

# Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

05/19/21

## Attending

Andrea Talley, David Eason, Will Bordeaux, Andy McGlenn, Erika Robertson, Emily Morgan, Hunter Holland, Ingrid Corbi, Zack Gilbert

## Minutes

David Eason made a motion to approve.

## Old Business

Update on Bond projects:

The Riverfront Park amphitheater is nearly %100 completed. Due to inclement weather and a few other obstacles, completion may be pushed back a month or so. However, the first concert is scheduled for July 14<sup>th</sup>.

The comprehensive plan has gotten underway and contractors have already had visits to eight or nine parks. The next step will be staff engagement.

Summer camps are all getting started. This year the Robert Strange and Legion Stadium pools will be run by the YMCA and NSEA Swim will oversee Northside Pool.

Andy asked about an issue last year where there was a leak that wasn't reported by YMCA until it had already cost the City excessive utilities bills.. Andrea says the city has amended the contract to make the operator liable for any expenses incurred because of negligence.

## Adopt a Park

Erica is working with MLK and they have been in talks about the kitchen being old and outdated. Andrea says the design of the kitchen is funded and will be bid as an alternate with the gym project. Recreation is requesting several positions be added or reclassified for the upcoming fiscal year budget.

Andy is working with Empie Park. He has met with Tari Ann but wants to meet again to discuss older parts of the park that seem to be overgrown and not maintained. Mainly the area around the picnic shelters, Bocce Courts and outside of the dog park. Andy is also working with Andy Fairbanks at Halyburton Park. He says there is a lack of signage and also a problem with people making their own trails. They have discussed trying to recruit high school groups, scouts or do an intern project with Hunter at UNCW.

Hunter says he would need a description of what the interns would be doing, and they would need a supervisor to give a summery of hours and what the interns are able to complete. Ryan Brill should be able to assist Hunter with the internship packet he has

developed. Andrea encouraged Hunter that it could be a good fit for everyone, considering the projected goals of all park supervisors.

### New Business

Hunter gave an update on the Wildlife explorer program that was completed this year. It was a big success. Two of his students from the Recreation Sports and Tourism programs were interns along with two from Environmental Science in order to get different perspectives about the program. They conducted surveys each week. In the beginning most children in the program had not been involved in nature at all and they didn't know anyone who worked in the field. By the end of the program, 82 percent said they would recommend the program to others. The kids were most excited about birds and animal sounds. They were the least excited about weather-related research.

Hunter and his wife have begun a program called Parks and People that he offered as a resource to us.

Zack made mention that his term is expiring soon but he is reapplying to stay involved.

Andrea reminded the board that RJ's position would be empty soon and need to be filled.

Zack called the meeting adjourned and Andy seconded it.