

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

November 24, 2008

Members Present: Sandy Thomason, David Faircloth, Tom Shipman, Jim Thompson, Tom Hodges, and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

Members Absent: David Jerosé, Earl Creutzburg, and Lisa Curran.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

Vice -Chairperson Sandy Thomason called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

MINUTES

ACTION: Tom Shipman made a motion to approve the minutes. Jim Thompson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simpson gave an athletic update. She reported that 585 boys and girls have signed up to participate in the youth basketball program. This is about 10 or so less than last year. The department did not get enough 13-15 girls to have that league. In the younger girls and the older boys, the department will be playing with Rolesville. Sandy Thomason and Tom Hodges both inquired as to our numbers being down this year. Ms. Simpson stated that with so many churches offering Upward Basketball and the YMCA, there are just more places to play. She also stated that the economy may possibly have something to do with the decrease. She informed the board that more registrants had asked for scholarships this year. Several asked how that process worked. Ms. Simpson said that the department did not advertise that assistance is available, but if people ask, they provide the help.

Ms. Simpson reported on the programs for the month. There were twenty two programs offered during the month with 286 participants. Two special events; a concert at the Senior Center and a program at the Boys & Girls Club contributed for about 125 of that number.

Director Simpson reported that maintenance crews are working on fields #1 & #2 at the Smith Creek Soccer Center. Work includes regrading and re-seeding of those fields. The department will have a new stone and wrought iron fence at the entrance of the Community House to replace the old split rail fence by Thanksgiving. Steps at Miller Park have been completed. Staff will also be working on some erosion issues at Forrest field. Work will include clearing of the site where the bleachers are currently, building a 2 foot stone wall, and then placing brick pavers down for the bleachers to sit on.

The attendance at the Flaherty Park Community Center for the month of October was 2971 which is 516 more than last October.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Vice-Chairperson Sandy Thomason thanked board members for their attendance at the Thanksgiving luncheon. There were 6 advisory board members present and thirteen staff members. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the fellowship together.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Simpson gave an update on the Joyner Park Phase I project. Completion of the project will probably be March or April. Work is progressing with the shell of the bathroom constructed and walls for the garden areas being done. Stone work for these areas is underway. The parking lot is graded and plants and bulbs are being installed. Trails are graded and the farm buildings are almost complete. Ms. Simpson reminded the board of the two grants associated with the project. She has gotten extensions for both the PARTF and LWCF grants and some reimbursement has begun.

The Notice to Proceed for the Taylor Street park renovation project was issued on November 10. Most of the demolition work has been done: the old basketball courts are up and trees along the property are down. The picnic shelter and playground are ready to be delivered, so work should not take long. Members asked if the neighborhood had called to inquire about the work. Ms. Simpson stated that she had gotten no calls, but believes that all the preparation and meetings with the neighborhood groups helped everyone in the community know what was going on. Once the project is complete, she would like the board to host a ribbon cutting at the site.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Simpson shared some information concerning the economy, the Town and its effect on the departments budget. The Town decided to postpone the hiring of the two program coordinators positions (Cultural Arts and Urban Forester) along with other town department positions until after the new year and a clearer picture of revenues is available. The department will still be hiring the two Facility Maintenance staff positions but not until after the first of the year. Departments have also been asked to curtail any expenditures that can wait. Ms. Simpson stated that no projects such as Joyner, Taylor Street, or Heritage High School are affected. Ms. Simpson stated that the Town is in good financial shape, so hopefully no more action will be necessary.

The second order of business was a discussion of whether to have the December meeting. The date is December 22 and some members may be traveling or hosting family. David Faircloth made a motion to skip the December meeting. Tom Hodges seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Simpson, Secretary

Sandy Thomason, Vice-Chairperson