



RECREATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
JANUARY 29, 2025

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM 121 | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Recreation Commissioners Present

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Paul Slavik
- John Norton
- Cheryl Rand
- Karla Piedrahita
- Shuntel Beach
- Brad Bowers

- Staff

- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. WORK SESSION ITEMS

a. AYBA Presentation

- Matt Pringle, the Commissioner of AYBA presented.
- Matt reported on Resident and Non-Resident participation for the program. Matt also gave kudos to the Alpharetta Park staff for keeping the fields in great shape to keep them from having rainouts.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: AYBA

Q The non-resident numbers are reflective of the front page numbers? (Mitchell)

A The gripe is more about being so close and still have to pay. (Pringle)

Q What's the goal of the program? Spring numbers? Are you comfortable with the number that the program is at right now? (Saha)

A The limit is about 8 teams per age group. The field space availability. Giving the parents what they want. Around 700 would be ideal and having a coaching staff and umpires to support the number of games. Yes, but the issue is the parents taking the kids out of the program, the fluctuation is between 500-650 any given season but they usually come back. (Pringle)

Q How are the feeder teams different? (Bowers)

A They are comprised of the kids that feed into Alpharetta High School that are currently in 7th and 8th grade. They are a travel team. It is separate from AYBA. (Pringle)

C Thank you AYBA, they are an outstanding group. Thanks for staying true to the Rec Program. Thaks for leaning into Alpharetta High School, it is our High School, we really appreciate it. Outstanding leadership within your organization. (Rodgers)

Q Did Alpharetta High School approach you for the feeder program or did you go to them? (Norton)

A We were approached by the number of kids we had that would go to AHS and that is how the feeder program started. (Pringle)

Q Financially, you are doing good? (Rand)

A We are doing good for now. (Pringle)

C Field 5 at Wills Park is the worst field for rain, it does not drain properly. We are working with AYBA to turf that field to help that issue with a 50/50 split of the cost. (Rodgers)

Q What is the cost to turf?

A Around \$400,000. (Rodgers)

Q AYBA used to sponsor tournaments for fundraising, why did that stop? (Rand)

A We find that they are not a great fundraiser for us right now. (Pringle)

Q How many coaches are there? (Saha)

A Between 60 and 80. (Pringle)

b. Overall Department Fee Changes

- Christine Young, Recreation Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department introduced the item.

- The changes involved the facilities around us. The maintenance costs have increased, and we believe it is time for the fees to increase. The big ones are the pool and pickleball.
- Lots of discussion of the fees and the resident versus non-resident pricing. There was also a lot of discussion regarding raising the age from 50+ to higher.
- Lots of discussion regarding the rates for the courts for pickleball and tennis.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Overall Department Fee Changes

Q Home By Dark to pay at Union Hill Park? (Saha)

A Yes, they pay for the facility. (Young)

Q A birthday party with soccer, would they have to pay this fee? (Rand)

A That would not be the case, more big events. (Young)

Q Does this affect the Arts Center? (Piedrahita)

A They have their own fees to charge. (Young)

Q What does General mean on the pool list? (Mitchell)

A That is a non-resident. (Young)

Q Do we have a percentage of resident versus non-resident? (Mitchell)

A It is more non-resident since there is not a pool nearby. (Young)

Q Can we just not allow non-residents in? (Slavik)

A We cannot do that. We have a lot of non-residents at our pool. (Young)

C I would leave the resident fee at \$5.00 and non-resident needs to go up more. (Mitchell)

Q 50+?. (Rand)

A Do we want to bump it up higher than 50+ for the age? (Young)

Q Consideration of children pricing? (Piedrahita)

A No, we have 3 and under are free. (Young)

Q Do you have to pay for the courts for pickleball? (Rand)

A Yes, they are rentable. (Young)

C Resident fee is fine, non-resident fee needs to be \$8. They will have a resident book the courts for them. (Saha)

c. Council Retreat Update

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department introduced the item.

- Morgan Rodgers stated that the retreat took place at Barnsley Gardens, and it was one of the best retreats thus far. Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services were not on the agenda this year, it was mostly budget related. Bond projects will get off the ground this year. RFP for the Bond project goes out next week. No, a lot in Capital Projects, which is good. The new website is about to launch for the City. Director Rodgers will be inviting Deanna to one of the upcoming meetings to show the new website off. Last item, alcohol ordinances that are out of compliance. They are bringing forward more on it and we will bring it to the next Recreation Commission Work Session.

d. **Program Update**

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department introduced this item.
- Director Rodgers stated that the hot topic right now is NAFL. Lots of information out there right now stating that Alpharetta does not like football. There have been multiple meetings with NAFL to get them in compliance. Finally, Alpharetta had to cancel the agreement. There is a RFP going out January 30th for 21 days.
- Director Rodgers gave everyone a handout with the current programs and the residency numbers. Currently the City is working with schools on the East side of Alpharetta to get a place to play over there.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A, COMMENTS:

RE: Program Update

Q Did the resident requirement change? (Saha)

A No, not one bit. (Rodgers)

Q How did the meeting with Mr. Lagerbloom go? (Saha)

A It went well. (Rodgers)

IV. ADJOURNMENT

❖ Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services