



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

OCTOBER 8, 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)
- Derek Kaighin
- Cheryl Rand
- Paul Slavik
- Karla Piedrahita
- John Norton
- Brad Bowers

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- Shuntel Beach

• Staff

- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Deanna McKay, Communications & Engagement Coordinator
- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager, 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. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION

- a. Ambush Soccer – Doug Yearwood presented great information regarding Ambush Soccer here in Alpharetta. They were voted best sports program by Appen Media. He stated that they changed their entire operating system providing a new website and a lot of app functionality. He also stated that player safety is extremely important to their program. He brought up some statistics regarding the program, Fall recreation soccer had approximately 803 sign ups and the Fall Academy had approximately 851 sign ups. The success stems from the use of Innovation Academy field and the other 4 fields in Alpharetta. The recreation portion of the program is at approximately 91% Alpharetta residency and the Academy has approximately 56% Alpharetta residency. He stated that they offer 6 camps each year with over 800 players. They started a 3 vs 3 tournament this year and had 78 teams between 2 tournaments. The program has been pretty self-sufficient, he stated that they have not asked the City for much. The only item that is currently needed is a couple ice machines at the parks. The new Webb Bridge turf field will be a game changer for the Ambush Program.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q AND A

Q Is the different fields each week due to the amount of rain? (Kaighin)

A We have to play all over North Fulton to make sure we are on dry fields. (Yearwood)

Q Who leads the camps? (Kaighin)

A Our Academy and staff of Coaches. (Yearwood)

Q Who is currently the head coach? (Rand)

A Eristavi is still the head coach, we are fortunate with our coaching staff. (Yearwood)

Q Has there been any League trouble? (Rand)

A USA Soccer is on a different planet than youth soccer. (Yearwood)

Q Birthdate Issue? (Rand)

A Changed it to calendar year now we are planning to change it back to the birthdate. (Yearwood)

Q Thank you so much for what you do for the City. Will the turf hurt the new season? (Piedrahita)

A Recreation will end before the turf starts. Academy will be affected but not for long. (Yearwood)

Q Who can participate in the 3 vs 3 tournaments? (Mitchell)

A Anybody can play in the that tournament. (Yearwood)

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- **Recreation Commission Minutes from August 13, 2024**

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.

- Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from August 13, 2024, Recreation Commission meeting.

- Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.

- ❖ The motion was approved (7-0).

- **Recreation Commission Work Session Minutes from August 28, 2024**

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.

- Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from August 28, 2024, Recreation Commission Work Session meeting.

- Commissioner Piedrahita seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (7-0).
- ❖ Commissioner Saha arrived at 5:54 p.m.

VI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

i. Community Services Division Monthly Report – October 2024

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not in attendance, her presentation is available in the packet online.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Greenhouse construction - The General Contractor has been chosen and construction will begin later this month.
- Invasive species removal will begin this month in the wooded area of Old Rucker Park. The privet, kudzu, ivy and other invasive plants will be removed by ReForestATL and they will maintain the park to keep the invasives from coming back. Old Rucker Park will be a test for this approach, and once proven successful we will explore the possibility of doing similar work in other parks.
- We are moving forward with the comprehensive design documentation and construction administration vendor for the upcoming renovations of the facility at Old Rucker Park. The vendor has been chosen, and the work to develop a plan for the facility will begin later this month.
- We started monthly seed packing volunteer days at the Alpharetta and Milton library branches, enabling us to have a constant supply to seed packs to keep the libraries stocked with seasonal seeds. The library is recruiting the volunteers, and we host the event.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES

- Fall Farm Picnic is re-scheduled for Sunday, October 27th

ii. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – October 2024

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Art Center Murals – Sun & Moon by Camp Staff
- Arts Center – Fall Classes
- Crosswalks in City Parks – Mid Broadwell Park

MONTHLY INITIATIVES

- RIFF – Installations & Updates
- Crosswalks in City Parks – Webb Bridge, Open Call for Artists
- Manhole Murals – Alpharetta Greenway, Rotary of North Fulton
- ARTober – National Arts & Humanities Month, Brochure and Mayor Proclamation on October 7th at 6:30 p.m.

- Family Day – Pop Art at Alpharetta Arts Center

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS

- Arts & Culture Online Calendar
<https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- Alpharetta Music City - Live Music Calendar
<https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>
- Branches Intertwined presented by Alpharetta Community Chorus will be Sunday, October 6th at 3:00 p.m. at Alpharetta Presbyterian Church. For more information: <https://alpharettacommunitychorus.com/>
- Talking Quilts presented by Chattahoochee Evening Stars Quilt Guild will be at the Alpharetta Adult Activity Center on Monday, October 7th at 6:00 p.m. Price is \$5 for nonmembers and free for members.
- Metropolitan Ballet Theatre Fall Concert will be at The Alpharetta Arts Center on Saturday, October 12th at 2:00 p.m. <https://www.metropolitanballet.org/>
- Romeo & Juliet presented by ACT1 Community Theater will be in the Formal Garden on Friday & Saturday, October 18th through the 26th at 7:30 p.m., Saturdays at 12:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. There is no charge for this event.
- Wanderlust presented by Alpharetta Symphony will be at the Alpharette Methodist Church on November 1st at 7:30 p.m. Tickets can be purchase at <https://www.alpharettasympphony.org/wanderlust>

MASTER PLAN PRESENTATION, this is a broad overview of what the community wants.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q AND A

Q As for the Master Plan, is this what you expected? (Slavik)

A Yes, mostly, we knew some of our weaknesses and strengths. (Manning)

Q Next Steps with the Master Plan? (Piedrahita)

A Next we are planning to meet with the Department heads. (Manning)

A The plan is to go to Public, then Cultural Arts Commission, then Council. (Rodgers)

Q I noticed the Additional Parking sign near the Arts Center. Do we have an issue with parking? (Slavik)

A We do have a parking issue. For big events we partner with Alpharetta Elementary School but they had another event, so we had to partner with Main Street Commons. (Manning)

iii. Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – October 2024

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- NRPA Off Site Institute – three staff members are attending the NRPA Conference. OSI Event where we partnered with Johns Creek and Roswell to do a Big Creek Greenway tour on E-bikes. There were 47 participants and we met with Daniel Dominique and Thomas Nolf along the way to talk about the manhole paintings.
- YAA Association kicked off the Fall Season
- Scarecrows are ready for viewing around town and throughout Wills Park.
- Youth basketball is ready to start the season with practices beginning the week of November 4th and games beginning December 7th.

