



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, January 15th, 2025 – 105 Gilead Rd. 3rd Floor

Members Present: Ash Munro, Frank Freeman, Kathy Lewis, Patty Reich, Janelle Harris, Arun Nair, Magic McNairy.

Absent: Kent Curran, Telisa Johnson.

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. AGENDA CHANGES

- a. **Appoint Chair for 2025** - Kathy nominated Ash to be the Chair for 2025. Patty seconded the motion. Ash accepted the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved.
- b. **Appoint Vice-Chair for 2025** - Frank nominated himself to be the Co-Chair for 2025. Kathy seconded the motion. Frank accepted the nomination. The motion was unanimously approved.
- c. **Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule** - Kathy moved a motion to approve the meeting dates as amended, with December 17th being a potential meeting date. Janelle seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

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

V. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael,

30th Year Anniversary - This year marks the 30th anniversary of Huntersville Parks & Recreation. We will design a special logo and explore ways to incorporate celebrating this milestone in our upcoming events.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration - Our first annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration will be held at the Waymer Center on January 20th. The event will feature an exhibit, presentation, and refreshments.

2024 Program Participant Information – The Senior Softball league has experienced significant growth with participation at its highest level ever. Baseball & Softball leagues are seeing increased participation. These programs have consistently grown over the past four years, and we must continue planning for future expansion. Adding additional baseball fields is a priority, and we will focus on the Bradford Park expansion and Cook Road property development to add fields on the other side of town.

Planting 500 Trees by 2030 – We planted ninety-one (91) trees last year, all native to North Carolina, with a majority being oak trees. Our goal is to plant at least one hundred (100) trees annually. The tree fund, funded by developers over the years, will finance this initiative.

Lake Norman Charter Elementary School Gym – We have joint use agreement for the gym, and the project is expected to be completed by Fall 2026. We are also exploring the possibility of amending the agreement to include the six new tennis courts.

Waymer Park Splash Pad – We are moving forward with the design after gathering feedback from residents and social media. The splash pad’s water features will be interchangeable with those at the North Mecklenburg Park splash pad. Residents have also expressed a preference for full shade coverage. One benefit of having a full shade coverage is because the splash pad will be located near the softball field, it will offer protection from foul balls. We will ask them to include an alternate design with one large shade structure in addition to the base bid, which includes three flower shade structures.

VI. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Janelle – Pottstown Park Update: A presentation and community engagement meeting will be held on January 25th at the Wamer Center from 12pm-2pm.

AFOTC Ignite Your Impact Program: A program for young people to learn home repairs and landscaping, with a chance to win a monetary prize after completing the four-week program.

Arun – Reminded Michael to order nameplates for Parks and Recreation Commission members.

Janelle – Inquired about advisory board member absences. Magic reviewed the bylaws. “An appointed member who misses more than three consecutive regular meetings shall lose his/her status as a member of the commission. An appointed member must attend at least sixty-six (66%) of meetings in the (12) twelve-month period.” – (SEE ATTACHED BYLAWS).

Ash – Inquired about the scholarship program after last year’s changes. Michael will provide an update after summer camp registration closes this year.

VII. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- Spring Registration is OPEN for all softball leagues, youth volleyball, basketball and Mini Athletes.
- We are in Week 2 of 6 for the winter programs. All programs are FULL!
- Summer Camp (Jr. and Adventure) lottery opens on February 1-20th. Volleyball and Soccer Summer Camp registration opens March 3rd.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS

None.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. Consider a recommendation on the final Master Plan for Fire Station No. 4 Park.

We held the three public input meetings. Michael reviewed the feedback, which included one hundred seventy (170) responses to the online survey, five thousand (5,000) views and two thousand, five hundred (2,500) people reached on social media.

The top requested amenities for the park were restroom facilities, bike trails, playground, walking trails, splash pad and pickleball/tennis courts. Most respondents emphasized preserving the natural slopes and tree canopy while keeping the park as natural as possible. There were also suggestions to add sidewalks connecting the park to the Huntington Green neighborhood, and concerns about traffic due to two new schools being built. There are also requests for a crosswalk on McIlwaine Road. This feedback has been shared with the transportation staff.

When designing the playground, we are considering the placement of the splashpad to avoid wet conditions on the playground. Four pickleball courts will be built, with the option of covering them. The design of the park and amenities aligns with our Master Plan. Additional parking will be available at the Charter School when the splash pad is open, as school will be closed.

We are nearing the final cost estimate for all elements of the park. Ash inquired about the height of the pickleball fencing compared to tennis courts, and Arun raised concerns about traffic. Traffic will primarily come from the school, as park attendance increases in the evening when school is out. The park's traffic impact will be minimal, compared to our large athletic complex like Bradford, NMP, Barry and HAP. The splashpad is only open during summer months when school is closed. Road improvements will be necessary at the park entrance.

Once the master plan is approved, the community will be asked for name suggestions. The Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grants are due on May 1st. Michael will present the plan to community groups as a part of the grant application. As the project is not yet funded for construction, we will refine cost estimates and review our CIP, potentially making changes to the plan if needed. Kathy moved a motion to approve the Master Plan for Fire Station No. 4 Park. Arun seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Janelle inquired about beautifying the stormwater control area with a fountain. Michael explained that the area is not intended to have standing water, as its purpose is to filter the water through.

b. Update on Ramah Church Park Master Plan process.

The public input meeting had a great turnout, with the social media post receiving thirteen thousand (13,000) views and provided valuable feedback on the two plan options. Top requested amenities for this park includes trails, a playground, and fitness stations. Additionally, the park is an ideal location for a larger shelter to accommodate eighty to one hundred (80-100) people.

The final public input meeting will be on January 22nd. A recommendation will be presented at February's PRC meeting before going to the Town Board. The window to prepare for the grant

application is short, and we're consulting with the state grant reviewer to decide whether to submit applications for both parks or just one of the parks. If submitting one, we will have to determine which park has a better chance of receiving the grant.

The Town is considering adding a Satellite Police Office at this new Fire Station. (See Park plans attached).

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Moved to Agenda Changes.

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

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 19th at Town Center, 105 Gilead Road at 6:30 p.m.