

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 15 May 2018

Members Present:

- Danny Hein – Chair
- Kevin Smith
- Wayne Rundell – Vice-Chair
- Cody Owen
- Bob Hurring
- Jonathan Griffin – Parks and Recreation Director
- Jared Mull – Recreation Coordinator

Call to Order: Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Approval of Minutes: The commission reviewed the minutes from the April 2018 meeting and approved them unanimously.

Public Comment

- There were no public comments.

Partner Updates

City Updates – Jim Fatland

- Jim Fatland did not attend so there was no action under this agenda item.

Old Business

Silvermont Master Planning Process Update:

- A list of constraints and opportunities that exist in the park were identified and will be sent to the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission via email.
- A series of listening sessions will be held for individuals who use the mansion on May 22nd. The Historic Preservation groups, the Senior Center users, and the Master Gardeners will have the opportunity to voice their ideas and concerns.
- The Parks and Recreation Commission has been asked to attend a session held on May 31st from 5-7 pm to go over the written report completed once the feedback has been received. The report will have several items, including satellite images, phases of design, and input received. Jonathan stated that he will email all of the information to the commission. The information will be placed in next week's paper to ensure individuals have the opportunity to be heard. From there, the site plan will be presented to the commissioners and afterward they will return with what has been reconciled.

Pickleball Court Options and Decision:

- Three options were presented to the board: making a change to the basketball courts at Silvermont, making a change to the tennis courts at Silvermont which would include

taking one of the three courts and making it into pickleball courts, or paving over the shuffleboard area and moving the horse shoe pit at the rec department.

- It was mentioned that Pickleball tournaments could be held at the courts which could generate substantial revenue. Making the new courts will also free up the recreation department gym multiple days per week which would allow for other programs to rent out the gym.
- Funding will be approved for pickleball facilities for the budget of 2019 from the commissioners.
- The price range for the courts is \$7,500 to \$35,000. The biggest expense being the concrete.
- The question was posed regarding the pickleball club's ability to potentially help offset the cost of the courts. It was stated the county is firm in its stance against cost recovery. Club representatives stated they would be open to suggestions should the board deem necessary.
- It was discussed that the third option would be the least intrusive and would impact the least amount of individuals.
- Joint use courts could potentially invite conflict due to scheduling.
- After discussion, the motion was made to approve option three as a pickleball court using the space available at the recreation department and moving the horseshoe pits, the motion was seconded, and was approved unanimously.

New Business

Parks and Recreation Commission Open Discussion:

- The updated bylaws were presented discussing the best way for the minutes to be completed. This would ultimately be completed by a Parks and Recreation employee. After discussion, the motion was made to amend the bylaws as presented for the recording of the minutes, the motion was seconded, and approved unanimously.
- Because of the limited attendance at the meetings, the option was made to reduce the number of board members from seven to nine. The option was also made to reconsider the day and time of the meeting. However, moving the time and day around could pose issues for other members. The largest concern, at this point, is the membership numbers. It was noted the Parks and Recreation Commission is the largest advisory board in the county. It was also suggested to leave the seats broad, for at-large members, which would be ideal and then solicit other individuals from various groups should their input be required. A motion was made to amend the bylaws regarding changing the nine Parks and Recreation Commission members to seven members from nine members, the motion was seconded, and approved.

Recreation Update:

- The Senior Games wrapped up and had over 150 participants which is up from last year. The age range of 50-65 is lower in participation as compared to the other age ranges, outside of basketball. Because of this, it is being discussed to have more weekday

evening activities. Overall, there was positive feedback received. There were 30% of participants that came to the opening ceremonies as opposed to 65% to the closing ceremonies. It is being discussed to combine the opening ceremonies with the field day to aid in gaining more participation. The fundraising went well as projected revenue was \$8500 and the end total was over \$12,000, which includes both sponsorships and the BBQ fundraising. The board has been especially active getting various sponsors in the county. Dale and Mandi are credited for their efforts regarding Senior Games and fundraising.

- All summer camps are full except for the volleyball camps, which includes two different age groups, and the pre-K camp which still has three or four spots available. The Recreation Department is able to provide full day camps thanks to the air conditioning in the gym.
- There are significant comments from the community commending the air conditioning in the gym. Thanks to the board for fostering that initiative.
- Adult basketball league starts June 4th. There is talent from all over Western North Carolina.
- A full time position for a recreation coordinator position has been listed. The day to day operations would be primarily at Silvermont, though there could potentially be a reorganization of staff and their duties after seeing the candidates that apply.

City Update:

- Jim Fatland did not attend so there was no action under this agenda item.

Director Update:

- The Parks and Recreation director survey was sent out and received over 200 respondents. This information could be valuable to the new Parks and Recreation director to use as they see fit.
- In June, the acting director will be attending the meeting with the county commissioners and updating them on the master plan among a variety of other agenda items. The full document will be sent to the Parks and Recreation Commission via email.
- The process of identifying land to purchase for the multidisciplinary center is ongoing. It appears there is not a lot of opportunities for action regarding aquatics, the recommendation will be to put that plan away for now until more planning is completed. At this point, there is still no public river access for the French Broad River.
- The application for the Parks and Recreation director is still open and, at this point, there have been sixteen applicants.

Member Comments:

- There were no member comments.

Adjournment: The motion was made to adjourn, seconded, and approved unanimously at 7:00 pm.