



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Members Present: Deanna Baumgardner, Kent Curran, Magic Cypress-McNairy, John Mielke, Rich Lange, John O'Neill, Edward Parks, Hank Stiene

Absent: Kathy Jones

Guests: Commissioner Nick Walsh

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Rich, Chair, at 6:30 pm with a quorum present. Introductions of all attendees of the meeting were made. We have one new Commissioner for 2019, Kent Curran, and one returning Commissioner, John O'Neill.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Rich confirmed that a quorum of commissioners was present at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Deanna moved to approve the minutes for the December meeting; Ed seconded the motion. All approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- a. Recap video of 2018.
- b. The project to remove the old playground at NMP is underway. The new playground is scheduled to be installed and completed by March 1st.
- c. The project to install the outdoor fitness equipment at Huntersville Athletic Park is also underway. This will be a great addition to the park. This project should be completed by mid-February.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- a. John M – John wanted to bring it to Michael’s attention that the trash can holder at North Meck Park has collapsed and needs to be fixed. He noticed that some people were still using it and it is unsafe. Michael will let our maintenance team know so they can work on repairing or replacing it.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- a. Spring program registrations have started.
- b. Girls Volleyball registration has started.
- c. Adult/Senior Softball registration starts January 28th.
- d. Tiny Tim’s Pickleball Extravaganza is scheduled for January 28th at the Rec Center.
- e. Brenda to email spring guide to commissioners.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS, OR PRESENTATIONS

None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Joint Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting – 1/30-6:30 PM at Jetton Park. Once a year we try to have a joint meeting with the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson and Mecklenburg County. Each Town and the County will share what future projects they are looking at this upcoming year. This joint meeting is a good way to meet committee members of other towns. The Greenway Commission will also be there.
- b. Regional Recreation Center Public Informational Meeting – 2/26-6:30 p.m. at Bailey Middle School. All public input has been done so this meeting will update the public on where they are in the process.

John O. asked what the County will be offering that we do not. Michael responded that they would be a fitness, aquatic and senior component in the new recreation center. Not sure exactly what other services they will offer but they are working with the three towns to make sure we are not duplicating services. We will work together to determine what other services and programs are needed.

Rich asked what types of gym space will there be. Michael commented that they are planning a double gym.

Construction will start in 2019 with an est. completion date of Fall 2021. The informational meeting will go over all of these details.

Rich asked if we need to touch base with Lake Norman Community Sailing Center regarding a possible partnership. Michael said he would reach out to them again to send us info on their upcoming programs.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Appoint Chair for 2019. John O. nominated Rich Lange to continue being the Chairman for the Committee; Deanna seconded the motion. All in favor.
- b. Appoint Vice-Chair for 2019. Deanna nominated John Mielke to continue on as Vice-Chairman of the Committee; Magic seconded. All in favor.
- c. Appoint Members to the Master Plan Committee (4 Members Needed). Michael is looking to update our 2020 Master Plan that will cover a 10-year span. An active committee will need to be formed to help work on this. These plans take a while and will require several meetings. 2011 was the last time we had a master plan completed. Ideally, a plan should be updated every 5 - 7 years due to the rapid growth of Huntersville. The following Commissioners volunteered to serve on this Committee: Kent Curran, John Mielke, John O'Neill, and Ed Parks.
- d. Appoint Members to Tournament Committee (4 Members Needed). This committee meets once a year, usually in October, to decide on which tournaments we want to approve each year. The following Commissioners volunteered to serve on this Committee: Deanna Baumgardner, Magic Cypress-McNairy, Rich Lange, and Hank Stiene.
- e. Appoint Members to All Co-Sponsor Groups (10 Total). Brenda circulated a sign-up sheet and each PRC member was assigned to an organization. We do this annually. Below is the list of co-sponsors and the corresponding Commissioners assigned to those co-sponsors:
 - Carolina Miners – John O'Neill
 - Carolina Rapids – Hank Stiene
 - Dream Big – John Mielke
 - HOYAS – Kent Curran
 - HYAA – Magic Cypress-McNairy
 - Lake Norman Giants – Deanna Baumgardner
 - Lake Norman Little League – Kathy Jones
 - Nothing But Net – Magic Cypress-McNairy
 - Stewards of the Game – Ed Parks
 - Strikers Soccer Club – Rich Langue
- f. Presentation of 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan
 - i. Project Updates
 1. Community School of Davidson (CSD) Sports Complex Update – The first phase of the sports complex that involves Huntersville is the Tennis Courts portion of the complex. CDS has started clearing some of the property for this first phase, which will be 8 lighted tennis courts, football stadium and fieldhouse. Estimated completion is fall of 2019. This agreement is for 25 years. Should have enough money every 5-7 years to resurface the courts. Restroom maintenance and supplies are covered by CSD. We will pay for the power bills for the tennis court lights. As discussed previously, we are working with USTA and LNTA to apply for grants that would go towards the \$200,000 we are contributing from the tourism fund.

