



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, July 17, 2024

Members Present: Kent Curran, Ash Munro, Frank Freeman, Kathy Lewis, Janelle Harris, Arun Nair, Telisa Johnson.

Absent: Magic McNairy, Tige Chiesa.

Guests: Alec Allred.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order by Kathy Lewis, Chair, at 6:30 p.m.

II. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

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

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Kent moved to approve the minutes for the May meeting; Janelle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael – **Splash Pad Ribbon Cutting** went well. It's great to see it being used so much every day. "Fun for Charlotte" with 54,000 followers posted a video about the splashpad.

Richard Barry Park – The restroom building is nearing completion. A light pole had to be relocated. With paving coming up next, it should be completed in two to three weeks.

North Meck Park Tennis – resurfacing is completed. More than half of the project costs were covered by the USTA grant.

Holbrook Park Pickleball Courts – The posts are installed, and surfacing is the next step. It is expected to be finished by next week and ready to reopen by the end of the month.

Disc Golf – Pat has laid out nine holes for the new disc golf course. He will come next month to talk about it. Planning this course includes the need for a bridge that can accommodate a lawn mower, as there's an area that will require mowing. Installation is planned for late November to avoid interference with tree leaves. We are aiming for a springtime opening.

Employee Updates – Sean Fansler has joined the team as a summer intern. There are currently three job openings in the Park Operations Team.

The Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Approval – Three major capital projects are funded: Waymer Splash Pad, Ramah Park, and Fire Station No. 4 Park. Other items in the operating capital budget have also been approved (See below). Additional projects include plans to replace the smaller playground at North Mecklenburg Park, which is about seventeen years old, and expanding the parking lot at Holbrook Park to add twenty-four parking spots.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Arun – A resident inquired about sidewalks. The response plan is to forward the inquiry to the appropriate person in the Engineering Department who handles sidewalk planning.

Janelle – Followed up on her proposed idea of a staff appreciation event, possibly a BBQ or day out. They would get to know who does what and hear from each other about what is happening. Michael suggested scheduling it during the workday for maximum participation. Janelle feels that this is the best way to foster connections and share ideas. Kathy mentioned that a pizza lunch is a good idea.

Ash – Park and Recreation Month proclamation at the Town Board meeting last night.

Michael mentioned that the board also approved reallocating sponsorship funds to purchase an aquatic wheelchair for the splash pad and two additional AEDs.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

Athletics

- Registration for all leagues is open and will close at the end of July.
- Volleyball Camps are ongoing. This week is the last soccer camp.
- Evening volleyball clinics will conclude next week.
- Tuesday night Disc Golf at Bradford will wrap up in early August. Twenty to thirty people drop in each week to play.
- The second Mini Athletes Sports Camp begins next week. It is expected to be a large camp. Ten high schoolers who were once participants in the leagues, will be volunteering throughout the week.

Recreation & Events

- **Summer Camp** – is in full swing until August 16. Afterschool registration is currently open.
- **LaLaCaboosa** – “The Stranger” – a Billy Joel Tribute featuring Mike Santoro – Thursday, July 18.
- **Movies in the Park** – July 26th at dusk. – Veterans Park.
- **Growers Market** – Saturdays - 8 am-12 pm.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

Old North State Baseball League (Alec Allred) – www.oldnorthstateleague.com

Reggie Allred, COO, presented a proposal to bring their summer college league (mid-May to August 1) to Huntersville Athletic Park Field 4. The league consists of twenty-two teams. The proposed agreement would span 10-15 years. They would install stadium seating, portable fencing, and a separate entrance. There are admission fees, hence the need for fencing. The closest team is currently located in Pineville.

Michael expressed the need to ensure coordination with the existing agreements we have with Lake Norman Charter School, Stewards of the Game, and Lake Norman Little League. Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial to serve local teams and co-sponsors effectively.

The games are described as entertaining and family-friendly, similar to minor league baseball. There's music, opportunities for kids to run the bases, and other interactive games. Merchandise and alcohol sales are also planned. The league includes players from the local area and extends internationally, with participants from as far as Japan. The players are not paid. Kathy asked the price to attend a game. Reggie replied that a ticket costs about \$10.00 per game. Ash asked how many games are in the season and what is the practice schedule like. There are about twenty-five games per season. Practices vary and before games, they try to practice three times.

This potential partnership offers exciting opportunities for the community and would bring a new level of entertainment to Huntersville Athletic Park. Further discussions will focus on aligning the proposal with existing park activities, permanent bleachers, and their needs while ensuring mutual benefit for all involved.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on Pickleball Survey Results – Michael reviewed the results from the survey. The survey revealed that nearly half of the people who play at Holbrook Park are under fifty years old. One consistent feedback was the importance of ensuring that everyone knows and follows the rules.

