



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

November 11, 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, Christine Kelly

STAFF PRESENT: LeeAnn Plumer, Adam Huffman, Lori Puzak, Kathleen Hebert

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order 7:04 by Chair Stone

Approve the minutes: motion, member De Andino. Second, member Sapienza

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. Speaker: Mr. John Beimler of 112 Shopsgate Ct. Holly Springs, NC informally spoke on behalf of the Arbor Creek HOA & Holly Springs Run Club (HSRC) who are advocating for improved maintenance of greenways (boardwalks included) for safety of users. Mr. Beimler brought awareness of safety concerns with greenway trails specifically in Arbor Creek area and thoughts of creating a pedestrian safety committee within HSRC & partnering with non-profit with the goal of assisting ToHS P&R with greenway maintenance and identifying safety concerns. As users of the trails, they could provide timely notification of trail conditions and concerns perhaps through an app similar to the one Raleigh has. Issues they would like the Town to know about include loose rocks on trails, trash, root heave and buckled pavement, compromised decking on boardwalks. Mr. Beimler has noticed an increase in use of Holly Springs High School track which he attributes to poorly maintained greenways. The track is safer. Council Member Lee encouraged Mr. Beimler to reach out to Town Council & invite the runners on Town Council to run with him.

3. PRESENTATIONS

A. RC Club – Jason and Doug (Holly Springs Skyhawks)

- a. Presented Power point highlighting mission, demographics, registrations, partnerships and benefits of the Holly Springs Skyhawks, a club for fliers of radio controlled air craft & member of AMA, the Academy of Model Aeronautics.
- b. Holly Springs has a dedicated flight site compliant with FAA regulations which sets them apart.
- c. Holly Spring Skyhawks are appreciative of Town's support of the club and would like to be integrated into the Parks and Rec master Plan. (Hobby Park in Winston-Salem is a good example).

Discussion:

- Space consideration and programming required for the club:
 - 6 acres is a good fit, while ideal field size is twice field space that they have now.
 - Authorization to operate from FAA. Sugg Farm is not a controlled air space, but now when you go out there, you do not have to notify FAA.
 - Must stay below 400'. Glider hobbyist require higher altitudes where they can use thermals to glide.
 - Electric is cleaner and quieter. Prefer electric.
 - Closecut grass is fine for a runway.

B. Cultural Center Performance Change Recommendations – Kathleen

As a response to a challenge from Director Plumer to evaluate their program areas.

Kathleen is eyeing Ting as a venue for the Great Performances Series which features national acts. Ting would seat more people which would enable Kathleen to set lower prices per ticket than she can using a smaller venue.

Feedback and discussion:

- Outdoor location would be subject to weather issues.
- Concert times would need to be sensitive of Oak Hall residents.
- Cheri: Friday night on white in wake forest is a good example would HS be looking to model local business as well.
- Saturday night concerts should not conflict with HSHS Friday night football.

4. REPORTS

A. Council Update – Cheri

- a. Liz opened with gratitude to Cheri for past work as liaison.
- b. Cheri thanks for the support and encouraged the PRAC to continue to share government posts on FB groups to continue to get the word out about parks and rec.

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

- a. Tree pilot program implemented. \$20K allocated to install trees on two streets. Trees will be planted Dec. Jan. Streets around Hunt Center.
- b. Holly Fest gave away 980 trees. Tags are traceable if registered.
- c. Application begin finalized for Tree City USA. Will learn results in April in conjunction with Arbor Day.

C. Director's Update – LeeAnn

- a. Maser Plan RFP:
 - o Received 5 proposals. Interviewing 3 firms next week. Make a recommendation to Council on Dec.
 - o After Project is awarded, it will kick-off in Jan. 2020.
 - o Greenways master plan will be incorporated into Master Plan which is great since the Greenways master plan was too expensive.
- b. Mission Follow up.
 - o Presented current mission statement with updated verbiage.
- c. Bonds Projects
 - o Approx. 50 acres west of 55, getting appraised.
 - o RFQ for LA/engineering firm for Arbor creek greenway extension.
- d. Sugg Farm Restroom Project
 - o Getting bids from firms for pre-fab restroom vendors
 - o Researching dog park operations
 - o Goal- complete accessible parking, road improvements and restroom prior to July 5th.

D. Operations Update – Assistant Director Adam Huffman

- a. Department: New athletic specialist has been hired.
- b. Facilities:
 - o Womble: Lighting at parks –No security lighting unless athletic field lights are on. Asking TC to allow one field to remain lit until 9:00 now – March when baseball returns. Implement immediately.
 - o Ting:
 - Lacrosse tournament this past weekend 145 teams.
 - Liz liked the large signs clearly stating the rules for field use.
 - ½ marathon in two weeks.

- NCFC soccer tournament in Dec.
- Bass Lake & Sugg Farm
 - Oct. 30th Spooktacular-estimated in attendance: 600 (102 kids entered the costume contest)
 - Haunted Hay Ride was altered to a haunted trail at Hollyfest due to inclement weather on the scheduled date.
 - Streambed restoration – mobilization later this month
- Hunt Center:
 - The seniors are on an overnight trip today and tomorrow to Williamsburg/Jamestown.
 - Update - Fitness Membership action plan from last meeting. An evaluation was shared on Friday, November 8 with all active members and we are still collecting feedback.
 - Programmers are developing a needs assessment survey that will be shared with the public.
 - SWAC state soccer tournament this weekend (9-10 boys, 9-10 girls, 11-12 boys, 11-12 girls, and 13-14 boys) in Goldsboro (weather pending).
- Cultural Center
 - Main Street Christmas coming up. Artisan Village this year. Sensory Santa the preceding Wednesday for families of children with special needs.
 - Police and Fire decided to cancel their Nov. 2nd truck pull competition and moved the Chili Cook Off back to the Farmers Market. Police won.
 - The 3rd annual Holly Springs Book Festival is Saturday, November 16th from 10am to 2pm. Story teller Donna Washington will perform and discuss her published books. We have 25+ authors (some award winners and nationally known) as well as local and self published authors.

5. NEW BUSINESS-CHAIR STONE

December Meeting: Holiday Dinner.

LeeAnn would like to make it a working dinner to get PRAC feedback on policies.

Meeting will be at same place with food brought in.

6. 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.

7. ADJOURN

Motion: Len Lloyd, second: Mark DiGiacomo

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm.