

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

16 May 2017

In Attendance

Kevin Smith, Sammy Kicklighter, Wayne Rundell, Carleen Dixon, Danny Hein, Jared Mull, Carolyn Ashworth, and Cody Owen. Quorum is present.

Call to Order:

Kevin Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Introduction of New Members:

Carolyn Ashworth was introduced as new commission member.

Public Comment:

None

Approval of February 21, 2017 Minutes:

Motion to approve Minutes as submitted by Sammy, seconded by Danny and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

- A.** HVAC in gymnasium. County requested 3 options but 2 options were not feasible. Engineering design being completed on remaining two. Working with City to determine if water/sewer lines can be moved. County Commissioners to be presented final proposal at upcoming County Commissioner meeting. New HVAC would allow for more programming during summer months. Carolyn asked about the RFP process in general and how it typically works. Jared explained the process
- B.** Rosman Free Camp. Since last meeting it has been advertised, funded, and is full for the 10 week schedule. 30 kids are signed up for the program all 10 weeks with many on the waitlist.
- C.** Budget Update. Carleen reported on the budget update. County Manager presented budget at County Commissioner meeting. Department operational budgets were reviewed at that meeting and for the Parks and Recreation Dept., numerous budget requests were approved including but not limited to: new mower, Gator, money for master plan for Silvermont Grounds, money for part-time Special Olympics position, money to fund ADA improvements to parks among some of the items included. Final budget will not be approved until June.

New Business:

- A.** Friends of Silvermont – Volunteer hours presentation given by Bob Hurring. At the request of the Commission from a previous meeting, Bob presented detailed information about the hours associated with the volunteer work presently done by individuals supporting

Silvermont and the museum. For 2016 (report attached) a total of 3,504 man hours were captured for. The bulk of these hours are for the staffing of the museum. Currently, as reported by Bob, the Friends of Silvermont Organization has less than 15 members. As current museum volunteers are stepping down, there is no current solution for filling this void. There is a need for new leadership and volunteers as current volunteers are leaving after having served for so long. Sammy Kicklighter asked is there is a foundation entity set up for people to leave donations from their estate; currently there is no foundation; however the Friends are a 501c3 so they could serve as a foundation.

- B.** Jared provided a recreation update. This has been the best year on record for youth volleyball in terms of number of participants. The Senior Games were completed two weeks ago with 140 participants. The challenge is getting 50-60 year olds to participate. The Rosman Summer Camp will have 4 full-time staff; Only 1 ad was placed and the camp reached capacity in sign-ups in 4 days. The camp will run 10 weeks from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All weeks are full and have waitlists. The summer camps at the Recreation Center will have 6 staff directed camps offered and all camps are full or almost full at this point. The camps are: 2 Little Explorers, 1 Dodgeball, 1 Inventive Builders, 1 Extreme, and 1 Sports and Fitness camp. The Battle for the Belt adult summer basketball league filled up in April with team from Transylvania (5), Henderson (3), and other from Asheville and Canton. Opening is June 6th and schedule is online. Registration for Flag Football co-ed program is on June 1st. A grant has been applied for from Carolina Panthers that would help Boys and Girls club teams to participate. Goal is to have 100 kids sign up.
- C.** Carleen provided a Parks and Director Update. 100 yards of mulch were spread at Silvermont in preparation for Centennial. 2 shuffleboard courts were converted to hopscotch courts and shuffleboard courts were refinished. Friends of Silvermont have been picking up deadfall on the grounds. The Department is short on one Landscape/Horticulture Tech and the job is posted at 24 hrs. per week without benefits. Once city finishes construction on Wilson Rd., department will clean up river access and Island Ford river access. The Connesstee parking lot is to be repaved. The dept. is now spraying all cell phone towers. Blue Ridge Community College is now part of the department's mowing responsibilities. There is a new flag pole to be installed in front of county election building. Disability Partners is providing a review for ADA assessment of parks and there is approximately \$18,000 set aside in budget for ADA improvements in upcoming fiscal year budget. Carleen read a thank you note from the Duckworth family for the memorial tree dedication.

Member Comments:

- A.** Cody Owen provided an update and overview of Little League baseball and some of the challenges and opportunities associated with running a league. Kevin Smith asked if there were other hours that would be more conducive for future meeting times, and it was

decided that future meetings would start at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30. Motion to change meeting time to 6:00 and to start this in June of 2016 was presented by Sammy and seconded by Wayne; it was unanimously approved.

- B.** As there was no other business the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.