



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2013 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Adams, Wanda Holloway, Winston Shade, Kari McCloud, Jennifer Jones, Stephane Daniel, Marty Buckwald

ABSENT MEMBERS: Linda Hunt-Williams, Peter Koutroumpis, Ray Riordan

STAFF PRESENT: Julia Meder, Len Bradley

CALL TO ORDER: Kevin called the meeting to order

APPROVAL OF 11/8/12 MINUTES: Minutes approved.

BOND UPDATE: Kevin requested an update from Len on the status of the bond projects. Len provided the board with two documents. The first document provided a brief statement from the Town's Finance Director, Drew Holland. The second document provided a list of estimates for each bond project. These numbers are no longer accurate as these were the preliminary estimates for the projects.

Len explained that in August 2012 he believed that the Town would have six projects underway. Unfortunately the Town has not made any progress on the Progress Energy property project.

Land Acquisition/ recent purchase of the Suggs property for \$1 million: This property is located at the end of Grigsby and connects to Bass Lake. The property holds some restrictions as the Town is not allowed to build on the property unless replacing the existing facilities on the property with facilities of the same size. Outdoor events which have generally been held at Womble Park will now move to this property. Alta Greenways has been hired to create a master plan for this property. Alta Greenways previously worked on a master plan for the Mims property and was interviewed and selected for this project in 2012. Len continued by asking the board to consider serving on the master plan steering committee for this project. Kevin, Jennifer, Marty and Wanda expressed interest in serving on the steering committee. The master planning process is slated to begin in March and run through November. Wanda asked if a manager would be placed on site. Len responded by saying that he hopes to see this property become a part of Bass Lake, therefore under the management of the Bass Lake Park Manager. Jennifer asked if the property would stay under the name of Suggs. Len shared that the potential property name is Jeff Suggs Farm at Bass Lake.

North Main Athletic Complex, NMAC: The Town is moving forward with Wake County to purchase 42 acres located on Main Street. The county has agreed to allow the Town to pay \$6,000 per acre up front and pay \$42,000 per acre, interest free, over the next ten years. This property is planned to include a tennis complex, flat athletic fields and potentially a baseball/softball facility. Council will be asked to approve the purchase as well as a contract for design of the complex at the next Town Council meeting. Kevin asked about the hiring of a consultant to complete a feasibility study. Len explained that this consultant has completed the interviews with potential investors for this project and information should be shared shortly. Another feasibility study on the potential stadium could be in the near future.

Greenway connecting Bass Lake Park to Womble Park: The design is complete. The Town is applying for permits from the state and next week will be purchasing easements to put the greenway in place. The Town is also looking at the possibility of putting in a greenway on the west side of the 55 bypass to Holly Glen. This will depend on funding and possible opportunities. Jennifer asked if this would include sidewalk from Rex to Town Hall. Len shared that the Town is currently working on this addition.

Womble Park: This project includes synthetic turf where the existing soccer fields are located. This will be lighted and include three high school size soccer fields side by side. This amount of space will allow maximize programming. This project is slated for completion in October 2013. Staff is working to accommodate the spring soccer program. The new fields will also have access to a new field house with restrooms. Two tennis courts and another walking trail will surround the soccer fields. A new playground with a synthetic safety surface will also be installed at Womble Park. Wi-Fi and security cameras will soon be installed at Womble Park and throughout town. The only elimination to this project has been additional parking due to cost. Once the project is complete, the Town will revisit parking to find a less-expensive solution. Current estimate for this project is \$3.1 million.

Jones Park: A playground will be added to Jones Park which includes four playgrounds in one with a synthetic safety surface. Walkways will also be added with an 18-hole disc golf course. The batting cages will be relocated. Current cost estimate for this project is \$350,000.

The Town has \$12.5 million available to spend within this fiscal year. A gymnasium has been included in these estimates and has been proposed to be included in the North Main Athletic Complex. At the moment, the Town is waiting to make more progress on NMAC before moving forward with the potential gymnasium project.

Jennifer asked if the board would like to revisit having members attend Town Council meetings more often to show a presence. She asked if any members would like to attend the next meeting as there are several Parks and Recreation items on the agenda. Kevin and Jennifer may both attend if possible. Len shared that he and Councilwoman Linda Hunt Williams recently discussed ways for the board to become more active with the Town Council. Len encouraged the board members to go before Council, share communications with them, and provide reports. In previous years a board member has gone before Council to share concerns and requests for Parks and Recreation needs. Kevin suggested that since the bond has been passed, the board communicate via email to draft a letter and statement to Council. A board member will go to Council for an update from the board in February.

ADJOURN: There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned.