

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes

May 27, 2008

Members Present: Tom Shipman, Earl Creutzburg, Tom Hodges, Sandy Thomason, and Jim Thompson.

Members Absent: David Jerosé, Lisa Curran, David Faircloth, Joel Smith, and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Earl Creutzburg called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES

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

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Tom Hodges asked if the board could add to New Business - item 7c a discussion of the June meeting. The item was added.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simpson gave an athletic update. All youth leagues are currently playing. The Men's Open Softball league concluded last month. Fourteen teams of Men's Church Softball are playing and thirteen Church Co-Rec teams are slated to begin in June. Fall baseball and softball registration is set for July.

Ms. Simpson reported on the programs for the month. The department offered three new classes with thirty participants. This is a transition month for programs. Summer camps will begin in mid-June and many are already full.

Director Simpson reported that maintenance crews are working on the ballfields and mowing of all sites. The landscape crew will be fertilizing and seeding the dog park, the three ballfields at Flaherty and the three soccer fields at Smith Creek.

Ms. Simpson reported that the Holding Park pool opened on schedule. She also mentioned that she had been invited to attend a luncheon with the Mayor and Manager and members of the business community to hear a presentation by a private foundation interested in building an indoor aquatics facility in Wake Forest. This is just preliminary information and as more information is available, Ms. Simpson will keep the group updated.

The attendance at the Flaherty Park Community Center for the month of April was 2903. This is 900 more than last April.

Sandy Thomason asked when the department saw the need for adding another Community Center? Ms. Simpson stated that another center is slated for a future phase of construction at Joyner Park. This probably would coincide with another bond measure around 2010-13.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Earl Creutzburg talked about the Citizen Board member teleconference that was held on May 8 at N.C. State University. The program was offered through the Recreation Resources Service and the North Carolina Recreation & Parks Association. He, Tom Hodges, Sandy Thomason, and David Jerose attended. Mr. Creutzburg indicated that the speakers were very good and that the information they received was very informative. Sandy Thomason had captured many of the ideas that were discussed at the teleconference and Ms. Simpson addressed some of those points. She said that one idea was to provide a written Director's report in the agenda packet and dispense with an oral report. This had been done several years ago, but because of questions that arose, the group decided to go back to an oral report. Some boards brought up revenue generated by their departments and about presenting budgets instead of their directors. Ms. Simpson addressed these ideas and gave some good information to the members present.

Tom Hodges asked if he could report on his efforts to recruit other board members from neighboring towns to attend the CBM Forum in Greensboro. He talked with Knightdale and Zebulon and found out that neither board had meet in several months. He meet with Rolesville and is meeting with Apex tomorrow night. Holly Springs had sent this information to their board members already. David Jerose had called Garner and Mr. Hodges had a call into Wendell. He will continue his efforts to recruit more participants in this years forum.

OLD BUSINESS

In David Jerose absence, Sandy Thomason gave a report on the bike plan. An open meeting was held on May 22 and the plan is close to being adopted.

Ms. Simpson gave an update on the Joyner Park Phase I project. The contractor is on site and working on staking and soil and erosion measures. Grading will begin in June. The farm buildings being restored are about 80% complete.

Director Simpson reported that the design for the renovation of Taylor Street is almost complete. She met with the East End neighborhood group in early May. Mark Robinson has been retained to produce construction documents, and oversee the bid process and construction administration.

Ms. Simpson gave a brief update on the Heritage High School project. It is moving forward with fields set to be seeded this summer and then opened with the school in August, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of business was a brief update on the Dunn Creek greenway project. Although this board does not directly advise the Town Board of greenways, Ms. Simpson stated that as they relate to the parks, she thinks they should be keep informed of projects. The design for Dunn Creek is underway. This segment is from the Smith Creek soccer center to the Hwy 98 by-pass. Ms. Simpson has applied for a PARTF grant for 50% of the total estimated cost of construction. The project will be bid in the fall and then construction should begin in early spring of 2009.

The second item of business was a report on the projected FY 2008-09 budget. The proposed total department budget is \$ 2,860,315.00. This includes four additional full time positions: 2 maintenance and 2 coordinators. The operating cost increased \$93,000. The Town Board will hold work sessions with staff and the budget is set to be approved at their June 17 meeting.

The last item of business was a discussion of the cancellation of the June meeting. The board typically does not meet one month in the summer for vacations, etc. After some discussion of not meeting in June or July, Tom Hodges made a motion to cancel the June meeting. Tom Shipman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

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ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Susan Simpson, Secretary

Earl Creutzburg, Chairman