To address the issue of making sure everyone is aware of the rules, we will create a demonstration video, along with signage, to outline the rules. Additionally, Kathy recommended having a staff member oversee the courts for a week or two to ensure compliance. There's also consideration of adding a camera for monitoring purposes. Arun suggested using rental income to fund staff for monitoring the courts but Michael replied that the revenue generated from rentals isn't sufficient to cover the costs of staffing with most of the courts being designated for open play. Discussion ensued. Michael presented a layout of the new court numbers and levels to be played on each court. The commissioners agreed that along with additional signage, they

will revisit to see how it works out. (See the below layout). Ash moved a motion to accept the plan as presented. Janelle seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Two Parks and Recreation commissioners are needed to join each stakeholder committee. This committee will be responsible for interviewing the companies that have submitted proposals for the park sites. Currently, there are nine proposals under review for the future Ramah Church Park and five for the Fire Station No. 4 Park. Staff will narrow these down to the top three proposals. They will choose the top three companies. The interviews will take place during the week. After a consultant is chosen, there will be other meetings to prepare for the first public input meeting. The process will include brainstorming and reviewing the feedback. In total, there are expected to be about three meetings.

a. **Ramah Church Park Planning Committee** – week of the 29th of July.

Ash Munro and Tilesa Johnson volunteered to serve on this committee.

b. **Fire Station No. 4 Park Planning Committee** - Second or third week in August.

Frank Freeman and Kent Curran volunteered to serve on this committee.

Janelle made a motion to appoint Ash and Tilesa to the Ramah Church Park Planning Committee. Kent seconded. All approved.

Ash made a motion to appoint Frank and Kent to the Fire Station No. 4 Park Planning Committee. Janelle seconded. All approved.

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

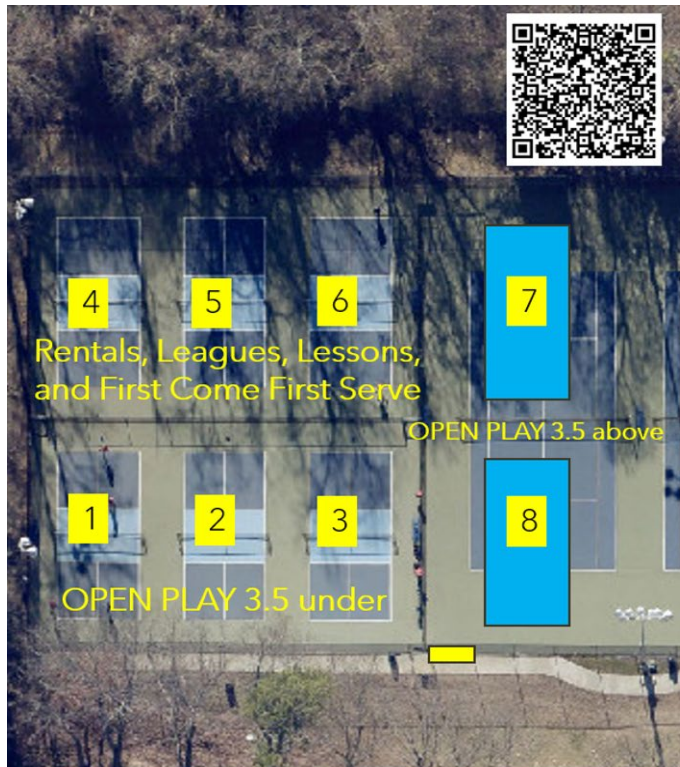
The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 21st at 6:00 p.m.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Approved

Below are some of the items approved in the operating capital budget.

Huntersville Athletic Park Bridge Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	45,000
Automatic Doors locks for Bradford Park, Waymer and Holbrook	-	-	-	-	-	80,000
Replace Dump Truck	-	-	-	-	-	51,000
Replace Pickup Truck	-	-	-	-	-	47,000
Cameras for Parks and Facilities	-	-	-	-	-	15,000
Huntersville Athletic Park Roofing	-	-	-	-	-	35,000
Holbrook Park Roofing	-	-	-	-	-	10,000
Barry and North Meck Park Lighting Controls	-	-	-	-	-	98,000
Bradford Park Warning Tracks on Softball Fields	-	-	-	-	-	27,000
Ride On Blower	-	-	-	-	-	12,000
Golf Cart Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	20,000
North Meck Park lower playground replacement						250,000
Holbrook Park Parking Lot Expansion						250,000

HOLBROOK PARK PICKLEBALL COURTS



OPEN PLAY PICKLEBALL COURTS

- Courts 1, 2 and 3- Open Play for levels 3.5 and under.
 - When 4 or less players are waiting Rotate 2 on and 2 off
 - When 5 or more players waiting Rotate 4 on and 4 off
- Courts 7 and 8- Open Play for levels above 3.5.
 - Winners can play a maximum of 2 consecutive games to 11 (Win by 2)

PICKLEBALL COURTS FOR RENT

- Courts 4, 5 and 6-
 - These courts are designated for rentals and league play.
 - If the courts are not rented, they will be available on a first come first serve basis with no requirement for rotating off.
 - To make a reservation visit www.Huntersville.org
 - To view the schedule of these courts, scan the QR Code at the top of this sign.