



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF OCTOBER 10, 2017

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A. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Jarrett Long called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

B. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Shuntel Beach, Jamie Bendall, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Jarrett Long, Bill Lusby, Dennis Mitchell, Wendi Schutt
- Commission absent: None
- City staff present: Director of Recreation & Parks Morgan Rodgers, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Equestrian Center Manager Matt Casey, Rec. & Parks Office Manager Alice Smith, Recreation Supervisor II Steve Ciaccio, Recreation Coordinator Cara Prell; Recreation Supervisor II Jenny Simpson, Art Supervisor Toby Smallwood
- City Council: Jason Binder

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF August 8, 2017

- Motion by Mr. Lusby to approve the minutes of August 8, 2017 as written. Second by Mr. Bendall.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

E. OLD BUSINESS

A. Election of Commission Chair

- Ben Easterling stepped down as Commission Chair to run for City Council; the floor is now open to nominate a new Commission Chair
- Motion by Mr. Long to nominate Dennis Mitchell for Commission Chair. Second by Mr. Lusby.
- No discussion
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

B. Union Hill/Windward Presentation – Brooke Donahue with Pond and Company

- Ms. Donahue handed out conceptual drawings for Windward Park Masterplan and Union Hill Masterplan
- Windward Park consists of 2.3 acres off Windward Pkwy; within the park there will be a large play area, two pavilions with open tabletop seating, walking trails, restroom facility,

shade structures, universally accessibility playground and a privacy screening for the residential properties nearby

- Union Hill Park is a trailhead for the Big Creek Greenway; greenway and park users will be able to use the 81 spaces for parking
- The park will offer rope climbing, 4 sand volleyball courts, an open lawn, walking trails, restrooms, all ages playground, three pavilions, and terraced seating walls
- There will also be a pavilion/stage where you can offer community plays and concerts, restrooms and drinking fountains
- The maintenance shed and equipment storage area will have a new landscape buffer
- There was a public meeting to gather information on what the citizens would like to see at these parks
- Mr. Mitchell stated the purpose was for Union Hill to offer a variety of things to do as well as the trailhead; it would be a multipurpose park; Windward would be a passive park and it would not have lighting
- These designs have not been approved nor is money allocated to begin the projects; this is just the starting point
- Commission were asked to review the plans and get in touch with Pond and Company in the next week with any questions or concerns.
- Out of the two projects, Windward would be the first to start when approved and funds available

F. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request from Jim Cregge/AYSA

- Johnny Herron, a former Recreation Commissioner and Chair, passed away this past May
- Mr. Cregge came before the commission to seek support on naming the private road that runs through North Park, Johnny Herron Way
- Mr. Herron was instrumental in purchasing the property for North Park and bringing girls youth softball to North Park
- He wanted to be sure there was a sports program offered for girls; he helped with coaching leagues and assisting with Mr. Cregge
- Mrs. Herron, along with many others, give support; she stated Mr. Herron had a love for this city; his foresight and ability to negotiate helped get more opportunities for girls in sports not only with the city but county as well
- Commissioner of AYSA, Matthew Priel reinforced the naming of the private road; Mr. Herron continued to coach with Mr. Cregge; the girls would listen to Mr. Herron and they received value from what he was teaching them
- Mrs. Beach made a motion that we forward this request to rename the private road in North Park to Johnny Herron Way; Mrs. Schutt second the motion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried.**

B. Arts Alpharetta – Temporary Sculpture Program

- Mr. Rodgers stated Arts Alpharetta is working on an outdoor temporary sculpture program;
- These temporary sculptures will be displayed at Brooke Street Park along the Alpharetta Loop to Avalon
- There will be a call for artists; Arts Alpharetta will make their selections from the drawings submitted; these will be replaced every nine months so there will be new sculptures for viewing
- The department will be responsible for maintaining the bases of these art sculptures

- This is not to be confused with “Instruments of Inspiration” which will be permanent sculptures in downtown Alpharetta; there are 4 pieces of sculptures and we hope these will be ready for display in November/December of this year
- Mrs. Schutt stated for the temporary art program Dianna Smeal will give tours to corporate groups, charging a fee and all funds will go back into Arts Alpharetta

