



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2016 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Adams, Alice Reese, Howard Slinkard, Wanda Holloway, Liz Stone, Jennifer Jones, Kari McCloud, Winston Shade

ABSENT MEMBERS: LeeAnn Plumer

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Lee, Tom O'Brien

STAFF PRESENT: Len Bradley, Adam Huffman, Lori Puzak

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve: Ms. Holloway; Second: Ms. Stone; Vote: 8-0 (Mr. Shade arrived after the vote); Meeting minutes approved with no corrections.

PRESENTATION BY TOMMY ATKINSON, HOLLY SPRINGS SALAMANDERS – Mr. Atkinson gave an overview of the inaugural season of the Holly Springs Salamanders and the plans for the upcoming season. Some highlights are:

- 4th in the Coastal Plain League and 32nd out of all summer collegiate leagues in the nation for attendance with approximately 40,000 attendees;
- 300 season tickets sold last year;
- 1 player, Brian Miller, made First Team All Coastal Plain League and 2 players, Colin Woody and Chandler Sandburn, made Second Team All Coastal Plain League;
- 10 showcase tournaments (rentals) featuring students from all over the country;
- 2 jersey auctions raising \$895 Kay Yow Breast Cancer Awareness and \$525 Military Missions in Action;
- host families were outstanding, with many returning for the next season;
- other events included the Czech Republic team v. Campbell University, 2 USA National teams used the facility for practice, and the stadium hosted its first wedding;
- upcoming next season – expanded menu for the concession stand; the team will use the locker rooms; and opening the beer garden area. The season opener at the stadium is June 1st.

PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES:

Bass Lake- Several group programs held offsite at local schools.

Cultural Center- December 17th – A Christmas with the Nelsons (sold out); January 9th The Music of Carol King & James Taylor (sold out); Ladies of Laughter is scheduled for January 16th with 104 tickets sold out of 184; Travis LaDoyt is scheduled for January 30th with 69 and 96 tickets remaining for the matinee and evening performances respectively; The Community Arts Festival is February 1st through the 6th; and Marty Haggard is scheduled for February 13th.

Hunt Center- Fitness memberships has increased due to the new group exercise program. The memberships sold December 1st through the second week in January increased from 682 last year to 760 this year; Basketball has 899 participants, an increase over last year's 816 participants and 688 participants from the year before that.

Womble Park- USA Ultimate Frisbee Carolina Kickoff is scheduled for January 23-24

Jones Park- CADL Ice Bowl and Chili Cookoff is scheduled for January 17

North Main Athletic Complex- November: WFC tournaments and CASL tournaments; December: YLS tournament; January: Wake Tech practices begin with their first home game on February 6; TFCA tournaments scheduled the 23rd and 30th; April: App St v. Campbell.

Parks and Recreation Events- Spring Fling March 19; Kids Appreciation in May; currently in discussions for a rental at Sugg Farm to break the record for the largest snowball fight.

PROJECTS UPDATES:

NMAC Punch List- The main item remaining of the punch list is the completion of the batter's eye in center field. The locker rooms, restrooms, and concession area are complete with the exception of the outstanding items for the concession area that will be provided by the Holly Springs Salamanders per the licensing agreements. The beer garden and main street enhancements started this week and will be in full swing next week. These items are being managed outside of the punch list. Other items in progress are the installation of fans under the awning, a playground along the third base line with synthetic turf and netting to prevent foul balls; and the landscaping. Staff continues to work with the Phase 1 contractor to finalize outstanding contract requirements.

Mims Property- Discussions about the area for the Farmer's Market plaza and the water feature (storm water) have occurred with staff. The project timeline is dependent upon funding.

Sugg Farm at Bass Lake Park- Staff is currently in the planning stages for water and sewer installation. Handicapped restrooms are a requirement before the park can be officially opened and staff anticipates that should happen before the fall of this year.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ROLE/TRAINING: Len provided some information to the committee that Tom Wells shared with the committee several years ago as well as information from the Town Attorney John Schifano and the Town Policy for communication.

FEBRUARY TOPIC: Recreation Resource Services will be providing a training session for all committee members.

DISCUSSION REGARDING THE ABC11: Friday, January 8 ABC11 aired a story entitled “Did Race Play a Role in Holly Springs Athletic Complex Design.” The story alleged that the complex catered to sports primarily played by white children and that the basketball goals that were installed were unsafe. The committee noted that the basketball goals were not included in the original master plan, but there was space and available funding so they were added to offer more services for the community. Councilwoman Lee made a comment that indoor basketball courts are addressed with the convocation center in phase 3 for the North Main Athletic Complex. Other outdoor basketball courts include Holly Springs Elementary School and the Hunt Recreation Center (1/2 court). Open play 5-7 am and 9-10 pm is available at the Hunt Center for open play during basketball league play.

Public Comment: Robert English, 312 Trayesan Drive, stated that Holly Springs has the worst outdoor courts in the area. He expressed concern that the curb underneath the goal will cause ankle injuries and should be considered a higher priority than the pads on the poles for injuries. He further stated that the Holly Springs Elementary School basketball courts were poorly maintained, had missing nets, and the backboards are different sizes. He requested that the Hunt Recreation Center indoor gym have open play without a fitness membership and referred to the Town of Fuquay-Varina’s open play program. Mr. English also requested either the parking lines be removed on the outdoor court at NMAC or the fencing remain at all times, unless there is a parking requirement for some events.

Mr. Huffman responded that we have very limited time available for open play due to our before/after school programs and track out camps. Staff has tried to implement a free open play program in the past and experienced issues with property damage and violence.

Mr. Adams asked if a motion should be made to condemn the sensationalized reporting of ABC11 and the comments made by Mr. Howard. Ms. Jones stated that she did not feel that it was the committee’s role to make that motion.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURN: There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 pm.