



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 12, 2015 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Adams, Elizabeth Stone, Wanda Holloway, Kari McCloud, Winston Shade, Daniel Price, Marty Buckwald

ABSENT MEMBERS: LeeAnn Plumer, Jennifer Jones

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Lee

STAFF PRESENT: Lori Puzak, Len Bradley, Adam Huffman

CALL TO ORDER: Kevin Adams called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

APPROVAL OF 01/08/2015 MINUTES: Motion to approve: Wanda Holloway; Second: Elizabeth Stone; Vote: Unanimous; Meeting minutes approved with a correction to add Elizabeth Stone to the members present.

PRESENTER: South Wake Conservationists Club - John Boesch, Board Member

The South Wake Conservationists Club was formed last year and is a local chapter of the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, which is a state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. The mission of the club is nature education and conservation. John is a certified nature educator and trained volunteer with the NC Wildlife Commission. With the amount of growth experienced in Holly Springs there is a concern for disappearing wildlife habitat. The purchase of the Jefferson L. Sugg Farm at Bass Lake Park will help facilitate the conservation of wildlife in Holly Springs. Meetings occur the second Thursday of every month at 7 pm. The club's current project is cleaning wood duck boxes so that they will be ready to put back out for nesting. Future projects include training residents on how to certify backyards as wildlife habitats, as well as businesses and schools. The long term goal is to have Holly Springs certified as a community wildlife habitat. Currently there are four North Carolina communities seeking this certification including Charlotte, Concord and Davidson. A Wildlife Habitat Community is a certification awarded by the Wildlife Federation based on the number of individual residents, schools and businesses that are certified as wildlife habitats. They must provide food, water, shelter and cover for wildlife to live and raise their young in order to be certified. Bass Lake Park was certified as a Wildlife Habitat when it opened and they are seeking certification for Sugg Farm at Bass Lake Park as well. The South Wake Conservationists website is southwakeconservationists.org. They also have a Facebook page. Members are raising awareness for their organizations through these sites, meeting with community organizations and word of mouth. The NC Wildlife Federation created the Great Outdoors University through a grant from Northface in Charlotte, whose mission is to connect kids with nature. The Wildlife Federation is looking at Holly Springs as the next site for the Great Outdoors University. Membership in the NC Wildlife Federation is \$25 per year. Half of the fees goes to the local chapter and the other half to the NC Wildlife Federation. One of the benefits of membership is that the NCWF will assist local chapters with grant proposals for projects.

PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES:

Bass Lake- Staff is gearing up for summer. This fiscal year Bass Lake will have hosted 30 weddings. Birthday party packages continue to be successful. Summer camp registration started February 2nd and one summer camp is already full.

Sugg Farm- The clean-up project on the property is about 80% complete. The new gate has been installed at the entrance of the park, although there are still decorative items to be added.

Cultural Center- Tribute to the Statler Brothers, Comedian Jeff Allen and Voiceplay (an a cappella group) performed in the last month and all performances were sold out. Juice Newton was rescheduled for June due to the guitarist having hand surgery. Matt Jernigan, a comedian, is scheduled for February 20th. Summer camp registration started February 2nd for the Cultural Center as well.

Hunt Center- Basketball is approaching play-offs and all-stars. Soccer is about to start with 700+ participants registered (3 spots left). Currently, 96 participants have registered for Intro to Soccer and registration is ongoing. Staff anticipates that most, if not all, practices will be held at Womble Park. Registration is currently open for Baseball and Softball. Summer camp registration started on February 2nd for the Hunt Center as well.

Womble Park- Open Play is starting at 8 am every morning Monday through Friday with a live video feed to the Hunt Center front desk. There is a high volume of rentals at this time comprised mostly of high school teams due to weather cancellations. Wake Futbol Club is also using Womble Park due to the delay with NMAC Phase I.

Jones Park- The first 9 holes of the disc golf course were opened and continue to be very popular. Now that the Rhamkatt PUD has been approved, staff will be in discussions to acquire the necessary property needed open the back 9 holes.

Parks and Recreation Events- SWAC Tournaments dates are set. Currently working on dates for Cal Ripken, but staff is waiting on other tournaments until we finalize our programs. The Community Arts Festival at the Cultural Center went very well and staff will have numbers next meeting.

BOND PROJECTS UPDATES: North Main Athletic Complex

Phase 1: The turf field is complete and ready for play, but it is not secured and therefore will not be open for use. The finishing touches for the sports lighting are being done. The tennis courts are awaiting the final layer, but it is temperature sensitive and requires 60 degrees weather or warmer. Construction crews are working on the widening of Main Street. They have come across issues with gas lines and water lines due to hitting rock. The gas line will be relocated and hopefully the crew will be able to get around the water line. The committee questioned if there would be a connection to the 55 bypass. A connector road would be ideal but the cost will definitely be a factor of the time table. It is estimated at \$1.5 million. The committee also asked if bike racks will be installed. They were included in the original design around the perimeter but it was determined that was not a good location so they were replaced with benches. Bike racks will be included but in a location that has yet to be determined. Stroller parking was also brought up as a consideration for walkers.

Phase 2: Staff shared pictures of the progress on phase 2 showing the right field wall, the locker rooms, and the risers being installed for seating which will continue to the end of the locker rooms. Construction on the ticket booth and concessions started this week. Bathrooms will be located on the third base side. The town was awarded a one million dollar grant from Wake County that will enable to add back several things that were value engineered out of the project, including another set of restrooms, enhancements on main street (columns with fencing), and the area along the top of the right field wall. Original items included in this area are the beer garden, concessions, and an eating area. This area will also house a VIP section in right field that can be used for corporate events.

The Completion date of Phase 2 is currently mid-May and opening day for the Holly Springs Salamanders is May 28. The items to be added back into the project will also depend upon where it will fit in the current project timeline.

Pete Bock is pleased with ticket sales so far, which consists of only season tickets for now.

MARCH TOPIC: The committee would like an inventory of all the fields that we use, broken down by those we own and those that we have a joint use agreement to use, including their purposes. Staff will also look at the possibility of scheduling a tour of the North Main Athletic Complex in April.

ADJOURN: There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 pm.