2. Lake Norman Charter Elementary School Gym Partnership – Lake Norman Charter Elementary Gym is estimated to be completed by the fall of 2019. \$500,000 will be funded by the Town’s fund balance, which the Town Board which the town board approved in 2017. This agreement extended the two existing agreements for another 20 years. We will wait to start using the gym until next winter after the school has used for a few months. All of our agreements with Lake Norman Charter have gone really well. In exchange for letting us use their gym at no cost, the School will be able to use any of our fields at no cost to them.
 3. Torrence Creek Trib #2 Greenway – This project was approved on June 18, 2018. Estimated completion date is 2021. Mecklenburg County contributed \$2.0 million and the Town will fund \$300,000 (Town transportation bonds). This will connect the existing greenway to the park and ride via the new tunnel under I-77.
 4. Downtown Greenway– The planning and design for this project is underway. We have funds and a grant for the planning phase of the project. We will begin public input meetings this year. Working with CMS and one private owner on the project. Michael went over the entire planned greenway, breaking down each phase and how it connects to each area and how it will great a 7-mile greenway across Huntersville.
- ii. Recommendations for Next Fiscal Year
1. Ranson Park – 13 acres of land located by Publix. Is connected by Torrence Creek Greenway. This project was identified in the 2020 Parks and Rec Master Plan. We are asking for \$60,000 to start the master plan and design phase this fiscal year. The construction phase would start in FY21 and will cost approximately \$600,000. The park will have passive amenities and would be a destination along Torrence Creek Greenway. The input from the community will dictate what amenities will go into this new park. Some of the potential amenities could be a dog park, restroom building, playground, and shelters.
 2. Veterans Park Restroom Building – We would like to add a restroom building on the northwest corner of the lawn so as to not limit the view of the stage. We are currently spending \$8,000 a year for renting porta johns for events. The estimated cost to add the building is \$250,000. We currently have \$67,000 in state grants available. Irrigation will be going this spring, however, that cost is already covered by a grant.
 3. Bradford Park Soccer Complex – Additional parking spaces are needed at Bradford Park Soccer Complex (70-100) for an estimated cost of \$300,000. Currently, visitors are parking on the shoulder. We requested funding from Davidson and Mecklenburg County for the project, however, it is doubtful they will contribute next fiscal year.
 4. Athletic Field Light Replacement – The athletic field lights at Waymer and Abernathy Parks need to be replaced as they have become a safety concern. Both of the wooden lighting poles systems are over 25 years old. The estimated cost to replace is approximately \$300,000.
 5. Barry Park Turf Fields – Would like to turf two of the six soccer fields at Barry Park. All of the fields at this park are unsustainable at the current usage rate. Currently, 1,200 hours of reserved usage is taking place per year per field. They are closed an average of 50 days per year for weather and another 30-60 days for rest and maintenance. Changing over to turf would be an ideal solution. The net budget would gain \$50,000 per year per field (staff time, additional revenue; watering, etc.). The estimated cost is \$1.8M for

two fields. The Rapids have offered to pay \$1.535M of the \$1.8M for the first two turf fields over ten years. In turn, the Rapids would get priority usage of the turf fields at Bradford Park. We could bring in additional revenue by charging over double what we currently charge for tournaments.

- iii. 5 year CIP – It is time to update our 2020 Parks and Recreation Master Plan since the current one is 8 years old. Other reasons why we need this done include the following: demographics have changed; population has grown by more than 15,000 residents since the last plan; it puts the Town in a better position for grants; identifies new park trends (pickleball, for an example); supports requests to Mecklenburg County; identifies how to spend future park dollars. The process will include heavy public input. Since the last two plans were done with in-house staff, it would be very helpful to have a consultant assist with putting the plan together. An outside consultant would also provide input on what trends are going on in other towns within the state as well as nationally.

Below are other project in our 5 year CIP:

1. Cook Property – Passive & Active recreation – future greenway will run thru this future park.
2. McIlwaine Park Property – Passive Park- Greenway will go through this land as well. Has 137 acres. Project could include shelters, open green space, trails, mountain biking, and other passive uses.
3. Bradford Park Phase 3 – This project was proposed in the 2020 Master Plan as well. This would be a partnership with Davidson and the County for three soccer fields, trails, six tennis courts, driveway access to Ramah Church Road, and shelters.
4. Holbrook Park Expansion – Was in the 2020 Master Plan. Potential amenities include sprayground (top five suggestions by public), shelters, trails, open lawn area, plaza area, play garden. Park would become the central park of Huntersville. Would also include green space, open lawns, and etc.
5. Barry Park Restroom – The current restrooms cannot hold the capacity and use of the park. On many occasions, the six full-size fields are lined for 14 soccer, which overburdens the restroom facilities every weekend. There have been lots of complaints from visitors of the park. The current restroom facility is not adequate for peak usage. The park master plan identifies an additional building at the entrance or alternatively, expand the existing building.
6. Huntersville Athletic Park Turf – This project would include turfing the infields on fields 3 and 4. They get lots of use by local leagues, schools and tournaments. Could potentially collaborate with Lake Norman Charter School on this project.
7. Holbrook Tennis Courts – The courts are over 20 years old and resurfacing is no longer adequate. The courts need to be rebuilt from the base. USTA and LNTA may provide grants.

Rich asked about the Eastfield land. Michael responded that this should be on the next County 5 year CIP. County will develop and manage the park. We do not need to partner with them since they will take care of everything themselves. The majority of people using the park will be from Charlotte.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 20th at 6:30 pm.