



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2014 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Adams, Peter Koutroumpis, Jennifer Jones, Marty Buckwald, Kari McCloud, Winston Shade

ABSENT MEMBERS: Stephane Daniel, Wanda Holloway

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Lee

STAFF PRESENT: Len Bradley, Adam Huffman, Tammy Sigafoose

CALL TO ORDER: Kevin called the meeting to order

APPROVAL OF 03/13/14 MINUTES: Meeting minutes approved. Correction: Dickinson to Dickson.

Town Council approved LeeAnn Plumer to fill the open seat for the Recreation Advisory Committee. LeeAnn was not able to attend tonight's meeting.

There were discussions on Board Members' term of expiration. Peter Koutroumpis, Kari McCloud and Winston Shade's terms expire next month. The term on the committee is for 3 years. Kevin stated if you would like to apply for another term, please re-submit your application. Peter announced that he will not be re-submitting his application for another term. Peter shared that he really enjoyed being on the board. We need to announce how many positions are open due to resignations. Kevin thanked Peter for all of his work with the committee.

Parks and Recreation Updates-Adam

Hunt Center-Track and Field is in progress with 112 participants. We hosted a Major League Pitch, Hit, and Run contest. Youth baseball and softball games started on May 16. Our soccer league is going strong. Some leagues are still playing games on the PIT field due to rain cancelations. We are experiencing one of the many benefits of our new turf fields by not canceling games and not extending the season. Cheer and Football signups for residents start May 19th. We are hosting football and lacrosse clinics this summer. We are also offering a new cross country camp. The Holly Springs High School coaches are working with us to teach football, baseball and soccer camps.

Kari shared a concern from a friend who has a child that is smaller for his age group that plays in one of our baseball leagues. She asked about staff making special exceptions to age down if children are extremely small for their age or if they have special needs. Discussions followed about problems with making special exceptions. Len's response is that it is the parent's responsibility to do what is best for their family. We try to get kids in programs that meet their needs or offer another service. Cheri Lee noted that she has contacts at The Miracle League Foundation.

Spring Fling was a huge success at Suggs Farm. We only had one issue, a false start on the Easter Egg Hunt. We will plan to have an air horn blown to start the egg hunt for next year. Youth summer camps begin June 16th. We have many senior trips planned with 20-30 participants registered for each trip. We are using our new bus. Today we hosted our first Pickle Ball tournament. This is a fast-growing senior program.

Bass Lake- A catfish tournament was recently held and a man caught a 3.6 pound catfish. Len stated that we partner with the State and have the lake stocked with catfish several times a year. Bass Lake

birthday parties are doing very well with nature themes. Kari and Jennifer commented and gave positive feedback to Steve and the staff at Bass Lake. Adam discussed other facilities researching ideas to promote birthday parties. Kevin asked about teens working this summer. Bass Lake offers a summer work program and the Hunt Center also hires teens as camp counselors. The bridge is coming in November for the trail that will connect the circle at Bass Lake. Kevin asked about weddings at the Bass Lake. Adam replied that almost every weekend is booked with weddings. We are researching to see if the cost is in-line with other facilities. Turtlefest is this weekend from 12-4pm.

Cultural Center-Together on Center Stage will hold 3 performances. Special needs children participate in this event and over 300 tickets have been sold. A few big name performers are scheduled to perform including John Oates and the Pure Prairie League.

Art Festival-The history of Holly Springs was showcased with 150 plus attending this gala. High school students and professional artists displayed their work. Kevin asked for a comparison of attendance and art participants from last year to this year. Adam will research this information. Food trucks were at this event and there were discussions on food truck rodeos.

Parks and Recreation Events- We are transitioning a lot of events to Suggs Farm. We hosted 2 events last month: Spring Fling and Kid's Appreciation Day with both events reaching high attendance numbers. Staff is currently preparing for the July 5th Celebration to be held again at Suggs Farm. With improvements including widening of road and connection of trails, we are looking into hosting a 4 at 4. Adam has received calls from groups and individuals to help build trails at Suggs. Once we get more amenities, i.e. bathrooms, this could increase the use of this venue and we could possibly offer wedding packages. At this time, Sugg Farm is not open to the public. People can walk on the property, but we are trying to keep cars out. Local photographers have asked to take pictures on the property and we are renting a field to a Cricket organization. We are hoping to open up Suggs for the weekends next year.

Len stated that many of events such as Kid's Appreciation Day, the Community Art Festival, and 4 at 4, are all co-op events we help to facilitate. We listen to all requests from organizations and businesses and review the purpose of the proposed event to see if we can co-op these events.

Bond Updates-Len

There has been a tremendous amount of dirt moved at North Main. We are a little behind schedule, although Phase I is due to be complete in October. We took bids on April 2nd which came in over budget. We currently have 10 days left to see what direction to take. We will be receiving a report in about 4-5 days to share with upper management. May 20th is the next Council meeting and we will get direction on which way to go with this project. We are looking at all angles for Phase I. Jones Park Frisbee Golf, which is dependent on volunteers, is projected to be complete in 6 to 8 weeks.

The budget was released on Tuesday. We are approximately 15% of the total \$28M budget. Approval still remains for \$7.5M which is a matter of the Town's revenue supporting bonds. We are still providing programs and facilities for residential growth. We will be able to do smaller projects in the future. Len added that rentals for the department are high with an average of at least 30 rentals a week which provides added revenue.

Kevin suggested that we invite Laura Weygant, Coordinator of the Western Wake Tennis Association, as our guest speaker for June. There was also a suggestion to invite the Chamber of Commerce to attend the September meeting to discuss programs and potential use of our facilities.

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