

Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Minutes

January 15, 2020

Members Attending

RJ Hogan – Chair
Emily Morgan
Erika Robertson
Zach Gilbert
Ingrid Corbi

Members Absent:

Charles Rodstrom
Andy McGlenn
Shirin Jenkins

Others Present:

Andrea Talley
Margaret Isbell – Admin

CALL TO ORDER

RJ called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 2019 MINUTES

Ingrid made a motion to approve the November 2019 minutes, Zack seconded the motion, all approved.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER – EMILY MORGAN

We would like to welcome new board member Emily Morgan. Emily works at UNCW, is the chair of the senate committee. They are working to get more involved in the community. Board members went around the table, introduced themselves and how long they have been on the board along with some back ground on themselves.

STAFF PRESENTATIONS TO BOARD BEGINNING IN MARCH 2020

Davina has asked all of the staff members to give a presentation to the board. Will last about 10-15 minutes with questions after. These will be only Davina's staff doing the presentations. This will be the Fit For Fun Center, Maides Park, Fitness Center, MLK Center, Halyburton Park, Athletics and Outdoor Programs and Community Engagement. First one will be in March meeting and will be from Kim Adams.

NORTH WATER FRONT PARK

Construction has begun, with an estimated completion in date in 2021. Full concert season should begin in 2021.

SKATE PARK

Construction is going on right now to add two half pipes, this is made out of concrete. These are skate board and BMX. We have had issues with skate boarders skating on the tennis courts. We've had to call the non-emergency police dispatch number to report this. There have been times when there are 20 skate boarders. They will also be installing a drinking fountain. Zack asked about removing the tennis nets, there is too much use, including pickle-ball.

ECHO FARMS

The footings for the new buildings are in, buildings have been demolished with the exception of golf club house. It us currently being using during construction but will be demolished at some point. The YMCA is working with New Hanover County regarding pool operations. The county asked for a copy of

the cities contract with YMCA to it can be set up the same way. The goal is July 4, 2020 for the pool to be opened up. The trail will be last part, the entire project is scheduled to be completed in August 2020.

MAIDES PARK GYM

Purchasing has the plans and is preparing to send out to bid. They have to modify the stormwater permit as it did not include swale for stormwater. It was submitted in December and requires a 60-90 day review process. Construction is expected to take about 9 months. We are hoping it will be complete by beginning of 2021.

MLK CENTER GYM

Staff was asked to get estimates for both cat 5 hurricane stable building and without. This will help decide what way the city will go with this project.

NORTHSIDE POOL

There was a second non-profit group, NC Swim, asked if they could use the Northside Pool during the off season, they had a contract through October 31st to use the pool as is with the potential of putting up a bubble to use it throughout the winter. They met with Amy & Thome and it was approved to put up the bubble. As of right now, the bubble is up and being used.

PORTIA MILLS HINES PARK

Conceptual design has been completed and project will move in to design development. Project will total \$725,300 and has been funded for project completion. This is for both phases which include lighting, parking lot, restrooms and a walking trail.

TREE PLANTING INITIATIVE

The Mayor has expressed his desire to increase the tree canopy of Wilmington, which is currently at an estimated 48.2%. Staff will be working with the Tree Commission on this initiative. Staff will also be partnering with a research class from UNCW (the instructor, Dr. Alana Seaman is on the Tree Commission). Dr. Seaman will introduce to the students the idea that the city wants to promote tree planting, tree education, maintenance, etc. and then allow them to determine the exact course of research – which will be done by 8 or 9 groups of students, so each group may pick different aspects to research. Staff will meet periodically to get updates regarding how things are progressing and will share with the board. If anyone is interested in working on this project, please let Davina know. Some of the board members were concerned with when the city cuts down trees down and wants to increase the tree canopy of Wilmington. RJ will get back to board about his involvement.

SPORTS COMPLEX

Erika asked about the Sports Complex and an advisory board and wondered where that is. Andrea is assuming that this is for the management part of the park. Staff will meet next week to discuss the project following the recent cost estimates provided by McAdams. Two options were presented but before moving forward with either, Thom Moton (Assistant City Manager) asked for an internal meeting with Budget and Finance.

MUNI

The architect is 90% complete with revised construction drawings, reducing the scope. The anticipated date to submit the new plans to Purchasing for bidding in January.

JOINT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING WITH NHC – FEBRUARY 2020

Since the county board members were unable to attend our meeting in November, we will be meeting with them in February. There will be an open discussion item on the agenda, so please come with things to discuss.

ATHLETICS UPDATES

Right now, our 9U and 12U basketball leagues are going on. Then in the Spring we have 15U basketball and 9U and 12U flag football and t-ball for 6U. We are going to be adding a few programs at that time. We will be adding 15U flag football, beach volleyball and ultimate Frisbee, which will be a free program with MLK Center. We received a grant last year from USA Archery. They provided training for two of the athletics staff. They went up to Chapel Hill for two day and had training to be archery instructors. They gave us 8 targets and bows and arrows. We are working on incorporating an archery program into the other programs. The junior official's program is still going strong. They are working in the basketball league. For example, for the 9U league, one junior office will work with a veteran official on the floor and score keepers table. Zach asked who handles the training for the junior officials, we severed our contract with the YMCA and are now working with The Ultimate Officials Association, they are the assigner for the basketball program and training for the junior officials. They are also trying to incorporate the junior official's program into the flag football program.

OLD BUSINESS

Erika asked about the open land on Front Street (Optimist Park). Andrea has not heard of any updates on this land and if the city was going to sell it or keep it. She thinks the city is interested in selling the land but hasn't heard of any update. RJ introduced Davina to the facility member/student that could be an intern to help with the history of the parks. He feels he can step away from this and the two can work together. Davina is working with Marian to figure out distribution of the monthly report as suggested during our November meeting. Suggestions are welcome, but keep in mind we do not have the funds to print something on a monthly basis that is similar to the quarterly newsletter the city sends out to all residents. Updates to come.

NEW BUSINESS

Dig & Dive are closing down, and Andrea has talked to several individual who are interested in outside sand volleyball. They might come in the near future to talk about an outside sand volleyball court within the city. In about 3-4 years they might work in 4 sand volleyball courts at the Sports Complex.

ADJOURNMENT

RJ made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ingrid made the first motion to adjourn, Zach seconded, all approved.

JUST A REMINDER – OUR FEBRUARY MEETING (FEBRUARY 19, 2020) @ 5:30PM WILL BE A COMBINED MEETING WITH NEW HANOVER P&R BOARD.

THIS MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE NEW HANOVER GOVERNMENT CENTER LOCATED AT 230 GOVERNMENT CENTER DRIVE.