eclipse Impacts – 21 August 2017*

- a. We are expecting thousands of visitors for the eclipse creating logistical and planning challenges not only for Parks and Recreation but the entire county. More to come on planning efforts.

**Member Comments**

Coty Ferguson shared a grant opportunity with the commission; Jared said he would look into it further to see if we could do something to meet the strict deadline about 1 week out

**Adjournment**

Coty Ferguson moved to adjourn, seconded by Sammy, unanimously approved