



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the video recording for said meeting is a matter of public record and is available to be viewed at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

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)
- Karla Piedrahita
- Cheryl Rand
- Brad Bowers
- John Norton
- Paul Slavik
- Derek Kaighin

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- Shuntel Beach

• Staff

- Deanna McKay, Communications and Engagement Manager
- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Downtown Districts), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager (Western District & Equestrian), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from October 8, 2024

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Slavik offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from October 8, 2024, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Piedrahita seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (7-0).
- ❖ Commissioner Rand arrived after the vote.

V. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

i. Community Services Division Monthly Report – November 2024

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not present, and the Commission has the Staff Report and attachments to review.

ii. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – November 2024

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not present, and the Commission has the Staff Report and attachments to review.

iii. Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – November 2024

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Christine Young spoke highly of the Wire & Wood Songwriters Festival and how wonderful the Staff did to make it the best. Christine presented that approximately 25,000 people attended.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Wire & Wood was a great success, beautiful weather, exceptional performances.
- Boo Bash was a hit with over 30 vendors and fun for all.
- Staff attended the GRPA Annual Conference in Columbus, November 4th through November 7th: Leadership Series, Mentor Program
- Veterans Day Luncheon on November 4th at Preston Ridge Community Center was an honorable event, thanking our Veterans for serving our country.

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Season of Celebration kicks off with the annual Christmas Tree Lighting on Saturday, November 23rd. Festivities begin on the stage in front of City Hall at 5:00 p.m., with the tree lighting at 6:30 p.m., and the fun continuing until 9:00 p.m.
- Season of Celebration Food Drive runs from November 23rd through December 15th. Drop-off locations are at City Hall and recreation facilities.

- Santa's Mailbox opens at the Community Center on November 15th and will take letters for Santa through December 13th, ensuring special delivery to the North Pole in time for Christmas.
- Holiday Hop & Shop is back with four shopping opportunities on Saturday, December 7th, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Shops will be held at the Community Center, Innovation Academy, Avalon, and the Hamilton Hotel with shuttles available for transportation between the locations throughout the day.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Boo Bash

Q Where did everyone park for Boo Bash? (Rand)

A All over town and at Amana Academy. (Young)

Q What was the age range for Boo Bash? (Saha)

A Elementary school age mostly, lots of great costumes. (Young)

RE: Food Drive

Q Are we doing the can trees again this year? (Rand)

A Yes, they have worked well. We have to empty them almost daily. (Young)

RE: Holiday Market

Q Potential vendors need to have insurance in hand before they even apply and they do not know at that time if they will be a part of it. Is that true? (Saha)

A Alpharetta Business Association is who manages this, that would be a question for them. (Young)

RE: Tree Lighting

Q Last year the tree lighting was over Black Friday weekend, was it moved up due to lack of attendance? (Kaighin)

A It was not impacted really by that, it is more due to the fact that Thanksgiving is later this year. There are actually 3 tree lighting the weekend of ours, Avalon, ours and The Hamilton Hotel. (Young)

iv. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part I) – November 2024

- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- We have an approved purchase order to move forward and replace the fencing on field #2 at Innovation Sports Complex.
- We are starting to replace declining/dead plants and trees in North Park, Encore Park, the lot next to the Log Cabin, Brooke Street Park, and City Center.
- We now have power back at the North Main Street Pocket Park and will have the fountain and lights back up and running. The power was down due to some of the road work on Highway 9.
- We are wrapping up fall athletic activities aside from soccer in all the parks and will soon begin our winter maintenance and field repair program.

- We added two more seasonal plant beds at the entrance to Publix and Thompson Street around the roundabout off Haynes Bridge Road.
- We have over seeded fescue areas at Brooke Street Park, the Arts Center, wood line and detention area at Innovation Academy, and the corner area lot by Milton Avenue and Canton Street.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Continuing to develop new maintenance plans/practices in all parks and on all the trail systems.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Webb Bridge Turf

Q Progress on the Webb Bridge Turf? (Piedrahita)

A Equipment arrived on Monday and things are moving forward. (Milley)

RE: Help

C Thank you, Eric, for hearing 36 kids around Alpharetta. (Norton)

v. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part II) – November 2024

- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Fall Baseball is finishing up. We will be focusing on year end field work and park enhancements to finish out the year.
- Staff removed PVC fencing bordering Field 5. We have cleared under brush and planted new trees to improve the area.
- New landscaping was added to the front of the Recreation Center building. As this matures it will greatly update the facility.
- Equestrian Center has been preparing for large year end horseshows. The covered arena was laser graded. Also, arenas 2 and 4 were graded and material added.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Focus on common areas and winterizing facilities.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Equestrian Center

Q Upgrades at the Equestrian Center, what is the feedback? (Norton)

A People love arenas 1 and 3, lots of positive feedback. (Casey)

vi. Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report – November 2024

- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Kurt thanked and congratulated the staff on a great October and stated that November will be awesome as well.
- Kurt stated that the turf began at Webb Bridge Park on Monday.

- The Miracle League new surface has been installed and planning to do a grand reopening after the first of the year.
- The Wills Park Recreation Center has new landscaping out front, and the plants were grown at the Old Rucker Farm. Very exciting times to have our plants in different places of our parks.
- Congratulations to Brett Gratz on achieving certification as a Playground Safety Inspector.
- Tribute to the Veterans that we have on Staff. We have a total of seven in various branches of the military. Thank you for your service.

b. DIRECTOR

i. Director's Report – November 2024

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to speak.
- Wills Park Recreation Center Landscaping consists of all native plants and most are edible for animals. We would like to start doing this at all of our buildings.
- The Commissioners Holiday Dinner is set for, Tuesday, December 10th at 6:00 p.m. at Preston Ridge Community Center.
- OSI had 50 people come to Alpharetta for a Greenway trip, they said it was the highest rated Institute to date.
- GRPA District meeting was in Tiger, Georgia with an awards banquet in October. Jon Oswald and Joan Herbig received the Volunteer of The Year Award. The other award received was the Agency of the Year Award to the Alpharetta Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department. Director Rodgers presented the Award to Chairman Mitchell and the rest of the Commission.
- A few of us went to NRPA in Columbus, Georgia where Mike Perry was inducted into the Hall of Fame. Mayor came to the banquet as well as some of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services staff.
- Currently Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services has two items on the upcoming Council Agendas. One item is the Equestrian Center Stall Cleaning contract and the other is the iCan Bike Contract. Public Safety used to be the lead on the iCan Bike Contract and that has been given to us to take over.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

RE: Wills Park

Q Any update on Wills Park Construction? (Norton)

A No update, Council is looking for an overall contractor. We are hoping to have this Early 2025. (Rodgers)

VI. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Congratulations once again on the Agency of the Year! (Mitchell)

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Rand made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Saha seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services