



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2018 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: LeeAnn Plumer, Gerry Martinez De Andino, Wanda Holloway, Liz Stone, Kevin Adams, Alice Reese, Ken Cicora

ABSENT MEMBERS: Mark DiGiacomo, Tom Joyce

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Lee, Christine Kelly, Tom O'Brian

STAFF PRESENT: Adam Huffman, Lauren Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve: Kevin Adams; Second: LeeAnn Plumer; Vote: Unanimous; Meeting minutes approved with no corrections.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

None

**IV. TOWN OF HOLLY SPRINGS PARKS & RECREATION & WCPSS
INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

Interim Director Adam Huffman requested that members of the Committee consider current policy, which follows Wake County Public School Inclement Weather Policy vs. a Town of Holly Springs Park and Recreation Department inclement weather policy independent of WCPSS. This was followed with a Power Point presentation identifying pros and cons for adopting a new weather policy. Committee Members will provide feedback at March meeting.

Slides presented benefits and negatives for adopting a new policy examining three services provided by the Parks & Recreation Department which include Child Services, Athletics & Fitness. Bass Lake and the Cultural Center are not impacted as much from inclement weather therefore, a slide was not included.

Discussion Points as follows:

Committee Member Kevin Adams asked if the Town closes down, could P&R follow Town Policy. Interim Director Huffman responded that the Town operates on a Monday-Friday schedule while athletics and Fitness services are offered daily.

Committee Member LeeAnn Plumer offered that the Town of Cary P&R follows their own policy taking staff into consideration and recognizing that every situation is different.

Interim Director Huffman offered the WCPSS policy also creates issues with the two-hour delays in two ways. First, a late call by WCPSS (after 5:00 am) is problematic because the Hunt Center is already open and staffed. Second, due to opening times of track out camp and Before and After Care, these programs would be delayed two hours making their start times after WCPSS High Schools are open which doesn't make sense.

Committee Member Kevin Adams asked how quickly the information could get to the public. Interim Director Huffman responded that with automatic text alerts, facebook and the town's website, the public can be informed quite rapidly.

Committee Member LeeAnn Plumer asked when weather allows openings, does participation lag or increase. Interim Director Huffman indicated that programs are affected differently. Adults without children in WCPSS will use the Hunt Center, while programs at the cultural center, tot dance classes for example, lag in participation due to parents with other children at home.

Committee Member Kevin Adams asked which program is most impacted. Interim Director Huffman responded that Child Services is the most impacted when parents are required to report for work but their child-care option for track-out camp or before and after school care is closed. Rescheduling athletics also becomes an issue as teams may lose practice times as gym/field times are limited, scheduled practices become games. Seasons cannot be extended due to State tournament scheduling.

Interim Director Adam Huffman's inclination is that Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation department does not strictly follow WCPSS. He envisions following day one and two of WCPSS lead but making independent decisions after the second day of inclement weather.

SPRING FLING:

Committee voted to support Interim Director Adam Huffman for rescheduling the annual Spring Fling Easter Egg Hunt to Saturday, March 17 vs. Saturday, March 24 when some families would miss the event due to a Saturday make-up day scheduled by WCPSS for year-round schools.

V. ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Greenways:

Interim Director Adam Huffman see the greenways as a good opportunity for Committee Members to become more actively engaged. He invited members of committee to walk the proposed trails with him. Experiencing the proposed trail by visiting the space informs decisions on ultimate trail location based on experiential qualities of the space including topography,

odors, visual access etc. Walks ideally would occur late winter early spring before trails are overgrown and wildlife emerges from winter slumbers.

Committee's Role:

Slides were presented outlining the roles of Park & Rec advisory Committee of Fuquay-Varina, Cary, Apex and Wake Forest (Slides emailed to Committee)

Discussion Points as follows:

Committee Member LeeAnn Plumer expanded on Cary's P&R Advisory. She stated that Cary's P&R Advisory Board is very formal with expectations of service and activity of each member; volunteer hours of Board Members are tracked. The Advisory Board consists of 10 members, 8 on sub-committees. Examples of the sub-committees are Festivals, Greenways, Athletics and Cultural Arts. The Chair of the Sub-Committee is an Advisory Board Member who reports to the P&R Advisory Board at each meeting.

Committee Member Wanda Holloway commented that the Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Advisory members served on committees. They also reported back to the Advisory Committee when bond money for Parks & Recreation projects were used toward achieving master plan goals. Also, in the past, the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee had a hot chocolate booth at the Christmas Parade as an avenue for gaining exposure to the public.

Committee Chair Elizabeth Stone agreed that exposure of the Town of Holly Springs Parks & Recreation Advisory committee is key and a good idea. She also liked the idea of sub-committees but wonders if the public will be willing to participate. Chair Stone also noted that exposure is key.

Committee Member Ken Cicora commented that as the Committee becomes more active, exposure becomes more apparent.

Town Council Member Cheri Lee commented that a more active role for the Committee would take time; Sub-committees will likely be more Ad-Hoc than Cary has. She is encouraged by the current Committee group, which is the most engaged group of recent history.

Committee Member Ken Cicora stated that this meeting is more along the lines of how he envisions the Committee to operate. He liked that Interim Director Adam Huffman brought topics forward the Committee.

Chair Elizabeth Stone also is encouraged by Interim Director Adam Huffman's openness and that Town Council & Staff seem eager to move forward. Based on tonight's meeting, the Committee seems to be moving in the right direction.

VI. 2018 TERM EXPIRATIONS

Committee Members LeeAnn Plumer, Alice Reese and Chair Elizabeth Stone's terms all expire in June 2018. A new application needs to be submitted to continue term, applications are being accepted now.

Committee Member Ken Cicora expressed interest that the current team not be broken up.

VII. MANAGERS' REPORT

Chair Stone explained that the Manager's Report will hit highlights of Current Park & Recreation department activity rather than relay numbers and activities of each department. Committee agreed this was preferred approach.

RecTrac: No real concerns or complaints

The position of Parks & Recreation Director is not being advertised right now. The department is also down three staff members and attention has been focused on covering vacant positions and preparing for the retreat.

VIII. ADJOURN

Committee Member LeeAnn Plumer motioned, seconded by Committee Member Wanda Holloway.