



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
April 13, 2017 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Tom Joyce, Alice Reese, Kevin Adams, Howard Slinkard, Wanda Holloway

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** Leanne Plumber, Liz Stone, Brian Ainslie

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cheri Lee

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

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 7.06 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion to approve: Howard Slinkard; Second: Wanda Holloway; Vote: Unanimous; Meeting minutes approved with no corrections.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

**IV. NEW BUSINESS:**

**GWEN PETRELLA WITH SENSE OF PLAY**

Mr. Adams opened the floor for discussion regarding the Sense of Play playground. Gwen Petrella co-chair for the playground began the discussion. Currently, there are eight members on the board and they are looking for nine. There are five or six fundraisers in play. Sense of Play is partnering with Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation department so that the money goes back into the Town to build this playground. It is a five or six year project that will require fundraising, generous sponsorships, community involvement and land.

Committee members asked the difference between Sense of Play and regular playgrounds. The two main differences are ramps so that kids with disabilities can play alongside kids without disabilities. In addition, there will be musical equipment that is soothing to kids with autism.

Committee members asked about the price of equipment and land requirements to complete this project. The price for this project will cost around 150,000 for equipment. Sense of play is looking for sponsors that will donate items like pavement and other materials. Gwen explained that they need a big piece of land to achieve their long-term goals. The committee asked if it is possible for developers to donate land to the playground instead of paying Parks & Recreation fees-in-lieu or donating greenways to the Town. This is something that Sense of Play and Parks & Recreation would need to discuss. Parks & Recreation staff commented that the playground would require at least ten acres for the playground, parking, and extra handicap space.

The Committee asked about the number of special needs children in the area. This all depends on the disability. The number is increasing because this area offers services that cater toward special needs children. The main disabilities are autism, down syndrome, and wheel chair bound.

Committee member Alice Reese is currently working on a park and offered Gwen her assistance with Sense of Play.

## **DISCUSSION OF COMMUNICATION REGARDING EVENTS AT TOWN FACILITIES**

Committee members expressed concern regarding Town facilities use of social media. The concern is that certain facilities are not being descriptive enough regarding events, closings, and other items. The Committee would like to see all Parks and Recreation facilities improve their use of social media. Parks & Recreation staff is working towards improving social media for each facility. Lori Puzak is our marketing and event coordinator and she works daily on these issues. Tamara Ward works for the Town and she monitors the Towns websites and social media pages. The IT department is also a great resource.

Committee Member Kevin Adams brought to attention a fake facebook page created for NMAC that has negative reviews. He is concerned about the impact this page will have on NMAC facility. Parks & Recreation Assistant Director Adam Huffman explained that the negative comments on social media are not affecting NMAC numbers. The numbers are always increasing. Examples of this are Shaw University Soccer Program, sports camps, and tennis. However, Parks and Recreation staff will be working diligently to address this issue. Parks & Recreation Director Len Bradley asked The Committee to forward any negative comments to his email and he will address them appropriately.

The Committee also mentioned that overall; The Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation department is doing a good job communicating events.

## **TERM EXPIRATIONS**

Committee members Howard Slinkard, Winston Shade and Brian Ainslie are up for renewal. Winston Shade has given his resignation. Howard Slinkard is concerned that he is not able to fulfill his duty as a committee member because of his hearing issues. Parks & Recreation staff will be working to improve the microphones and hearing aid devices so that Mr. Slinkard can renew his term.

## **DISCUSSION OF LAND DEVELOPMENT**

Committee members and Parks & Recreation staff discussed the need to preserve more green space for passive recreation. Parks & Recreation Staff, Committee Members, and Councilwoman Lee all agreed that preserving greenspace for passive recreation is a good idea. Parks & Recreation staff concluded that it would require planning and funding.

## **V. UPDATE ON PROGRAMS AND EVENTS**

**Bass Lake-** Bass Lake staff is preparing for TurtleFest; which will be Saturday May 13, 2017. Parks & Recreation staff are working on getting a utility plan in place for water and sewer for Sugg Farm as well as getting a shelter with running water and bathrooms.

**Cultural Center-** The Snow Queen performance last month was a success. The Murder Mystery Desert Show was also a great success. All-For-One is coming in April. They are an early 90's group.

**Hunt Center-** Baseball and Softball games start Monday. New scoreboards are going in at Womble and Jones. Staff is preparing for kids Appreciation Day starting May 6. Before school and after school registration will be on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**North Main Athletic Complex** Relay for Life will be held at NMAC on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup>. NMAC is also preparing for the new Salamanders Season.

**Parks and Recreation Events-** Spring Fling was a great success. There were 10,000 eggs put out and the kids swooped them up very quickly.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Councilwoman Cheri Lee expressed concern regarding the condition of the Holly Grove Middle School soccer field. She explained that the field is in poor condition and needs maintained. Parks & Recreation staff explained that Holly Grove is a year round school and fixing the field is almost impossible because people are always on the field. Parks & Recreation staff have put a lot of money into maintaining the field, but again grass cannot grow if the field is in constant use.

### **MAY TOPIC:**

There will be a regular meeting next month. Cheri will not be at this meeting.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further items for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

**Action:**

**Motion:**

**Second:**

**Vote:** Unanimous