



Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

February 21, 2019

7:00 p.m. Holloman Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Cicora, Tom Joyce, Alice Reese, Liz Stone, Wanda Holloway, Mark DiGiacomo, Len Lloyd, Val Atkinson

ABSENT MEMBERS: Gerry Martinez De Andino

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Lee

STAFF PRESENT: LeeAnn Plumer, Adam Huffman, Lauren Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order 7:00pm by Chair Stone

Motion to approve agenda: Ken Cicora motioned, Mark DiGiacomo seconded

Motion to approve minutes: Val Atkinson motioned, Wanda Holloway seconded

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Speaker: Hank Dickson

Looking for P&R committee to endorse his proposal to extend greenway from Oak Hall to Ting. Considerations include:

- Cost using figure of \$1mill/mile = \$100K-\$150K for greenway connection.
- A foot bridge would be required.
- No need for eminent domain due to connection in public r-o-w.

Committee Discussion followed. Points discussed included that this extension of this portion of the greenway was not part of original design of Ting. The finish material of the path would depend upon soil sample results and the consideration of continual maintenance required for mulch. The Town would be required to fund the connection since fees paid in lieu of constructing the trail at the time the neighborhood was built were not dedicated to this connection. Director Plumer discussed greenway connectivity from a wider point of view

and reminded the committee that once they begin greenway assessment this connection will be considered within the larger parameters of connectivity. Member Holloway reminded the committee that the vision was always to connect parks with neighborhoods via pedestrian or bicycle routes.

Additional Public comment: Randy Sansone interested in more walking trails.

III. PARKS AND RECREATION SURVEY RESULTS

Director Plumer and Member Atkinson presented the survey result conclusions to the committee.

Director Plumer reminded the committee that the survey results were not scientific.

Member Atkinson thought a more serious approach is to take representative sampling with official survey so they can be used to drive decision for spending.

Assistant Director Huffman related the history of the survey as a collaborative approach between Assistant Town Manager Daniel Weeks and himself because Town wasn't clear on a direction for using the remainder of the bond funds however time remaining is limiting the information gathering opportunities. A master plan would include an official survey.

Member DiGiacomo summarized that the survey results represent conclusions that Committee has also concluded. Two sources now communicate the same priorities for the remaining bond funds.

IV. UPDATE ON TING STADIUM-Assistant Director Huffman

A new portable mound will be installed at Ting Stadium replacing the clay mound. Reasons for the replacement include difficulty with maintenance of the clay and surrounding turf also, the movable mound increases the versatility of the field opening usage for other sports and organizations. Additional benefits are listed in power point presentation. The mound will be installed March 3 which opens multipurpose use right away starting with collegiate lacrosse. Town Council had already approved the movable mound prior to the P&R committee meeting and update on the change.

V. COUNCIL UPDATE-Council Member Lee

A. Ting Stadium Contract with CBC - Town Council and CBC will be negotiating the contract between the Salamanders and the Town use of Ting Stadium. Councilwoman Lee was interested in input from the committee on potential negotiation points to be discussed or included in the contract. Suggestions included:

- Town usage of the baseball field for summer soccer leagues and such when the Salamanders are not using Ting.

- Would like CBC to be open to local food vendors to retain and proclaim a community feel and Town pride vs. becoming a corporate venue. General consensus is current food selection is poor and disappointing.
- A mechanism for assurance that CBC follows through on agreements should be included.
- Current marketing is lacking and communicates that Owners are not invested in the community. The stadium is meant to be a community venue and should be used a such.
- Contract is 10 years. A condition should open contract for negotiation after lesser number of years.

B. Councilwoman Lee reiterated that she wants the committee to be involved before things happen rather than after. The mound was discussed as another opportunity for committee involvement that wasn't realized due to timing concerns.

C. Retreat Summary

1. Town is working on vision and strategic plan.
2. Park Lands - Carolina Springs has potential park land to give to the Town. Talking about getting property from Duke, parkland west of 55 is in high demand.
3. One focus area is a healthy community and the role parks and recreation plays in in. A strong parks and rec. also impacts health of business community.

VI. TREE BOARD UPDATE-Member Joyce

Board has had 2 meetings however, is still in the informative stages. First meeting, Planning Director Clapp & staff talked about duties of Tree Board. Sought some input. Overview.

Second meeting: Goal Setting – what would Board like to accomplish in 2 years. Events, Arbor Day event feasibility? Town has limited budget on tree replacement. No tree removal because there is no supporting budget. Rotary Club wants to do some tree planting. Currently, most of discussions are focused on why things cannot happen vs. how to get things done.

VII. LAND USE AND COMMUNITY CHARACTER TEAM UPDATE

Member Martinez De Andino's report on land use was included in folders and will be included in the minutes.

VIII. P&R FACILITY UPDATES-Assistant Director Huffman

1. Bass Lake

Dam Safety letter was submitted saying it will be brought up to standards within next 5 years. Project will go out to bid as soon as State Dam Safety Division approves letter.

First session camps almost full.

2. Hunt

Summer Camps are 90% full for the 5-7 & 8-10 age groups.

Basketball season is nearing an end.

Spring soccer has started.

3. Carl Dean Greenway

Remains incomplete. Latest expected completion date is May.

4. Cultural Center

Comedy coming - Hotel California.

Stageworks: "Death trap" is performance.

5. Ting

William Peace is using field for lacrosse & baseball.

6. Farmer's Market

Hosting shred-a-thon.

IX. DEPARTMENT DIRECTION AND OPPORTUNITIES -Director Plumer

Director Plumer, seeing HS growth feels park and recreation opportunities need to be taken to next level and she wanted to be part of that. She is looking forward to this opportunity and to working collaboratively with TC.

Short-term goals include:

- Review of Strategic Plan to ensure entire department is aligned with goals of SP.
- Mini retreat with staff, team building.
- Develop operations business plan for each area following SP initiatives.
- Establish goals and performances for Dept.
- Meet with staff to get an understanding of operations and the services.
- In-depth review of existing Master Plan and greenway maps.
- Gathering information for an assessment of existing partnerships

General Goals include: Customer service. Operational Efficiencies. Proactive communications. Professional development (NRPA) & proactive planning vs. reactive.

Long Term goals include: Excellence in organizational service. Community confidence. National accreditation. Awards & recognition for the Town. Attendance at NRPA conference.

Regarding the Master Plan, it is dated and some pieces don't make sense anymore. Question of timing. Priorities that are going to have to take place due to timing. After those are taken care of, it's time for forward planning. MP is not budgeted for next year and will be at least 1.5 years. MP needed for accreditation.

X. NEW BUSINESS-Chair Stone

Kudos to Town Staff updating Facebook page for Dept., notably the "What's going on in town" posts.

Future meeting consideration: go paperless. project agenda & meeting minutes.

Meeting locations: meet in Holloman room if everyone agrees and room is available.

Another option is to meet at a facility.

XI. ADJOURN

Motion: Member Cicora, Seconded, Member Lloyd

Meeting was adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Parks and Rec Survey Results:

<https://www.hollyspringsnc.us/DocumentCenter/View/25278/Parks-and-Recreation-Survey-Results>

PRAC Overview Ideas Feb2019:

<https://www.hollyspringsnc.us/DocumentCenter/View/25279/PRAC-Overview-Ideas-Feb2019>

Report on Land Use & Community Character Team

<https://www.hollyspringsnc.us/DocumentCenter/View/25280/Report-on-Land-Use-and-Community-Character-Team>