

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

March 23, 2009

Members Present: Sandy Thomason, David Jerose, Tom Hodges, Lacusia Green, Jim Thompson, Lisa Curran, Tom Parmelee, and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

Members Absent: David Faircloth and Tom Shipman.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sandy Thomason called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES

ACTION: Tom Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes. David Jerose seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Simpson asked to add to New Business - item 7c an invitation to a reception. The item was accepted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simpson gave an athletic update. Youth basketball ended on March 21 will all of the championships for ages 9-17. The season was a success Youth baseball and softball final numbers are 1107. Drafts will begin late March and most of April. The numbers for this year are holding steady from last year. Men and Church softball games are underway and will conclude in May.

Ms. Simpson reported on the programs for the month of March. There were sixteen classes offered during the month with 503 participants. One of the programs was a special event, two shows of "Hansel & Gretel" with almost 400 attending. The summer brochure will be back from the printers soon and out in the mail. Sandy Thomason asked about how much the brochure cost for printing and mailing? Ms. Simpson said it was about \$6,000. It is a lot of money, but the department knows that some people do not have computers, take the local paper, or have the local cable channel. The department did decide this year to drop the static ad at the cinema in Wakefield. That will save about \$5,000.

Director Simpson reported that maintenance crews continue to fertilize fields in various parks. Dragging and line of fields has begun for adult softball, high school and middle school play. Painting of the outside and inside of the Olde Mill Stream sales office will be complete soon.

The attendance at the Flaherty Park Community Center for the month of February was 5269. This is up by about 200 from last February.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Chairperson Sandy Thomason mentioned that Recreation Resources Service will again this year be hosting a teleconference for citizen board members. The date will be May 7 from 6 - 8:30 p.m. at NC State University. Sponsors of the event are asking for questions to be forwarded before the date so that they can be incorporated into the presentation. Ms. Thomason will forward her minutes from last year's conference which may spark questions from the group. Please forward any you have to her and she will forward them to LuAnn Bryan with RRS. The teleconference discussion prompted a small discussion about the annual CBM Forum in Greensboro. Tom Hodges stated that the dates were August 7 & 8, Friday and Saturday. Ms. Thomason shared what the CBM was with new members, Ms. Green and Mr. Parmelee. She informed them that our own Tom Hodges will be serving as Chair of the forum.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Simpson gave an update on Joyner Park Phase I. The completion date is now set for April 17 for all of the park located on the north side, which faces Harris Road. Work on the south side will still be on-going. The Six Sundays in Spring Concert Series is slated to begin on Sunday, April 19.

Taylor Street park renovations are coming along. The playground installers are on site and the landscape contractor is on site as well. Both are working to finish by March 31.

Ms. Simpson mentioned that the grand re-opening for Taylor Street is set for Friday, April 3 at 4 p.m. All advisory board members are invited and Sandy Thomason will be making some brief remarks. The Mayor and Keith Shackelford have also been asked to speak. Our landscape architect, Mark Robinson, will be here from Michigan also.

Sandy Thomason and Lisa Curran both mentioned the sidewalk that is being constructed to Flaherty Park and asked about the one to Ailey Young. Commissioner Stinnett said that the sidewalk to Ailey Young is in the design stage at present. Both members mentioned that there are a lot of exciting things going on in the community.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Sandy Thomason read a letter to the board for out-going member Earl Creutzburg. Mr. Creutzburg served as Chairman of the board for a year and was not re-appointed to a second term. The board agreed to send the letter and Ms. Simpson will mail it out. Commissioner Stinnett asked Ms. Simpson to put a copy of the letter in all the Town Board Members boxes. Sandy Thomason asked about the rule of only serving on one advisory board? Commissioner Stinnett stated that the Town Board had agreed not to appoint people to more than one board as long as other citizens were interested in serving. The rule was intended to give wider participation on the part of all citizens, not to force someone off a board.

Director Simpson announced to the board that the department had hired two new Facility Maintenance Specialist as of this month. Ronald Allen has a Parks & Recreation degree and is interested in the maintenance end of the business. He had previously worked for Wake County Parks & Recreation Department in a part-time maintenance capacity. Robert Wiggins has a degree in Ornamental Plantings and his expertise will be invaluable at E. Carroll Joyner Park.

Ms. Simpson mentioned that the Mayor and Town Board will be hosting a reception for Joyce Wilson, retiring Town Clerk, on Tuesday, April 21 from 6-7 p.m. in the lobby of Town Hall. Since Ms. Wilson worked with all the advisory boards in some capacity, all members are invited to the reception.

Lisa Curran asked about David Faircloth and whether he is still interested in serving on the board. He has missed several meetings. Ms. Thomason stated that she would call him and find out his intentions.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Simpson, Secretary

Sandy Thomason, Chairperson