



Town of Holly Springs Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 13, 2020

7:00 pm

Town Hall, 128 S. Main Street, Holleman Meeting Room

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Mark DiGiacomo Alice Reese, Susan Smith, Jason Guetgemann, Molly Sapienza, Gerry Martinez De Andino, Len Lloyd

ABSENT MEMBERS: Ken Cicora, Liz Stone

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Pete Villadsen, Christine Kelly

Staff Present: LeeAnn Plumer, Lori Puzak

Note: Member Gerry Martinez De Andino ran the meeting due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair allowing the Secretary to take notes

Call to Order

Meeting called to order: 7:00

Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from Jan. 9, 2020: Molly Sapienza

Second: Jason Guetgemann

All voted in favor

Public Comment Period

Each speaker is asked to limit comments to 3 minutes, and the total comment period will be 15 minutes or less. Citizens should sign up with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Clerk to speak prior to the start of the meeting. Although the Advisory Committee is interested in hearing your concerns, speakers should not expect action or deliberation on subject matter brought up during the Public Comment segment. Topics requiring further investigation will be referred to the appropriate town officials or staff and may be scheduled for a future agenda. Thank you for your consideration of the Advisory Committee, staff and other speakers.

No speakers.

Discussion Items

Arbor Day Celebration – Ms. Gina Clapp, Director of Planning and Zoning

Tree City USA designation will be known within the next month.

Arbor Day celebration will include tree planting at Ting Park. March 14, 2020 10am at Central Plaza.

Committee will plant 3 Amelanchier 'Autumn brilliance', a small ornamental trees which will not interfere with visibility and activities at the park. It is a native species with good Fall color and spring blossoms.

TAC has identified 3 additional possible locations for additional long term tree plantings and would like input from PRAC on the possibilities:

1. along entrance walk (soil is poor and existing trees are not thriving for large shade trees)
2. planting strip west of turf field which is very hot after a day in the sun.
3. the area west of the intersection of sportsmanship drive connecting to 55.

Discussion:

Questions and discussion centered around debris from trees affecting tennis courts and the possibility of adding benches in the shade of the trees.

Upcoming TAC Events:

- March 7th - Tree Pruning Demo.
- Friday, March 20 - NC Arbor Day (TAC will use social media for promotion)
- April 4th - Spring Fling at Ting, will promote tree planning and new tree mascot.
- Monday, April 20th- TAC presents The Lorax at the Cultural Center Movie Children's event.
- Friday April 24th - National Arbor day

Committee Goals for 2020

Director Plumer would like PRAC to present to Council at year end of what the goals are and what are achieved.

Discussion revolved around quantifying achievement of goals and the desire to support Town Park and Rec. Dept. Acting

Chair Martinez De Andino suggested that receiving the department's goals would help us decide where to go & set goals.

Committee Members voicing their goals included:

A. Reese:

1. Participate in Parks and Greenway Master Plan
2. Participate in another PRAC walk/visit to a town P&R facility

J. Guetgemann:

1. Would like to remain at a high level, dept. support, & not get buried in setting goals.

G. Martinez deAndino:

1. Agreed to an extent, the caveat being, as an advisory committee, is our role to provide input to the Dept or TC or to set and accomplish actions?

M. Sapienza:

1. Would like the Department to share their goals so we can support P&R.
2. Brought up several ideas re: how to account for or measure outcomes.

M. Di Giacomo:

1. Vote on a recommendation that goes to Town Council at every meeting.
2. Wants committee to feel like they are doing something.

L. Llyod:

1. To support efforts of P&R Dept.
2. Vote on a recommendation to TC at every meeting.

Director Plumer: A checklist to document accomplishments was what she had in mind for documentation. Also, she envisioned the committee would set high level goals and determine how to reach them on a more specific basis.

Moving forward:

Committee needs to do work between meetings so meetings are productive. Committee will have an email conversation, each member sending out 3 goals. PRAC will need to reach consensus during the month and come with an action item on the March agenda.

Reports

Council Update – CM Villadsen

1. Park Land Purchase - TC is happy with the 55.9 acres of park land purchased because of the location & opportunity. Planning for park will be in concert with the inventory & Town Park Master Plan to help weigh options for town needs. Development will be in phases. Want to use it sooner than later based on available funding currently but not develop with a short-sided approach. No projection for park completion at this time.
2. Landfill- Council is doing a proclamation at next meeting and forming a committee to work with County Commissioners and Wake County and will update public more about the landfill and what is happening there. Pete wants more actionable reduce odors of landfill.
3. Sustainability - Town is looking to have a staff person to manage sustainability across town departments. Sustainability covers a broad variety of topics & what is feasible is not known yet. It is exciting, but an expert is likely necessary. There is no dedicated staff at this point, there are passionate staff members but there is a lot of work to do to define the Town's vision of sustainability and determine how to move forward.
4. Retreat next weekend in southern pines.

Director's Update – LeeAnn Plumer

1. P&R & Greenways Master Plan: An update on the Parks Rec & G'ways MP will presented at March meeting. Consultant will recommend the PRAC will be the core steering committee and adding other members as needed to fill out demographics. Potential community engagement in late March.
2. Bond projects:
 - Asking TC to approve greenway design contract for Arbor Creek Greenway extension. Submitted grant to Wake County for construction funding.
 - Sugg Farm – Dog Park development beginning public engagement and outreach.
 - Bass Lake – stream restoration project continuing. Water levels have been lowered so work can be completed.
 - Jones Park drainage & erosion market 2018, they have a plan to implement erosion and drainage measures.
 - Jones Park School Days lane: should be complete this week, water line to water tower.
3. Staffing Changes: Taylor was announced as new Maintenance Superintendent. The sports complex manager position is open again, previously hired manager took a job as a coach for MLB.

Operations Update – LeeAnn (Adam was absent)

Hunt Center opened as an early voting site.
Summer Camp opened registration and is quickly filling up.
Basketball wrapping up.
Soccer highest registration numbers ever.
Baseball/Softball registration is open.

Ting: Wake Tech Baseball & William Peace LAX
Wake FC Winter Classic 118 teams
NCAA DI Baseball Feb 11-13

New Business/Announcements/Information Share

M. Sapienza: Public Speaker about the greenway spoke, attended the next meeting, then what? The committee hasn't discussed it.

Director Plumer: Staff follows up with public speakers, they have been responded to. A follow up email to Committee would close the loop on public comment.

Adjournment – 8:40pm

Motion: M. DiGiacomo

Second: Jason Guetgemann