



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Sept. 12, 2019

7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken Cicora, Alice Reese, Liz Stone, Mark DiGiacomo, Susan Smith, Jason Guetgemann, Molly Sapienza, Lenny Lloyd, Gerry Martinez De Andino

ABSENT MEMBERS:

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cheri Lee, Tom O'Brien

STAFF PRESENT: LeeAnn Plumer, Adam Huffman, Kristen Denton

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order 7:01 by Chair Stone

Approve the minutes: motion, Ken. Second, Len

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. Hunt Memberships - Kristen Denton.

- a. Presented outlined benefits of membership. Amenities include rowing, ellipticals, gauntlet, resistance machines, treadmills, locker rooms, no saunas.
- b. Prices of memberships and number of membership. Present = July 1 – Present 449. 2016-2017 had highest membership at 4,199. Membership tracked daily.
- c. Revenue presented. This year's revenue is slightly up although membership appears to be dropping. Goal of tonight's discussion is to give Director Plumer ideas to take back to staff. Assistant Director Huffman noted that automatic renewals are not possible bc system cannot retain credit card info. But an email reminder of ending memberships is possible.

d. Ideas Presented included:

- i. Molly- referral campaign for current members?
- ii. Susan – thank you gift for renewals.
- iii. Molly: Check out Kraft Y Group X classes they are a good model, but have bigger rooms, childcare.
- iv. Susan: Reach out with “I miss you cards”.

B. Sugg Farm Shelter – Director Plumer.

a. Shelter planned in 2018 for Sugg is approximately 7,000 sf with restroom & catering kitchen, fireplace and family restroom. Site improvements require accessible paved parking spaces. The idea is to provide a high-end shelter facility as a draw for rental of the park space as family reunion destination, wedding venue or larger attendance event that will generate additional revenue for Town and provide a destination facility unlike any other in area. Original project budget was \$800,000. Due to the white-hot construction market, the project did not receive any bidders the first time it bid, the second time had 3 bids, 2 @ \$1.9 million 1 @\$1.433 million. Reviewed original Sugg Farm MP. Reviewed options for courses of action. (refer to PPT)

b. Feedback and discussion: Discussion mainly explored two topics:

1. Elements of the structure which could be value-engineered to bring the project closer to budget without losing any value. Since accessible parking spaces are a requirement, the discussion focused on the need for the kitchen space and or decreasing the size of the shelter.
 - Susan noted that Bass Lake is a wedding destination but the kitchen is essentially a warming kitchen and difficult to work in. Director Plumer noted that upgrading the kitchen facility at Bass Lake would be very expensive. Similarly, updating the existing house at Sugg Farm for code compliance (not on historical register) is cost prohibitive.
2. Shelter was never in Sugg Master Plan therefore the optics of spending all the remaining bond funds on it were debated.
 - Chair Stone voiced the concern that too much of the original bond money is quickly turning into “Pay to Play” facilities. The goal should be to get park fully open with bathrooms and accessibility

and that she prefers to see money used to benefit most of the public.

- Members Lloyd and Reese noted that based on current and relevant professional experience even parking and restroom facilities will exhaust the remaining bond funding due to the current construction market. The value lost from sacrificing elements of the structure will equate to a shelter similar to those at Jones, Womble & Veteran's park and those found at many municipalities in the area. In terms of optics, why use money to duplicate yet more of the same facility?
- Several Members raised the option of creating a dog park at Sugg which was in the original master plan and is not a duplication of facilities. It was established that the dog park would also require accessible parking and routes for code compliance. Estimated costs of the dog park could not be established.
- Council Member Lee reminded the committee to keep in mind the Town's goal to attain park land west of highway 55.

Vice Chair Cicora proposed the following recommendation: to get cost for restrooms and parking to determine remaining funding available to install another feature of the master plan. Voting results: In favor: 7, opposed 2

C. Overflow Parking at Womble – Assistant Director Huffman

- a. Parking at Womble on Saturdays continues to be an issue although the grass field between the stream and the baseball complex has been striped with 100 spaces. The grass field between the soccer complex and the band shell cannot be similarly striped as there is a gas easement which must remain clear at all times. Also, two PVC pipes daylight onto the field. The pipes would need to be replaced with pipes of stronger material or additional coverage provided over the pipes to prevent damage from vehicular traffic. On Stinson, the Engineering Department is moving forward to add "no parking" signs, but this is not an immediate process. Another option is to have some games at night or move 12U games to Ting.
- b. Chair Stone expressed gratitude that the Town is looking into it.

D. Other Areas of Interest or Feedback

- a. None were expressed, but Chair Stone encouraged all members to bring any items to her or Director Plumer.

- b. Opportunities to volunteer at Town events to bring awareness of committee and provide more opportunities for involvement and sign up sheets for volunteering at Holly Fest and Bass Lake Day were circulated.

3. REPORTS

A. Council Update – Cheri

- i. Land Use Plan is still in the works
- ii. Would like to see the committee get out and volunteer more.

B. Tree Advisory Committee – Susan Smith & Council Member Kelly

- Public tree maintenance ordinance in UDO. Adding additional standards and best practices working with NC Forestry Service. Piloting a few programs to bring awareness of street trees. Education component is also a big focus. Committee has many experts who are passionate and dedicated.

C. Land Use and Community Character Team – Gerry Martinez De Andino

- Joint meeting btwn Planning Board, TC and committee, the draft was approved and now TC has to approve it.

D. Parks and Rec Bond Projects

- TC agreed to Committee's top 3 recommendations. Current balance has \$6.7 million in P&R reserve account with \$2 million possible grant awards.
 - i. Parkland acquisition, park development construction of new acquisition
 - ii. Greenways
- Town is developing an RFP for design firms and land scoping in Fall 2019.
- Master Plan RFP release on 9-13-19
- LOI for Greenway design draft in circulation on Arbor Creek section of greenway plan. Release 10-1-19
- Park land acquisition: identified 8 potential sites but require further review and investigation.
- Wake Co. Parks/Greenways Grant- Anticipated grant application period to open 11- 2019. Director Plumer has reached out to Wake Co. & Apex to look at ways to maximize greenway construction.

E. Operations Update – Assistant Director Adam Huffman

- a. Department: New athletic specialist has been hired.
 - o Youth basketball begins registration on Monday.
- b. Facilities:
 - o Bass Lake:
 - Cat fish tournament upcoming

- Sugg:
 - Dog Days coming soon.
- Carl Dean Greenway: IS OPEN.
- Jones Park, Veterans Park & Carrington Greenways– Susan complemented.
- Cultural Center
 - Getting ready to celebrate their 10th season.
 - New speaker system installed.

F. Salamanders Report: Distributed, but in interest of time Chair Stone recommended we take home and review it. If anyone would like to hear from the Salamanders, please let her or Director Plumer know.

4. NEW BUSINESS-CHAIR STONE

None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/INFORMATION SHARE

A. PRCR member profiles on social media. Idea is to put a face with name featuring a member on the FB site. Rachel Downing will send a form to members. Perhaps run a bio and photo on the P&R Facebook page.

6. ADJOURN

Motion: Vice Chair Cicora

Second: Mark DiGiacomo

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.