



MEETING MINUTES

Huntersville Parks and Recreation Commission

Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 – 105 Gilead Rd. 3rd Floor

Members Present: Kent Curran, Ash Munro, Janelle Harris, Arun Nair, Patty Reich, Frank Freeman, Magic Cypress McNairy.

Absent: Kathy Lewis, Telisa Johnson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting was called to order by Ash Munro, 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

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

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Michael,

30th Anniversary – The department will celebrate its 30th anniversary in July, highlighting the department's history and events from 1995. It coincides with National Parks & Recreation Month.

Edgewater Farm Park - Mecklenburg County will host an open house for the thirty-eight (38) acre farmland preservation park, Edgewater Farm Park on March 13th.

Bradford Disc Golf – Disc Golf players use UDisc app to track their scores, among other things while playing the game. In 2024, fourteen thousand (14,000) rounds were tracked at Bradford Park. It's the ninety-seventh (97th) most used disc golf course globally, fifty-eighth (58th) in the USA, and third (3rd) in North Carolina. Players walked 29,696 miles on the course.

Fire Station No. 4 Park Master Plan – On March 4th, the Town Board will consider the plan. Once approved, community input on naming and the application for the Trust Fund grant will follow.

North Mecklenburg Park Greenway – Construction is expected to start February/March 2025. Frank asked the relationship between the town and county greenways. Michael advised that it varies, the town funds most designs, while the county handles construction and maintenance of most greenways, with the town maintaining the Downtown and North Mecklenburg Park Greenways.

North Mecklenburg Park Playground – Installation of stone is underway, with the next phase being the installation of synthetic turf. Completion is near.

Waymer Splashpad – We hope to start construction in May, given permitting goes smoothly.

V. PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Patty – Offered to help promote programming and events, especially those needing better attendance.

Kent – Asked for an update on the Barry Park disc golf course. Pat will be back March 15 so once we complete clearing/grading, we will start work. Two of our former employees will be assisting due to their experience with this type of work.

Janelle – Provided an update on Pottstown Park. The community engagement for the 31-acre park has concluded., with about thirty (30) people voting on land usage. The committee presented a proposal to Mecklenburg County for the park to be a legacy park, with other ideas including a greenway/conservation park, affordable housing or a gathering/commercial area.

Michael – Gave an update on Dellwood/Torrence Lytle Center repairs. Bids are due next Friday and if everything goes smoothly, it should reopen by June.

Ash – Scouts group will be reaching out about Eagle Service projects and has been advised to propose small projects, such as improving batting cages or adding covered shelters at ballfields.

VI. PROGRAMMING REPORT

- Winter sports have ended, and spring sports begin in March. Adult Softball starts next week.
- The **Summer Camp** lottery closes on Friday, February 21st. Names will be drawn next week. Sports Camp and Mini Adventure Camp registration opens on March 3rd. There are four hundred fourteen (414) registered for Adventure Camps and we are opening one hundred (100) spots for Jr. Adventure Camp (20 more than last year) and 27 spots for Adventure Camp – one hundred twenty-seven (127) total spots.
- **National Dadgum Day** – Unplug and play outside! Join the Davidson, Huntersville and Cornelius' Parks & Recreation Departments on March 1st for sports, games, art, and fun.
- **Adult Classes** – March 7th - (Resin Art) and 21st (Decorated Doormats) at Rec Center, 6pm.
- **Adult Trip** – March 8th - Flatrock, NC - Shades of Buble' – Three-man tribute to Michael Buble' – ONE spot left! The next trip will be on May 18th, kayaking in the Catawba River to see the Spider Lillies in full bloom.
- **Spring Car and Truck Show** – March 15th from 9am-2pm at Veterans Park.
- Other Ongoing and Upcoming Activities: Little Hands & Feet (Feb 25th), Parents Night Out (March 21st), Homeschool PE (February 21st and 28th), Video Game Night (March 14th), Miles & Smiles Walking Club (Wednesdays starting in March), Kids Creafting (February and March 16th), Xtreme Teen Outing (Feb 15th and March 22nd), and Kids Out Fun Day (March 31st).

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS, REQUESTS OR PRESENTATIONS – None.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

a. **Consider a recommendation on the final Master Plan for Ramah Church Park.**

Three public input meetings were held, with thirteen thousand (13,000) views and six thousand (6,000) people reached on social media. The town is considering pushing the fire station plan design to next year, since it makes more sense to build everything together, potentially delaying the park construction by a year.

Renderings for the shelter options have been received. The project must account for unpredictable construction costs “just in case”. It’s hard to predict construction costs, so we can place the dog park and front parking lot as an alternate due to its location and having to come back later to complete the project. The project will be presented to the Town Board in March, and once approved, the community will be surveyed for park naming. Parks and Rec Trust Fund (PARTF) grant is due May 1st.

A survey showed mixed pronunciations of the area’s name: fifteen (15) people say “RAYmuh” and twenty-four (24) say “RAHmuh”.

Feedback raised concerns about light pollution, but there will be no athletic fields at this park. A fence or signage may be installed along the Northstone community boundary.

Noise concerns regarding the fire station were addressed, with assurances from the Fire Chief that sirens are not sounded late at night until they are away from the station.

Minimal deforestation will be needed, except for the stormwater dry pond.

Kent moved a motion to approve the final Master Plan for Ramah Church Park. Arun seconded. All approved.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Discuss Mobile Vendor Selection Process.**

Currently, food trucks can apply at any time, but due to increased demand, a selection process is being developed. The goal is to have vendors apply by a specific date for the following year’s events.

The new process will prioritize existing vendors but also allow new ones to apply. There will be three categories based on event size and food truck requirements.

Magic shared their experience from the VA, where they surveyed attendees to understand which food trucks to select and gave vendors a deadline to submit paperwork and commit to serving attendees. Ash asked about collecting feedback from patrons, which is done on-site via surveys. Patty suggested using this feedback to increase traffic at events like the grower’s market.

Some challenges are that vendors may request a guarantee to make a certain amount of money, which can be tricky, especially during smaller events. Janelle suggested rotating food trucks for variety and addressing concerns about vendors running out of food.

Michael explained that we have the contact information for past vendors and will use social media to announce the new application process and deadlines.

Arun asked for clarification on fees and suggested a rating system or spreadsheet for transparency in the selection process. Vendors should have to go through levels 1 or 2 before reaching level 3. Further discussions took place about refining the process.

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

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