



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

Members Present: Arun Nair, Kent Curran, Ash Munro, Tige Chiesa, Magic McNairy, Janelle Harris.

Absent: Frank Freeman, Kathy Lewis, Telisa Johnson.

Guests: Kendyl Brown, Alexandra Williamson, Mayor Christy Clark.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order by Ash Munro, Vice-Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

Ash confirmed that a quorum of commissioners was present at the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Tige moved to approve the minutes for the March meeting; Arun seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael - We have set a date for the reopening of Abernethy Park, which will be on April 30, at 6:00 p.m. Kent asked if there's been parking issues since the area is very small. Michael replied that we haven't received any complaints, especially now that baseball season has started.

Employee Anniversary – David Wright, our Turf and Irrigation Technician, has been with the town for nineteen (19) years. He is currently on active duty and will be back in October.

North Meck Splash Pad – Progress is being made, and it's on track to open by the end of June.

Richard Barry Park Restroom and Parking Expansion – The BMP should be completed in about two to three weeks, then we can start looking at the land for the disc golf course. Pat, our Facility Manager and Disc Golf designer, is confident that we can create a nine-hole course with the available space. In addition to the restroom, there will be ninety-eight (98) parking spots.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Tige – Asked if we had received any complaints about the hockey at Waymer Park. Michael replied that we've only received one complaint, so we put up a sign to encourage hitting into the net and reached out to the hockey group. Once they hit the net and not the walls, they don't disturb anyone.

Janelle – Would like to know if the Pottstown Park project group can use the survey that we sent out to get feedback from the community. This way, they can see what else the community would like to see in the parks and try to meet those needs. Michael replied that the survey we used was sent to the entire town, but we can collaborate on the results to assist in their planning and use the portions that were specific to Pottstown.

Kent – Asked about the new pickleball courts at Holbrook and when they are scheduled to be completed. Michael replied that the contract and schedule were in place. The resurfacing of the tennis courts is scheduled to begin at North Mecklenburg Park after the annual USTA tournament. Once it's completed, they will start work at Holbrook Park. We are hoping to be done by August.

Arun – Asked if the Parks and Recreation Department is getting involved with the RedLine coming to this area. Michael replied that if there's an opportunity to get a portion of the seam trail, they will involve the town. It's like a greenway but in an urban setting. The Lake Norman towns have adopted this plan for the seam trail. There are meetings scheduled and they will involve all the towns.

Magic – Would like to know if there are plans for the old school building that is next to the Waymer Center. Janelle replied that there is a meeting on April 27th with Mecklenburg County and invited her to attend. Michael also gave an update that the Dellwood Center will remain closed. We hired a construction engineer to do a full building assessment and hope to have the results in three to four weeks.

Arun – Lake Norman Charter School agreements. How does the public know when they can use the gym? Michael replied that there's usually not a lot of availability because we use them for our athletics when they're not being used by the school, but whenever there is availability, you may reserve it online.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

Athletics

- All sports are up and running well. (Volleyball, basketball, and mini-athletes: 5 sections – football, cheerleading, soccer, baseball, basketball).
- Volleyball Clinics – Registration opens next week. There's still space in some of the summer athletic camp programs.
- The pickleball league resumes in the winter.

Recreation & Events

- **Xtreme Teen Outing** – Charlotte Knights Game & Lock In – April 20-21.
- **Int'l Earth Day Celebration** – April 22 @ 10 am -12 pm – Rosedale Nature Park.
- **Jazz Appreciation** – April 26 & 27 @ 6-9pm - Veterans Park.
- **Adult Recess** – April 26 @ 6pm – Rec Center.
- **Hello Huntersville Music & Art Festival** – May 5 @ 1-6pm – Veterans Park. Local food trucks, beverage vendors, art and craft vendors, art stations, whimsical characters, and more.
- **Beginner Fly Fishing Trip** – April 19 & May 10.
- **Video Game Night** – May 10 – Rec Center.
- **Wine on The Vine** – May 16 – Join the Greenway, Trail & Bike Commission members on the Downtown Greenway for Wine on the Vine. For \$15.00 you will get 2 glasses of wine and a charcuterie cone. Enjoy live music while you stroll on the greenway and get updates on current and future projects.
- **Growers' Market** – there are more than a dozen vendors weekly. Every Friday, check the Growers' Market Facebook page for an update on the vendors attending that week. There's something for everyone, not only produce.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

Kendyl Brown shared that she has taken on a personal project working with a local farmer and connecting with other farmers. She believes that Huntersville should take a strong approach to thrive since the number of produce vendors at the market continues to decline. Michael asked Kendyl for her thoughts on how we should go about competing with other markets and supporting farmers. Some farmers have reported a bad crop year last year, while others find it difficult to find workers to attend all the markets they are involved with. Kendyl suggests that we connect with farmers and support them.

Kendyl also believes that there is a disconnect between the department and the farmers. She mentioned the plans of the Farm Trust coming to Huntersville, which will bring a restaurant, farmland, chefs, and cooking classes. She expressed that she would hate to see our Growers' market continue to decline. Tige asked how we can get farmers to come to our market and not go to such a dedicated space, such as the Farm Trust, for farmers. If there is a dedicated place, all the farmers will go there. Kendyl replied that there are nuances in how our local farmers can be supported and she can send an email to discuss it further.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Prioritize Parks and Recreation Capital Projects** – Michael talked about prioritizing the CIP to rank the projects. Of the five capital projects, in one way or another, they are in this year's budget. Michael also reviewed the results from the survey that was sent to the PRC.
 - *Waymer Park Splash Pad* – This is currently in the FY25 budget request.
 - *Ramah Church Park* – We would like to start the planning and design in FY25.

- *Amphitheater @ HAP* – Provides a larger space for events/concerts and, no need to close roads like we have to do at Veterans Park.
- *LNCharter Elementary School* – There are over seven (7) acres left on the fire station property that can be used for a future park. We are discussing with LNC School to make this a joint park/school site. We would like to do the planning and design in FY25.
- *Holbrook Park expansion* – This will happen if land becomes available.
- *Huntersville Recreation Center* – This project will expand the current facility.
- *Bradford Park Expansion* – The Master Plan needs to be updated. We are working with Mecklenburg County and Davidson to potentially partner on the next phase.
- *Parkland Acquisition* – When land becomes available.

Ash, Vice-Chair said that he would like to entertain a motion for the ranking of the smaller Capital Projects as follows:

1. Waymer Park Splash Pad
2. Lake Norman Charter Tennis Complex/Park
3. Ramah Church Park
4. Holbrook Park Expansion
5. Huntersville Athletic Park Amphitheater

Tige moved a motion to rank the Capital Projects in the order above. Janelle seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ash moved another motion for the larger projects to include Bradford Park Expansion ranked as first and the Recreation Center Expansion ranked second. Kent seconded the motion. Three (3) commissioners voted in favor of Ash's motion, two (2) opposed, and one (1) abstained from voting.

Ash asked when will this information be presented to the town board. Michael replied that Anthony presents all the CIP projects together to the board. Mayor Clark said that knowing why the projects are in this order, she can advocate for them at the budget workshop that takes place in May. The budget workshop is on the 29th, but there will also be an opportunity for community feedback.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Reschedule the May 15th meeting to May 22nd.**

Tige moved a motion to move the May 15th meeting to May 22nd. Arun seconded the motion. All in favor.

b. **Abernethy Park Reopening Celebration – April 20th at 6 pm.**

Discussed in the Director's report. Michael will send a meeting request.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Town Center.