

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
January 20, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Members Attending

RJ Hogan – Chair
Andy McGlinn
Hunter Holland
Emily Morgan
Zach Gilbert
Ingrid Corbi

Members Absent:

Marissa Bryant
Will Bordeaux
Erika Robertson
Shirin Jenkins
David Eason

Others Present:

Andrea Talley
Margaret Isbell – Admin

CALL TO ORDER

RJ called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2020 MINUTES

Zach made a motion to approve the November 2020 meeting minutes, Andy seconded, all approved.

PROJECT UPDATES

1. Sports Complex

Currently at 60% completion. Environmental subcontractor, Geosyntech, is working on an Environmental Maintenance Plan (EMP) to be submitted to the NCDEQ regulatory agency. There are 7 soccer fields and 2 alternative.

2. Maides Park

In December, while working on the construction of the roof of the gym, issues with leaking from the existing roof section over the office and restroom developed due to needing to be replaced and some damage caused by the contractor. The contractor has since repaired the issues with patches until the roof can be replaced. The project team is working with Buildings staff to replace the entire roof, which was originally scheduled for FY22, but will now take place during current construction. Roof work replacement for the entire facility may start in roughly 3-4 weeks, the project is still on track for completion in Spring 2021.

3. MLK Center

Staff is working with the architect to develop design options to present to Council at the Feb. 1 agenda briefing. The design is to put the gym behind to the original building. Access to the gym will be through the front entrance.

4. North Waterfront Park

Steel erection for park support building/restrooms, catering kitchen and ticket box is complete. Walls and ceiling for stage building and concert restrooms complete. Conduit, wiring, and plumbing is being installed in the stage building and concert restrooms. Final soil analysis has been completed. It's estimated 2,000 yards of soil will need to be hauled off site at the end of the project. The cost for this is under the soil allowance in the budget. Trees have been selected and tagged. Completion date remains mid-June. Project remains within budget at this time. Project remains on schedule to be completed by June 2021 at this time.

5. Monthly Reports

Was hoping to have the December report by this meeting but it has not been completed. Will send out once this has been completed.

FY22 BUDGET SUBMITTAL

The City are in the budget process at this time of year. The City have submitted the first draft to Amy Beatty. She has responded with some revisions that are needed. The City has asked that some of the budget requests be tied to Rise Together Initiative and the Strategic Plan. Staff has many great programs ideas. Mary has asked for new positions or reclassifications. Ryan Brill at Maides Park has asked for two positions to be reclassifications. He has also requested new hours due to the gym opening this year. Halyburton Park has also asked for reclassifications so they can do more outdoor recreation outreach.

POOL FEES

The YMCA has made the recommendation to raise the fees so there can be some maintenance and upgrades to the pools, which are much needed. YMCA has provided the city with a proposal on two different options. Current rates are \$1 for children and \$2 per adults, 14 and up. The first rate increase will start at age 14 and up, at \$3, any YMCA members the city will be reimbursed. Option 2 is ages 0-17 at \$1, ages 18 and up, \$3 and YMCA members the city will be reimbursed at \$1 per member. The rates for the summer swim team have been proposed at \$60 per hour, this would be \$10 per lane X 6 lanes. Birthday party rental would be \$150 for residents, and \$200 for non-residents.

Zach asked how the payments method, is it cash only? Andrea confirmed that it was cash only. Is there an age limit for water aerobics? Andrea does not know as the Y manages these members/participants. Andrea will ask and get back to Zach. Can age be verified? Honor system? The first time the child comes to the pool, the adult will need to sign a waiver and indicate the age on the waiver. Best the City can do is go by what the parent/adult says. Andy asked about the fees that County was going to charge with their new pool. Andrea will find out from county parks and gardens. Andy asked about revenue from the pools, YMCA does not break down where the revenue is coming from. In the past YMCA has offered free "learn to swim" with city residents. Last year the City was also going to offer free life guard classes but due to COVID they were not able to have this. City wants to take out where YMCA members are free. Zach feels that they should have to pay up to \$3 for YMCA members.

Andrea asked the board to propose a swim team rental fee. RJ recommended that it be a more accessible fee. Zach suggested that if a fee could not be agreed upon to look at the cost for the guards and other staff. Andrea suggests starting with a lower rate, this will give the city the ability to increase in coming years. Zach suggested that they get a reduced rate for use of 5 hours and more. Andrea suggested a flat rate per hour and not broken out per lane.

Ingrid asked if the city was looking to make money or break even. The city pays YMCA just over \$100,000 each year. Any funds left over, not used, goes back to the general fund. Plus the YMCA gives the city 50% of the admission rates and fees charged to swim teams and citizens. Utilities is not included in the \$100,000, which can be an additional \$50,000 each year. She also asked who pays for repairs/maintenance of the pools? The city pays for these charges. Andrea will recommend the swim team fee from \$25 to \$35. Option 2 without the YMCA members benefit. Andrea will take this to Davina and Amy, if approved, will take it to YMCA.

RECREATION STAFF DEI EFFORTS WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Three main goals; education, assessment, guidelines. Education is for the community and staff. Standard procedures and guidelines. Assessment is to assess where The City are with equity. Sub-

committees have been created. There is also a communication committee, sharing the work to inform the community and staff. Some committees are still in the planning stage. The assessment part is going to be done as part of the Comprehensive Plan as well. The department is working on a logo for the DEI and Comprehensive Plan. Andrea will share with the board once one is approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Pools - NSEA Swim Schedule/usage documents shared with board.

Adopt-a-park Update – most have been assigned a park, some have not been assigned a park due to the passive park as there is no contact information. Roles of the board members would be to advocate for the park.

Natatorium – The Parks bond from 2006, \$100,000 was budgeted for the natatorium. When that project fell through the City reallocated those funds for other projects. In 2014 another \$150,000 was allocated per year for ten years to contribute to a natatorium joint collaboration between the City, County, YMCA, and the hospital. Other entities have withdrawn financial support, leaving the City with a decision about what to do with the funding. City staff are considering improving the bath houses and installing domes. As of right now this has been put on hold. Who will pay for the utilities? The YMCA never answered this question.

NEW BUSINESS

Joint meeting with County on February 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

Ingrid made a motion to adjourn, Andy seconded the motion, all approved.