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Wire & Wood is set for October 11th and 12th with 8 stages (new stage at City Hall), 40 performers, Live Art Lounge and Artists Market.
- Scarecrow Harvest through October 31st with winners being announced at Boo Bash.
- Boo Bash in The Grove at Wills Park will be held on October 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Veterans' Day Celebration Luncheon will be Monday, November 4th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with Opening Ceremonies at 11:45 a.m. The event will be held at Preston Ridge Community Center.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q What is the number of students playing basketball? (Norton)

A Not sure yet, teams are still forming. (Young)

iv. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Excluding Wills Park) – October 2024

- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not in attendance, his presentation is available in the packet online.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- We have completed the hard asphalt connection from Union Hill Greenway trail head to McGinnis Ferry/Forsyth Greenway trail connection.
- We have completed the center line striping all along the Alpharetta portion of the Greenway trail.
- We continue to remove declining trees in all parks and clear out underbrush along the trails to open areas of limited visibility such as corners and intersections.
- We are in the process of getting proposals to replace some of the broken concrete panels behind City Hall in Brooke Street Park.
- The big metal bridges along the main Greenway Trail have been pressure washed.
- We continue to clean up storm debris in all parks and trails from hurricane Helene.
- The seasonal plantings in all planters and medians will be complete by the end of October.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Developing new maintenance plans and practices for the Alpha Loop to include watering and overseeding.

v. **Park Services Division Monthly Report (Wills Park & Equestrian Center) – October 2024**

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

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Staff has done a great job with removal of fallen trees and storm debris from hurricane Helene.
- We have added sod along Old Milton Parkway as well as enhanced the entrance by the pool with new landscaping.
- New signs with stone were added at the Athletic field entrances. This completes the sign initiative at Wills Park. The Equestrian Center signage will be added later.
- Equestrian events have been well attended. We will have a full show schedule moving into the fall season.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Focus on common areas and walking trails by lifting tree canopy and adding mulch and pine straw.

vi. **Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report – October 2024**

- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Update on all Department Operations.
- Congratulations to Christine and Staff, as well as, Eric and Staff on the OSI event. Could not have happened without them, they did a great job. Proud to be part of this team.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q AND A:

Q On the Greenway there are several of the giant spiderwebs, what are we supposed to do? (Bowers)

A Outside of the ones that are in the way, we are leaving them. (Kirby)

Q Forsyth's stretch has been out of use, did the ride go all the way up there? (Rand)

A We did ride up there but they do have some issues. (Kirby)

b. **DIRECTOR**

i. **Director's Report – October 2024**

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Director Rodgers gave an update on the OSI Event. The group started in Roswell, went through Alpharetta and onto to Forsyth and then returned.
- Director Rodgers stated that the NRPA being in town is a very big deal and they took 11 staff members to the Exhibit Hall for the day.
- Director Rodgers stated that the City officially received the LWCF money for the North Park light poles and lighting.

- Director Rodgers gave a Bond Update regarding the Webb Bridge Park turf, he stated that everything was on track to start in November
- Director Rodger stated that the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department is going to start updating the Master Plan for the entire department over the course of the next few months. This will be done inhouse and there will be some online surveys going out.
- Director Rodgers stated that this was Deanna McKay's first meeting solo and welcomed her.
- Director Rodgers discussed his Pumpkin Succulent class that he did with Community Services and how great it was.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

Q Is there a key for the Alpha Loop picture in the packet? (Piedrahita)

A There is, it is on the sheet. (Rodgers)

Q Timeline for the upcoming parts of the loop? (Saha)

A Waiting on that from Public Works. (Rodgers)

Q Does the Alpha Loop intersect with the Greenway? (Piedrahita)

A Currently it does not but that is the plan. (Rodgers)

Q Did we hire the Project Manager for Wacky World? (Kaighin)

A We have not yet. (Rodgers)

Q How did we get on the NRPA email list? (Kaighin)

A Becoming a Commissioner. (Rodgers)

Q Latest trends from the Exhibits at NRPA? (Piedrahita)

A Everything looked the same, underwhelming. Lots of turf, a lot of lighting businesses. The coolest vendor was a Drone Show vendor. (Rodgers)

Q It was opening weekend for AYSA and the concession stand closed super early. Is that the City or AYSA? (Slavik)

A We will contact AYSA about that. (Rodgers)

Q Is the medaling with NRPA no longer a thing? (Rand)

A We have lots going on right now and it is time consuming. We currently do not have the time. (Rodgers)

VII. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Saha shared that there were several Homecomings this past weekend and the City looked amazing, keep up the good work. Director Rodgers stated that we did not do anything extra, just our normal maintenance.
- Commissioner Norton asked if there was a Wire and Wood band that Director Rodgers recommended. Director Rodgers state that he will be glad to email his recommendation to any of the Commissioners.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Rand made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Norton 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 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services