

November 21, 2017

Transylvania County Parks & Recreation Commission (TC, PRC)
Minutes

Attendees:

Danny Hein, Chair; Wayne Rundell, Vice Chair; Greg Copeland, Kevin Smith, Bob Hurring, members; Carleen Dixon, outgoing Parks & Recreation Director; Jared Mull, Recreation Manager; Jaime Laughter, County Manager; Jonathan Griffin, TC Management Analyst

Call To Order:

Danny called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment:

None

Approval Of Minutes:

Motion by Wayne to approve minutes of September 19, 2017, seconded by Bob. Unanimously approved.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

1. Danny welcomed County Manager Jaime Laughter for an update to the commission, re: the recently adopted Master Plan (MP) and activity in PRC.

Jaime described the difference between Comprehensive and Master Plans, and quickly reviewed a history of planning for TC parks, from 17 years ago to the 2006 study and '08 Master Plan. Plans require commitment and follow-through to be effective. For instance, a Silvermont Master Plan which identifies the need for additional space to serve seniors still leaves the door open for discussion to get stakeholders & user groups working and thinking together.

While there has been engagement among City and County staff with elements of the Master Plan, the City of Brevard hasn't adopted the MP. There has been movement on the county maintenance facility, toward a bikeway/greenway multi-use path along Highway 280, and especially the ADA compliance issue identified as important and urgent by the MP. Also, Connestee Falls Park parking and supporting the City of Brevard with the PARTF process at Tannery Park.

Jaime distributed a “Fast Facts” for TCPRC, along with a five-year comparison of revenues and expenditures for TC Parks & Recreation.

Jaime explained that out of 115 points in a PARTF grant application, 20 might come from planning: 10 for the facility’s master plan, 7 more from the comprehensive plan, and 3 for a capital improvement plan, while another 15 rely on public involvement which has to be well-documented. After questions from Danny and Kevin, Jaime reiterated that the MP was written as a joint document, but some pieces cannot be adopted without the City of Brevard.

On further questioning, Jaime noted the risk of a gap was always a possibility with some issues only discernible after the creation of the MP. An authority (recommended in MP) is a big deal in North Carolina, since like fire departments, they have no taxing power and rely on county and city funding. Cities have greater flexibility and fewer mandates from the state than counties, but neither side is required to own Parks & Recreation.

Jaime explained that with \$750-800K /yr available for building improvement, and a tax increase in FY16 for capital improvement that encompasses planning, economic development, and schools, TC has aggressively tried to put \$200K /yr into reserves and slowly build up a fund for design and property acquisition. Ideas bubble up all the time, and public demands increase for added amenities especially during the Master Planning process for new or improved facilities.

Wayne asked, with a plan in place, when can we expect results on projects? Jaime noted that the AC in the Activity Center had been requested every summer for some time and is coming now. While not flashy, the \$200K will help expand programming. Timing is key, and depends on a window of opportunity. A larger example is TC planning for a multi-generational center with Brevard College and the City of Brevard, comprising 15-20 “heads” from the 3 boards. Or the Ecusta Road commercial site project, 2.5 years from an idea to breaking ground.

Asked about how the PRC can be more effective and see change, Jaime recommended steps such as sharing minutes directly with county commissioners, and to begin prioritizing master plans for facilities foreseen in the recent MP, starting with Silvermont to address parking and usage by seniors. PRC and staff should document listening to the community, but realize that commissioners have the final say.

Greg reiterated that the MP is a management tool to organize resources and to protect a project from changing or conflicting priorities once work begins. Overlap between PRC and the City of Brevard Parks, Recreation & Trails Committee may create an opportunity to work together on areas such as the Railroad Avenue area or a dog park.

Bob asked how projects such as Silvermont can avoid being mired in bureaucracy. Friends of Silvermont develop a plan, bring it to PRC, who passes it to Planning Board, before it arrives in front of commissioners. Jaime noted that the Planning Board works parallel to PRC but on

different topics despite any possible overlap, in areas such as pathways and bike lanes. Also, locating the funding opportunity determines how effective a plan will be.

Danny noted that while MP provides a framework, there isn't someone right now to guide PRC day-to-day. Jaime described having Jared and an interim director oversee Recreation, David McNeill for parks, until a TC Parks & Recreation Director is named to replace Carleen.

Further, Jonathan Griffin will be pulled in for a Silvermont MP process to listen and engage user groups for current and long-term use of the facility and grounds.

Bob asked whether commissioners would not continue funding the plan brought by the Centennial Committee. Jaime stated that the preservation plan had been funded through the third phase, designed to stabilize the mansion vs. renovation or investment.

2. Jared gave a recreation update, starting with fall program evaluations. Volleyball exploded and needs an extra night. Start Smart, flag football, indoor play, dodgeball, all receive excellent evaluations.

Mandi Bentley has done a great job with Transylvania Youth Council (TYC). Hosted 150 middle schoolers for a dance on 11/17, and planning for Breakfast with Santa, Hospice Tree, and ringing the bell with Salvation Army in December.

Youth Basketball continues with strong numbers, and typically a push in the last 7-10 days. Saturday games, the gym is filling up. Season runs Dec-Feb. Skills Assessment on 12/2 features levels for gr. 2-3 and gr. 4-6.

Breakfast with Santa continues to max out, December 9. Hit cap of 250 on November 8. Morphed from a set program to a festival, special event. 9am to 12 noon.

Brevard-Rosman Alumni Basketball game on Saturday, December 16. Women at 6pm, Legends 7:15, and Men at 8:15. \$5 admission, with funds in 2017 going to BHS, with game hosted at the Activity Center gym.

Special program "Night To Shine" coming Friday, February 9th, a partnership with Special Olympics and Brevard Community Church. Possible Tim Tebow appearance, due to his connection with special needs proms: there are 300 nationwide, Tebow selects 2 to attend. 200 attended last year at BCC.

HVAC update: set to be done in 10-14 days, with half the duct work done.

Glow Dance: not popular, held Saturday evening 11/18. Carleen stated that expanding teen programming was in the MP, and this was a shot in the dark. Jared said the setup was "really cool" and "we can't be afraid to fail." 17 students showed, along with DJ Marcus Lester.

3. Director Update: Carleen taking new role as director in Henderson County.

Member Comments:

Bob stated that the Revenge of the White Squirrel Pumpkin Patch made \$12,000, slightly less than 2016. Over 25% of the revenue goes to storage at \$300/month, and the Friends of Silvermont continue to seek a better option. Carleen mentioned that the BHS theater group brought new skits and costumes and other new partners did a great job as well.

Danny thanked Carleen for her service, and members congratulated her on her new role. After unanimous agreement among members, the December meeting was canceled with notice to be given to Trisha Hogan, clerk to the board of commissioners, to publish.

Kevin moved to adjourn, Greg seconded. Unanimously approved.