

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
Minutes
January 28, 2008

Members Present: Tom Shipman, Tom Hodges, Sandy Thomason, Lisa Curran, Jim Thompson, David Faircloth, Joel Smith, Earl Creutzburg, David Jerose, and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Susan Simpson, Parks and Recreation Director

Guest: Keith Shackelford

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Tom Hodges called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

MINUTES

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

WELCOME - TOWN BOARD LIAISON

Each member introduced themselves and welcomed Commissioner Stinnett to the Board.

ITEMS FOR AGENDA FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Lisa Curran asked about the fence at Kiwanis Park. Ms. Simpson said that she would discuss this under the Director's Report. David Jerose asked if he could give a tennis update. This will be item 7 e.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Simpson gave an athletic update. Youth basketball is in the fourth week of play. The locations for games are: Wake Forest-Rolesville Middle School, Heritage Middle School, Wake Forest Elementary School, and Flaherty Park. Ms. Simpson explained that possible renovations of the DuBois Campus caused the department to relocate these games to Heritage Middle School. The location is working out well. She also mentioned that to avoid long days in the gyms on Saturdays for staff and officials, the department is playing in two locations on Friday evenings. Men's softball registration will begin in February for the open spring league.

Ms. Simpson reported on the programs for the month. The department's annual "Calls From Santa" held in December was a big success with over 500 children receiving phone calls. Twelve classes got underway this month with a total participation of 98.

Director Simpson reported that the crews are seeding Smith Creek and portions of the Dog Park. The drought is causing some problems with maintaining grass cover at the dog park, but the department will be working hard to keep it in good shape. The work has been prompted by its tremendous use. Ms. Simpson addressed Lisa Curran and her question about a new fence between the Kiwanis playground and the new retention pond. Several citizens have raised concerns about children running down the hill and if the basin is full water is standing. Ms. Simpson said that the Town leases the property from Wake County, so the Town can not just go put a fence up without permission. Ms. Simpson has addressed this issue with Ann Ayers in

Planning who oversaw the work at the Library. She is addressing this with the County and the contractor who built the new Regional Center. Hopefully this issue will be resolved soon.

The attendance at the Flaherty Park Community Center for the month of November was 2063 and for December, 3694.

Ms. Simpson reviewed the 2007 year end report. The report gave totals for athletics, programs, swimming pool, and Flaherty Park Community Center. The report lists department accomplishments and outside agencies that are partners with the department.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Tom Hodges reported to the board that he, Tom Shipman, Sandy Thomason, and Susan Simpson went to Wake Forest Elementary School to present former Commissioner and Recreation Board liaison Velma Boyd-Lawson with a plaque, letter and gift card. Mr.

Hodges reported that she was extremely touched. Principal Dennis Tillery and a kindergarten class were there for the presentation.

Chairman Hodges informed the board of the first planning meeting for the Citizen Board Member (CBM) Forum in Greensboro. The meeting, set for February 1, will be attended by Mr. Hodges and Ms. Simpson. Mr. Hodges is Vice-Chair this year of the Forum and in 2009 will become chair.

Mr. Hodges mentioned to the board that he had gotten a call from a young man named Austin Shaw in reference to using the old courts at Taylor Street Park for a Slam Jam basketball tournament. Mr. Shaw wanted to come to the board to ask permission for the use. Ms. Simpson explained that she had denied the request because of the broken, damage courts. She had offered them Ailey Young or DuBois as an alternative. Mr. Hodges stated that Mr. Shaw is welcome to attend one of our meetings, but it is not the job of the board to second guess day-to-day decisions of the department.

OLD BUSINESS

David Jerosse gave an update on the bike plan. The steering committee is waiting for the final draft. No other report at this time.

The next item of business was a discussion of the bridge work at Miller Park. The work is complete. The budget was \$120,000 and the final amount was \$121,750. The work was also completed on time.

Ms. Simpson reported that eleven (11) contractors submitted bids for the Phase I Joyner Park work. The low bid which was approved by the Town Board at their January meeting was Harrod & Associates. The bid was \$3,495,000. The department also has several outside contracts such as utility relocation and restoration of the farm buildings and pecan grove. The total will be close to \$ 4,250,000. The department also has two grants totaling \$750,000.

The next item of business was a follow-up discussion on the recommendations for parks and facilities in the Northeast Neighborhood. Ms. Simpson stated that the recommendations were presented to the Town Board at their annual retreat. The board briefly discussed how work could be funded and Mark Williams mentioned the re-allocation of the 1998 bond money from DuBois to Taylor Street. Work can not proceed at DuBois because the bids came in too high. Ms. Simpson was directed to contact a Landscape Architect and begin to get prices for design work. Keith Shackelford was on hand and the board asked him what he thought of the recommendations. He indicated that he received a copy from Ms. Simpson and that he thought the neighborhood would appreciate any improvements to the Taylor Street site. David Jerosse brought up the recommendation of the sidewalk to Flaherty Park and wanting to go to the Town Board to ask them to wait on building the sidewalk until further discussion and coordination of the bike plan, etc. Discussion followed about the street bonds, the bike plans, timetables for construction, and the money needed for all the elements to be completed

at one time. Mr. Jerose made a motion to represent the Recreation Advisory Board at the Town Board work session to ask the Board to reconsider moving forward with the sidewalk until all the plans are complete and work can be integrated. The motion died for a lack of second.

The last item of business was a tennis update by Mr. Jerose. Rob Purdy resigned as the President of the Tennis Association. The association is regrouping and their goal is to host a sanctioned USTA tournament.

NEW BUSINESS

The board needs to elect officers for the coming year in February. The positions are Chair and Vice-Chair. Tom Hodges asked if three members would volunteer to serve as the Nominating Committee for bringing a slate to the February meeting. Tom Shipman, Sandy Thomason, and Joel Smith volunteered to serve in this capacity. The vote will take place next month.

The Mayor and Town Board is hosting the annual Advisory Board recognition dinner on Monday, February 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Forks cafeteria. All members are invited to attend and should be receiving an invitation in the mail.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Simpson, Secretary

Tom Hodges, Chairman