



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, August 21, 2024

Members Present: Kathy Lewis, Patty Reich, Kent Curran, Magic McNairy, Frank Freeman, Ash Munro, Janelle Harris, Telisa Johnson.

Absent: Arun Nair.

Town Liaison – Mayor Christy Clark.

Guests: Pat Bowles, Recreation Facility Manager.

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

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

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael – **Normy Awards** – We are in the final three for “Best Summer Camp”. Voting ends in September.

Employee Anniversaries – Lindsay Small (12 years) and Cory Oddo (8 years).

New Employee – Timothy Sullivan is the new Park Operations Manager.

Milestone! - Michael celebrated his 25th Anniversary with the Town on Monday, August 19th.

Richard Barry Parking Lot is open. The restroom will open once the meter is installed at the end of the week.

Pickleball Courts Update – Everything seemed to be going smoothly until someone reserved three courts for a long period and is offering lessons. We had to change the reservation system to only allow reservations up to seven days maximum. We are going to move the signs and paddle racks to the inside of the fence. We’ve also purchased bleachers to provide seating for those waiting to play. Kathy suggests leaving one sign outside for those not wanting to go inside the fence.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Janelle – Is still interested in hosting the staff social. Michael mentioned that summer camp is over and most of the staff have returned to college. If we move the event to next year summer it gives us more time to plan and budget for it, also making sure that most of the staff will be available to attend.

Ash – Attended the Eastfield Park information session hosted by Mecklenburg County. It was more of a presentation of the plans for the park instead of a public input session.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

Athletics

- All practices start next week for volleyball and basketball.
- Mini Athletes registration is still open.
- All daytime Rec Center activities will resume the first week in September.
- NEW!!! Preschool OPEN GYM on Monday mornings is called “Little Hands & Feet”. There will be arts and crafts in the multipurpose room.

Recreation & Events

- **Just Kidding Around** – last one of the summer – tomorrow at Veterans Park.
- **Teen Outing** – River Tubing and Camping – Labor Day weekend.
- **Afterschool** - Starts next week. It’s full!
- **Adult Classes** – Resume September 13th. The project will be Barn Quilt Painting.
- **Miles and Smiles Walking Club** – Starts again on September 4.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

Pat Bowles – Recreation Facility Manager.

Disc Golf courses should be designed by professionals. There is a lot of thought going into the design and planning of the new disc golf course at Barry Park. It will be neighborhood-friendly for the newer and younger players. Challenges: the area is small, there’s a creek and an area that will need regular mowing. The course will have nine baskets but will allow for 18-hole play through two loops of the same layout.

The proposed area is noted for its unique terrain with trees, slopes, and minimal undergrowth, making it suitable for disc golf. Efforts will be made to avoid cutting down large trees and maintaining a clean open fairway. We do not plan to have tournaments or major events at this location.

Mayor Clark asked if it would be a challenge accessing it during school days. Michael replied that there is never an issue with parking during school hours. However, when the soccer field is being used, there will not be that much parking.

Design time period – Fall/Winter to access the woods after the leaves fall. It should be completed by mid-spring, provided we start in the fall. Frank asked about the white lines on the map. It is a future neighborhood and there is an access path to the park. We hope to use that access for the mowers, if we can maintain it. Kathy mentioned that since there are no homes yet, they can let future homeowners know they are purchasing next to a park access when they are choosing their lots. It will help us to have access to bringing the mower in. We will also need a pedestrian bridge at the beginning of the course.

Kent asked if the course would be cart accessible. Pat said there may be some spots that may be challenging, but if we offset them by designing the path at an angle, it will help with those carrying carts.

Ash said that the boy scouts may also be able to help with projects, including the potential for Eagle Scout projects. Janelle asked how many leagues there are. Huntersville Parks and Recreation runs a handicap league where you play against your own average score, there's also a Glow league to play disc golf at night, and a tournament in November – The Bradford Open. Charlotte Disc Club runs some tournaments and there's a Doubles tournament every Sunday. Bradford is the most used disc golf course with people coming from other states and countries to play there. Charlotte is ranked as #1 place to live and play disc golf by Udisk. Bradford Park is in the Top 10 Disc Golf Courses in North Carolina.

Janelle asked if disc golf is open play or rented out? Pat replied that it's open, but we close the courses for certain organizations and events. We don't close the park. He doesn't envision ever closing Barry Park for events. It's for locals to have a place to play and not worry about closures. Kent said most of the courses are free, you just buy your disc. It's a very affordable and easy-to-access sport.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

North Meck Playground Replacement – We originally had two options for the new playground, but after reading Google reviews, the common comment was that the existing playground is not for older children. We would like to have a playground that would interest the older groups and give them more of a challenge. Kathy said we could send out a survey to get feedback first, then give them the options. Mayor Clark suggested putting it in the town's newsletter. We will send it out to the community to get feedback.

Old Northstate Update - One concern was how the five-hundred (500) seat bleachers would impact the restrooms. Michael looked at the Mecklenburg County building code requirements for parks/stadiums. It looks like we may be a few toilets short. We are waiting for a response after contacting the county because they are the ones that enforce the codes. If we have to add toilets, it will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to do that. North State is not in a position to take on that project in addition to what they are already planning to do.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Ramah Church Park – Ash helped us with the interviews. We've chosen a firm for both parks. Nine firms submitted proposals for the Ramah Church Park while five submitted for Fire Station No. 4 Park. The five that submitted proposals for Ramah Church, also submitted for Fire Station No. 4 Park, so instead of having them present twice, we chose the first and second top submissions. The previously chosen stakeholders' committee will meet in September. POND is the design team for Ramah Church Park and Bolten and Menk was chosen as the team for the Fire Station No. 4 Park.

Waymer Splash pad – We will have the contract next week to start the design.

Tournament Selection Committee – This is to allocate the ballfields to organizations on dates and weekends when local leagues are not playing. We get requests from tournament groups from outside of the area. The committee will have individuals from Lake Norman Little League, HYAA, two staff members, two Parks and Recreation Commission members, and someone from Visit Lake Norman. We will meet in

October to review the tournament applications. It will be one night for about an hour or two. Kent volunteered to be on the committee.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18th at 6:30 p.m.