



**Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2018 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Council Chambers**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Gerry Martinez De Andino, Tom Joyce, Wanda Holloway, Alice Reese, Ken Cicora, Liz Stone, Mark DiGiacomo, Kevin Adams, Leonard Lloyd

**ABSENT MEMBERS:** None

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

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Stone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed our newest Committee Member.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to approve: Member Joyce; Second: Cicora; Vote: Unanimous; Meeting minutes approved with no corrections.

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

No Public Speakers.

**IV. STAFF AND COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION:**

All present introduced themselves briefly.

**V. COMMITTEE MEMBERS SIGN CODE OF ETHICS:**

Copy of Policy & Procedures P-021.2 was distributed and members signed.

**VI. NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICES:**

Chair Stone nominated Alice Reese for secretary & Mark DiGiacomo seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Vice Chair Joyce nominated Elizabeth Stone for Chair & Mark DiGiacomo seconded. Again, the vote was unanimous.

Mark DiGiacomo nominated Ken Cicora for Vice Chair, the vote was unanimous.

## **VII. RECOMMENDATION FOR STREAMLINING BASS LAKE DAY, TURTLEFEST, AND SPRING FLING:**

1. Interim Chair Huffman recapped discussion from June Meeting (refer to meeting minutes from June)
2. Confirmation was received that the option to try the change for one year was plausible.
3. Chair Stone asked all members to state their thoughts on the matter. Summary of viewpoints as follows:
  - Member DiGiacomo would hate to lose connection to lake if moved to Sugg
  - Member Adams sees the advantage of combination for efficiency of staff and would like to try it at least once on a trial basis.
  - Member Martinez De Andino feels the problems are an important issue, and although attendance is down, the parking does not seem to have improved.
  - Member Cicora likes the option of a trial basis
  - Vice Chair Joyce voiced the events should be kept separate
  - Chair Stone's view as to keep Turtlefest separate, but from an event and staffing standpoint, combining the events might be a good idea.
  - Member Holloway encouraged the Board to use Raleigh's 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks as an example and felt that a change is worth a try.
  - Member Lloyd stated he is a fan of generating excitement for the community by generating a large event. The events do have charm, but would like to combine them on a trial basis.
  - Member Reese: Because Bass Lake nature center is open all the time and the staff is more than willing to talk to anyone visiting, plus, birthday parties etc. all offer the same nature experience of the festival, she is in favor of combining the events on a trial basis to relieve P&R staff.
  - Member DiGiacomo was in favor of combining the events because of the reasons stated and because parking is such an issue.
4. Clarification: Bass Lake Day will proceed as planned for 2018.
5. Chair Stone put forth the motion for the board's recommendation; to combine Spring Fling and Bass Lake Day for 2019. Member Cicora seconded the motion. The Board voted 7-2.

6. After the motion was voted on, the Board discussed the option to revisit the combination of the festivals based on the outcome of the combined event in May 2019 to determine if a large event is the permanent solution.

## **VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

1. Interim Director Huffman presented upcoming dates and events.
  - The Park and Recreation priorities workshop with the Town Council will be rescheduled after Randy Herington the new Town Manager will be on-board.
  - The fitness center at Hunt is offering 30 exercise classes as part of the membership for the new fiscal year. Classes include pilates and yoga. Memberships have increased 40% since 2015 with new classes.
    - Monthly rates have been maintained and likely will not increase due to the increase of memberships which support cost increases for new teachers
    - Fancy water bottle fillers have been considered. Among the considerations that affect the prices are chilled vs. non-chilled.
    - New tennis contractor with more programming for adults. Also offering tennis track out camps at Ting.
    - The tennis courts are also featuring new push-button activation for lights. Lights are illuminated for 1-hr periods with a 6 minute warning. Pushing button reactivates lights on three zones. Courts are divided into zones to activate a light bank. Town can set overall light times – should save on energy costs because lights will not be kept on until 9:15 every night.
    - Morgan Park Greenway now under TOHS ownership. It is located at the end of Trotters Lane. 20' of topo change makes for a challenging workout along the trail which provides a good east west connection to link with tunnel. This is one of those important links that fulfils the vision in the earlier master plan.
    - Further discussion of greenways included the topic of the greenway connection by Ting. Future development of this connection is planned with path ways in place but it is not completed yet. We also learned the plans for access to 55 from Ting. Ultimately, the vehicular movement will be right in, right out with left over for southbound traffic. No light planned for initial installation.
    - Carl Dean Greenway now has 6 pieces of fitness equipment funded by HSRC. Signage will also be installed in future. Par core equipment has been spaced and designed to target both upper & lower body along the route. Weather delays prevented opening of complete greenway. October projected for completion.
    - Future signage on other greenways funded by remaining funds from HSRC.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Member Cicora initiated a positive discussion of the Salamanders with several other members echoing the sentiment noting the success to CBC's involvement. Member Cicora requested a report from Salamanders at a future meeting.

**X. OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Member Adams after serving 10 years on the Committee, offered his resignation from the Park and Recreation Board to serve on the Board of Theaterworks, a position he was offered in February and has been challenged to serve on both since then. He offered his thanks to everyone for their time and hoped his time on the committee was beneficial to the Town.

In response, Chair Stone and Interim Director Huffman offered their sincere thanks on behalf of the committee and Town and that we look forward to having Mr. Adams present to the Board as a Theaterworks representative.

**XI. ADJOURN:**

Motion to adjourn by committee member Adams, second member DiGiacomo. Meeting adjourned at 7:59.