



**Town of Wake Forest  
Parks and Recreation Department  
Recreation Advisory Board  
Meeting Minutes / May 23, 2011**

**Members Present:** Sandy Thomason (Chair); Alicia Knowles, Earl Creutzburg, David Jerose, Jeff Sank, Douglas Scott, and Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

**Members Absent:** Jim Thompson, Pat Paterson

**Staff Present:** Ruben Wall, Parks & Recreation Director; Cindy Ferguson, Special Program Coordinator

**Call to order**

Chairperson Sandy Thomason called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

**Approval of minutes**

A motion to approve the April 2011 minutes was made by Earl Creutzburg. Motion was seconded by David Jerose, carried unanimously.

**Members welcome Visitor Shanika Thomas**

Mrs. Thomason introduced Mrs. Shanika Thomas, who is interested in becoming a member of the Recreation Advisory Board. Ms. Thomas has her Masters Degree in Government from Wake Tech in Durham. Ms. Thomas also has two sons a 9<sup>th</sup> grader and a 6<sup>th</sup> grader who is fond of basketball. Board members introduced themselves as well as Commissioner Margaret Stinnett.

**Items for agenda from board members**

None

**Director's Report**

Mr. Wall discussed the proposed smoking ban in Wake Forest Parks, as well as presented research comparison data from neighboring municipalities and some data from other states. Data has been given to the Town clerk to send along with information to give to the Town Manager to be presented before the board as an Agenda Item for the Work Session on June 7, 2011 at 5:30pm. Mr. Wall also presented an article from Greensboro regarding Smoking bans. Ms. Thomason inquired regarding the asterisk for some cities. Ruben said he would get some additional feedback from Ed Austin since he compiled the data that's in the report. Mr. Wall also requested that the RAB Chair be present at Work Session if possible. Margaret Stinnett requested more data regarding policies from other municipalities.

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Mr. Sank asked regarding other policies implemented thru parks and Recreations Dept. Mr. Wall explained that a lot of research goes into revising and creating policies and they would be shared as they are updated. Ms. Stinett mentioned a public hearing to discuss the smoking ban in July for RAB to attend.

**CBM Forum** – Greensboro dates: August 11-13 / Board members requesting to attend the forum - David Jerose (Friday/Saturday), Jeff Sank (Friday/Saturday), Margaret Stinett (Friday).

**Items and Updates -**

Mr. Wall will be sending the department monthly reports that are sent to the town manager. Mr. Wall also confirmed board members email address as some did not receive emails which were sent out recently. Mr. Wall also discussed Annual Background checks on anyone working with the public including special program instructors; officials, lifeguards, coaches and assistant coaches.

**Presidents Reports –**

Sandy Thomason (chair) - Open board position was release on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to the public. Applications must be received by May 31. Applications can be mailed or delivered to Town Hall. All nominees must go before the town board.

Sandy Thomason explained that the WF First Light Celebration after New Year's event did not happen due to no funding; the initial one was in conjunction with the kick off of the centennial year and was funded and sponsored by different merchants.

**WF UNPLUGGED...get Connected**

Douglas Scott spoke to staff members of the Factory regarding having a Friday Family Fun night at the Factory, this would include new businesses which would offer discounts to families while the RAB focus would be to include them in the publicity for that Friday night. Mr. Scott suggested have a Wake Forest banner at the Factory and Sandy Thomason agreed she would suggest the idea to the Factory.

Sandy Thomason mentioned that Jan Ammons chair for the Greenway Committee would be having their Saturday Greenway walk and this would be extra publicity for WF Unplugged. Ms. Thomason explained that WF Unplugged...get Connected was a method of asking residents to put away all electronics and get connected with family and friends and build relationships. The concept was popular, last year it culminated at Joyner Park, with old fashioned games and the concert in the Park. Dates for this year's event will be Friday, Oct 7<sup>th</sup> for family fun night at

the Factory; Saturday Oct 8<sup>th</sup> for the Greenway Walk, and Sunday Oct 9<sup>th</sup> for the concert at Joyner Park with old fashion games.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

Mr. Wall spoke about the Towns public pool. Due to a major leak the opening date will be delayed, the pool is over 60yrs old and will be opening in mid June. Mr. Wall mentioned that there is a company currently on site repairing the problem. The funds to make repairs came out of the Aquatics budget.

Mr. Wall spoke regarding the Dream League program, and an opportunity to expand the Dream athletic league to include basketball and soccer, giving the kids something to do throughout the year. Mr. Wall will meeting with the Savage family on Wednesday. The Dream League is a program started by the Savage family, giving an opportunity to any child who has special needs.

The Volleyball League Opportunity – currently there is open time for adults to use the volleyball courts on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. The Parks and Rec Department is looking into making some time available for youth on Thursday's from 5:30-7:30 with more information to come. Ms. Thomason inquired regarding volleyball leagues for youth with a trainer/coach. Mr. Wall mentioned he would work with staff to possibly locate some trainers or coaches for fall/spring programs.

Facility Tour – we will be rescheduled for the fall.

Tennis Update – Mr. Jerosé informed the board that the president of the Tennis Board has stepped down and there are some opportunities to become a member of the board. David Jerosé mentioned that they are asking the board members for their commitment regarding leadership to continue their meetings. Mr. Jerosé also commented on the joint use agreement with the town of WF. We are currently operating under the original agreement signed in 2005. Mr. Wall is working with the WFTA to revise and update the agreement. Mr. Jerosé requested that Mr. Wall would bring the new agreement to be viewed by RAB. He also suggested that the town possibly take over the tennis program.

Mr. Wall also mentioned a proposed written agreement with Heritage Homeowners association for the upkeep of the Sanford Creek greenway. They currently had a verbal agreement but a written agreement is needed. Mr. Wall mentioned that he is currently reviewing other agreements that may need to be updated.

David Jerose brought up a safety issue at the Tennis courts regarding an area which was left unattended and dirt was not compacted when repaired due to heavy equipment used while repairing the lights. Mr. Wall said he would address the issue.

Mr. Jerose also brought up the bike safety rodeo event this year and was inquiring as to why the Planning and Inspection Dept. is heading this event instead of the Parks & Recreation Dept. Mr. Jerose would like to see this program expanded if possible.

**Special Programs Coordinator Cindy Ferguson:**

Ms. Ferguson handed out a report listing recent activities offered by Parks and Rec. through the programs unit. Ms. Ferguson mentioned a dance recital put on by the creative dance class, she also spoke about this years Easter egg hunt on April 9<sup>th</sup> which attracted about 1500 residents. Ms. Ferguson also spoke regarding the sponsorship of the Student art show held by instructor Mary Benejam who owns the Gilded pallet studio.

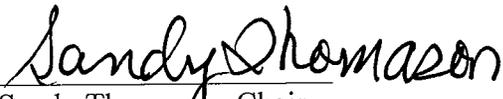
Ms. Ferguson spoke regarding one of her new responsibilities which is to be part of the WF Arts Board. They are responsible for the Six Sunday's In Spring; the concerts have been a great success.

She also mentioned an equipment inventory which is currently being implemented. She participated in the Wellness Health Fair at the Seminary as well as preparing to add registration on line for some of the special programs. Ms. Ferguson runs 39 classes 29 camps and 2 workshops during the summer.

**OLD BUSINESS- None**

Next meeting: Monday, June 27, 2011 @ Flaherty Community Center

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sank. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.

  
Sandy Thomason, Chair

  
Ruben Wall, Parks & Recreation Director