

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 17 September 2019

Members

Present:

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

Call to Order: Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

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

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Old Business

PARTF Update

The PARTF Grant is the matching grant for the Pickelseimer Property. Transylvania County Parks and Rec did receive the grant; however, the money will not be dispersed until the NC General Assembly budget has been approved. Jared will be applying for a waiver so that we will be able to purchase the property prior to the October 31st deadline as the seller is not willing to extend the deadline any longer. The grant is worth \$225,000-230,000. The rest of the property expense will come out of the Parks and Recreation Commission fund. It is a large area that can be utilized for a variety of different needs. A master plan similar to Silvermont will be conducted with input from the community to best determine the needs of the county. The majority of the County Commissioners appear to be in favor of purchasing the property at this time.

New Business

Special Olympics Report

Emily Lowery, the local Special Olympics coordinator, was in attendance to speak on the Special Olympics program in the county. There are currently seven sports that are year-round for children and adults with intellectual disabilities. Soccer has 26 participants and botchy has 13 participants and is played at College Walk. After soccer, two teams will be going to Charlotte to compete for state. Emily stated the pros include that the program is very well supported with the community and accessing venues. There are 78 total participants on the books. She mentioned the challenges include getting the school-age children engaged. The older population has been steadily involved, but the program is missing middle/high school athletes. Special Olympics is for individuals eight and up. She stated they recently sent an athlete, Dalton Leopard, to Raleigh. He has traveled and done speaking engagements. There are sports the athletes are interested in, but Emily is unable to find coaches, including cheerleading. The Commission was able to offer contacts to aid in connecting services for the school-age population. It is the hopes of Emily to grow the program in Transylvania County and offer more sports. The funds they utilize comes from the "Polar Plunge" fundraiser done annually. This initiative raised approximately \$19,000. The funds go toward uniforms, travel expenses, equipment, etc.

Smoke/Tobacco Free Parks Discussion

The county has an employee wellness group that focuses on different items of wellness. Right now, all of the county buildings are smoke-free. This group is advocating for having all facilities, including grounds, to be smoke-free. The City of Asheville is a smoke free environment as well as Jackson County. This group has asked various departments to submit a letter of approval in favor of having a smoke-free/tobacco-free campus should they agree. It is unknown if there is a county ordinance at this time to enforce a no-smoking initiative. If there is an ordinance, it would be enforceable by law enforcement. It was a concern that it may put an undue burden on our volunteer partnerships to enforce this initiative. It was also a concern about how to enforce this policy. A motion was made for all of the county's park and recreation facilities to be tobacco-free, the motion was seconded, and approved unanimously. The commission would like a follow up regarding the enforcement of this initiative.

Recreation Update

Current programs: Brevard youth football, TYSA, flag football, and Special Olympics are utilizing the grounds of the Recreation Department. Inside the Rec Department, there is Indoor Fun Play which is a pre-k program with 29 participants for the first day. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, there is a fitness program for Special Olympics with Chase Lance. Youth Volleyball is held on Tuesdays and there are 28 participants.

There is a new program at Silvermont: an intergenerational reading program. There are stories that are read for kids ages 2-5. It is a free program and there are puppets and activities. We are expecting approximately 14 kids at Silvermont. Bryson Carpets donated carpet squares for the kids to sit on during the stories.

The Future Football Stars program is for 4-6 year olds. There are currently 8

The Senior Games BBQ will be on October 10th from 11:30 to 1. The cost is \$7 per plate. The local games were done in May. Many participants have been training all summer and 37 participants will be going to the state finals across NC.

Play the Day away program is for the teacher workdays. This is an all-day program to help with childcare when school is not in session which appears to be a large need in the county.

Upcoming programs include: October 1 youth basketball signups will begin, Christmas in the Park already has 37 people registered and is scheduled for December 14th.

Director Update

- Mandi and her staff have been doing a great job of providing a variety of programs for the county.
- A video of the All Star night for the Adult Basketball League was shown to the members in attendance. The video is utilized for advertisements through social media.
- If you would like to do something outside of the monthly meetings, we are asking for volunteers for the Christmas in the Park. Also, if you would like to help with senior games BBQ, please attend.
- It was mentioned that all of the Commission members have some type of polo or sweatshirt for the Parks and Rec Commission, so when there is a special event, that would be the attire of choice. An email will be sent with an option of which attire the members would prefer.
- There was a delay in getting the brick for the addition of the showers due to the hurricane. The next steps will be to finish the outside of the building and will need to be graded again and concrete poured.

Member Comments

- The lights at the tennis court in Silvermont appear to be a big success.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:06 pm.