



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
February 9, 2017 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Brian Ainslie, Tom Joyce, Alice Reese, Kevin Adams, LeeAnn Plumer

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Winston Shade, Wanda Holloway, Liz Stone, Howard Slinkard

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hank Dickson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Len Bradley, Adam Huffman, Lauren Martin

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve: Mr. Ainslie; Second: Mrs. Reese; Vote: Unanimous; Meeting minutes approved with no corrections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** none

**OLD BUSINESS**

**UPDATE ON FEE WAIVER DISCUSSION AT COUNCIL MEETING:** On Tuesday, February 7, Parks and Recreation staff presented the updates to the Parks and Recreation Policy concerning fee discounts for Holly Springs based non-profits. Town Council voted to approve the policy updates with little discussion.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE 5TH OF JULY EVENTS:** Mr. Adams opened the floor for discussion regarding the date for the Town's annual Independence Day Celebration, which has been traditionally on July 5, regardless of the day of the week. Committee members expressed concern that the event sometimes falls on a weeknight when families with school-aged children may not be able to participate due to early bedtimes. It was proposed to keep the event on either a Friday or Saturday night. Parks and Recreation staff would prefer to keep the event on the 5<sup>th</sup> for several reasons: easier on the staff to manage, vendors are accustomed to this date, and other municipalities like Garner and Fuquay have their events on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> enabling our community to attend multiple firework shows. Committee members requested the Town's cost for the event. Town Council approved \$20,000 (a \$10,000 increase from the previous year) for the 2016 fireworks display to help commemorate the department's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This was possible with the generous support from several sponsors with whom the Parks and Recreation department has had a longstanding business relationship. Staff will be requesting the same amount for next fiscal year's budget and propose to offset the additional expense by pursuing more sponsorships.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **PARKS AND RECREATION UPDATES:**

**Bass Lake-** We have expanded our Air Rifle and Archery programs at Bass Lake.

**Cultural Center-** The Alley Cats, an a cappella doo wop group, was on January 14 and had a great turn out. Henry Cho, a national touring comedian, had two shows on January 27. The 7:00 p.m. show sold out and the 9:00 p.m. show was at half capacity. Collin Ray, the country music singer known for “Butterfly Kisses,” is scheduled for this weekend and is almost sold out of tickets. The Route 55 Jazz Orchestra is sold out for February 18.

**Hunt Center-** Summer camp, soccer, baseball and softball registrations have been very busy. The athletics division has hired Steven Johnson from Fort Brag and Jason Snuggs from the maintenance division as Athletics Program Specialists. These were existing positions that needed to be backfilled due to internal promotions. Nicole Beasley was promoted to Program Manager over fitness and senior programming. Chris Champion was promoted to Athletics Program Manager.

**North Main Athletic Complex-** Dani Loveless is the new Sports Complex Manager at the North Main Athletic Complex. This is a new position for this fiscal year and is responsible for the recruitment, scheduling, and coordination of tournaments in order to expand our Sports and Leisure Tourism initiative. Wake Futbol Club has a soccer tournament scheduled February 11-12. The Town entered into a \$330,000 3-year contract with Ting for naming rights of the North Main Athletic Complex. Parks and Recreation staff continues to work with code enforcement on the NMAC playground and batting cages project. The project includes netting surrounding the new amenities to prevent injuries from foul balls. There is potential for sponsorship opportunities to assist with funding for the project. Once completed, the playground will be accessible during park operating hours.

**Discussion regarding Beyond the Green, the Parks & Recreation Master Plan:** The master plan was published in 2007 and is now ten (10) years old. The committee asked if staff has plans to amend it since the Town has experienced significant growth. Mr. Bradley agreed that an updated plan would better reflect the direction the Town seems to be following. This would also assist staff when applying for state and federal grants.

**Discussion regarding Womble Park parking:** There have been complaints concerning parking at Womble Park. Some issues include narrow parking spaces, people parking on both sides of the street, and driving too fast with children in the parking lot. Staff can install signage in an attempt to alleviate some of these issues, but signs alone do not seem to be an effective deterrent. A better deterrent would be to fine and/or tow vehicles that violate parking ordinances. There was some discussion regarding increasing the size of the individual parking spaces, but this would also decrease the number of vehicles that the park could accommodate.

**Discussion regarding building a new park for the western part of Town:** Town staff is currently searching for property on the west side of town. Due to a recent change regarding the Town’s ability to collect transportation fees, Town Council voted to increase the Parks and

Recreation fee-in-lieu of land dedication by \$1,500 per unit. This increased fee gives staff more access to funding for land purchases, expanding our greenway system by increasing connectivity, and building new parks.

**Parks & Recreation topics for Town Council Retreat:** Town staff will be presenting the results of the feasibility study for the North Main Athletic Complex Convocation Center (Phase 3). Three options were studied ranging from two (2) to four (4) indoor high school regulation-sized basketball courts. Town staff is currently in discussions with two potential partners that would share the space and offset some of the financial burden.

Two projects at Sugg Farm Park will be discussed. Water/sewer installation will allow staff to officially open the park to the public. Park staff is selecting plans for a picnic shelter with restrooms that will accommodate up to 250 people.

Town Council will also discuss plans for Town property within the Holly Glen Subdivision.

**TOPIC FOR MARCH MEETING:** Tommy Atkinson, General Manager for the Holly Springs Salamanders

**OTHER BUSINESS:** The committee requested for an update on the Class software replacement project. Parks and Recreation staff has narrowed the potential vendors down to Active Network and RecTrac. These two programs seem to be a better fit for staff needs. Ms. Plumer stated that the Town of Cary just recently went through the same vendor selection process and learned that Active Network seemed even less functional than Class. She further stated that, if RecTrac is chosen, determining a timeline is very important because they have been under a lot of pressure.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.