



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2013 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Adams, Linda Hunt Williams, Ray Riordan, Jennifer Jones, Stephane Daniel, Winston Shade, Kari McCloud, Wanda Holloway

ABSENT MEMBERS: Peter Koutroumpis, Marty Buckwald

STAFF PRESENT: Adam Huffman, Tammy Sigafoose

CALL TO ORDER: Kevin called the meeting to order

APPROVAL OF 10/10/13 MINUTES: Minutes approved.

October & November Events

Adam reported on all the Parks and Recreation Events for October and November. Four senior trips were planned during this time and were very well attended. We have purchased a new bus that can accommodate 25 people. Four major shows including comedians and various music entertainers were held at the Cultural Arts Center. Three out of the four concerts were sold out. We have an upcoming concert on December 20th, the Joy of Christmas featuring the Buckingham. Track out, before school, and after school programs are at or above normal ranges. Bass Lake held a Spooktacular event and approximately 250 people attended. Our youth basketball league numbers have increased by 40 participants (4 teams) compared to last year. The football league went well, however travel was an issue for a few parents as in previous years. On October 12, we held the 4@4 race. We had over 344 runners and approximately 1,200 people attend despite bad weather. The SWAC Soccer Tournament was moved to another municipality because its committee did not like the contingency plan to host the event on the Womble Baseball/Softball fields. The use of the softball/baseball complex would have been used if the Womble turf field was not ready by the tournament date. We are very hopeful to host the tournament next year. USSSA has rented our fields for a softball tournament this weekend. Holly Fest was another huge success with an estimated 5,000 to 7,000 spectators attending. We have expanded Hunt Center hours from 5 am to 10 pm Monday-Thursday to accommodate requests from members to stay open later. We will be closing the Hunt Center December 19th & 20th for cleanup. The gym and dance studio floors will be sealed as well.

Sugg Master Plan updates

Adam reported that we are working with John Schifano and the Triangle Land Conservancy (TLC) to determine what master plan amenities will be approved. The gate is off right now to accommodate the road widening project, which was completed. A walking trail was constructed by the road to allow people access in and out without walking on the road. Discussed how Holly Fest went better because of these updates. We are developing a plan on how to keep this area

supervised. Sugg is not open to the public at this time. Jenny shared her concerns about most of our parks not currently being open for public use.

Construction Updates-Greenway-Womble-Jones

The Greenway from Bass Lake to Womble is a little behind schedule due to the trail not drying out due to colder weather. Adam discussed problem with dump trucks coming in. Discussed plan for asphalt. If we cannot get the asphalt laid in 3 weeks, we may have to wait until spring.

We still have punch list items at Womble Park: Lights and finishing up painting at Womble playground done by next week. Jennifer asked that we do a news alert when the Womble playground and field will be open.

Adam and staff are working on a plan to have free play/open play at our new Womble fields. Discussing options of open play during the Winter—3 days a week in evening and a few hours on Saturday and Sunday during the day. We are getting many inquiries from outside organizations to rent the facility. We can place a sign daily on availability of free play. With a total of 210,000 square feet we are very hopeful to be able to coordinate league play, rentals and open play for the community. Jennifer recommended an updated schedule of open play be posted online and possibly instruct the community to use the weather hotline for a current schedule. Adam will be presenting to Council on proposed open play hours, rates and rules. Discussed briefly how field will be divided for rentals and costs. Adam also discussed possibly planting trees on playground side since the fence on that side is not as tall to catch flying balls. There was vandalism to the turf during construction which resulted in fire damage to a small area. For security, we are recommending to get cameras placed at Womble. This past week, the lights were on for 100 straight hours to calibrate. Linda Hunt Williams received a complaint. We are looking into ways to take care of Womble fields so we can keep the fields well maintained and conserve our investment.

Jones Park is open. We have a few things to do. There is a problem with skateboarders ruining rails and concrete. Discussed deterrents that will be installed to eliminate problems then contractor can fix concrete. There is an awning at Jones Park and people are using this as a trampoline. This is extremely dangerous and we need to find a way to deter. Frisbee golf will be done shortly. Ray recommended we put a larger sign out front to advertise our new Jones Park. The signs that are posted are too small for the public to see.

Kari said that we may want to think about the possibility of a skate park for our “skateboarders”. Board may revisit this to make this a safe and positive place for our skateboard community to play.

Kevin stated that we still have bond money allocated for other projects. A question was asked about how much money we have used to date. Julia gave her best estimated figure of \$6.5 million.

Adam had a brief discussion on possible grants for the bike trail.

NMAC- Bids are due tomorrow at 2 pm on November 15, 2013. Bid will be awarded in next week or two. This is for Phase I only. Adam explained access from Main Street and 55 Bypass. Jennifer asked when Phase I of the tennis courts would be completed. Adam responded the

projected date is May of 2014 for Phase I including tennis, soccer and parking. Adam said that this is an aggressive schedule. Jennifer asked about public access to the new tennis courts. We need to look into how other towns run their programs. We also need to find a balance between public access and organized matches for the tennis courts. Adam discussed the soccer fields at N. Main will be set mainly for the older youth soccer leagues.

Main Street Christmas

December 13th. Rec Advisory Board usually hands out hot chocolate. Discussed who on the Board would be available to attend. Kevin stated we need at least 2 people to volunteer.

Annual gathering for December Dinner

Kevin said the board usually picks a place in town. It was voted for Thursday, December 12 at 6:30 pm at the Olive Garden.

Kari has offered to send out an email to board members about RSVPs for Main Street Christmas event and the December dinner.

Guest speaker for January

The board would like to ask David Mallard to come in to be the guest speaker for January. Need a briefing on Senior programs and Fitness programs.

Miscellaneous:

Kari suggested that we need to have better communication to the public through our website. We need to coordinate one place that the community can go to get information about our Parks and Recreation events and updates. Jennifer suggested that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Agendas be posted on our website to get this information out to the public as an opportunity to come to the meetings.

Kevin gave praise and thanked Julia Meder for all of her years of service. The entire board agreed that she will be truly missed. Everyone wished Julia the best in her new career. The board invited Julia to attend the December dinner.

Meeting was adjourned.