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Administration** – Mr. Long – no report
- B. **Parks** – Mr. Bendall
 - Mr. Bendall has spoken with Eric Milley by phone to keep abreast of a variety of items; one they would like to keep on the radar to address at a later time is the boardwalk on the greenway and the continuing maintenance issues
- C. **Recreation** – Mrs. Beach – no report
- D. **Cultural Arts** – Mrs. Schutt
 - Fall classes are up and running; contractor received the Art Center’s Notice to Proceed for October 16; anticipating 9 month construction time, should be in the building by summer of next year
 - Mr. Smallwood is busy meeting with artists, scheduling classes; looks forward to working on calendar for shows, events, meetings, etc for the new center
 - Arts Alpharetta are forming a Friends of the Arts Center Board to help with the opening, fund raising, promotion and volunteering so we will be ready when the arts center opens
 - There will be an unveiling of the first piano as part of “Play Me Again Piano” on October 29th at 3:00pm at Cogburn Park; this first display was painted by Mrs. Schutt; artists are beginning work on 3 more pianos that will be placed in public spaces in and around Alpharetta

H. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. **AYSA** – Mr. Bendall
 - Another 4 week of play before end of season tournaments; we continue to monitor age appropriate travel needs
 - AYSA is aware of the additional stress of our park resources as a result of the closing of Independence fields
- A. **AYBA** – Mrs. Jurgens
 - The association met on September 10th; they had a few field maintenance items, pavilion lighting issues, light strips that are out that need to be replace and would like more lights added under the pavilion
 - For the fall season there are 436 registered which is 8 less from last year
 - Considering a change to the tournament rules for the fall season; fall geared to more instruction instead of competition to help with new players; also planning on changing the play up rules which will be discussed at their next board meeting
 - Making plans to come before the board for a discussion regarding 13 and under residency requirements
- B. **NAFA** – Mr. Lusby – no meeting
- C. **NMML** – Mrs. Beach

- Mr. McLaughlin came before the board and discussed the many program offerings for North Metro Miracle League; along with programs they also provide assistance for families in crisis
- They are working hard to expand programs; they started with 4 and now have 92; 5000 volunteer hours just this year
- Their softball travel team were 2016 Champions
- There are 4 games left for the fall season
- Their annual Halloween Party will be October 29 at the Alpharetta Community Center; this is the 15th year for this party that can see 300 in attendance
- December 7th is their trip to the Alliance Theatre to see Charles Dickson Christmas Carol
- Save the date, May 7th for their next golf tournament; as of today they are sold out with 30 teams

D. **Ambush** – Mr. Mitchell

- Soccer is hosting a fund raiser this coming weekend; they hold one every year for a local charity; this year will be for EndDD, which is End Distracted Drivers; they sell t-shirts with all proceeds going to the charity, they should raise \$2500; 40 out of 41 teams will be wearing the t-shirts instead of their normal jersey

I. **SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT**

- Mr. Rodgers reported for Kim Zane in her absence
- Moving from production mode to planning mode; Fall is one of their busiest times with Scarecrow Harvest and Wire and Wood, which is a signature event for the city
- History Room is being painted/carpeted this week, hope to move in November/December
- Working on 2018 special events calendar

J. **EQUESTRIAN CENTER REPORT** – Matt Casey

- The 2018 show calendar should be online by the end of this week; 50 out of 52 weekends are booked
- Gearing up for winter show season; we have a lot of our local final shows coming up with the grand finale show the 3rd weekend in November which is GHJA (Georgia Hunter Jumper Association)
- Passed out pictures of the spectator seating project staff completed; you can put chairs or blankets out to watch a show; lights up really nice at night
- Mr. Long thanked Mr. Casey for all he did to provide shelter for the horses during the storm

K. **PARK SERVICE'S REPORT** – Eric Milley

- Roofing projects at Webb Bridge are finished, with some punch out work remaining
- The wall restoration at the Community Center is going on currently
- We partnered with the Community Garden to spade two trees from the Rucker Road property and bring them over to the Community Garden; one is a Japanese Maple and the other a grafted apple tree with 6 types of apples
- Removed some chain link fencing over by the t-ball field at Wills Park and installed hand rails
- Vendor has started replacing the seasonal plantings around town
- Major project is the pool renovation, the vendor is on schedule and we feel confident they will stay within the timeframe

- Mansell House landscaping project is complete; you do not see the ballfields with the landscape screening
- Batting cages are not complete at Wills Park due to some miscommunication; will extend on to the concrete pad that was poured; waiting on the purchase order to be issued

L. **DIRECTOR REPORT – Morgan Rodgers**

A. Recreation Reports from the Center Supervisors

- Flyers were handed out detailing the Veteran's Breakfast, November 10th at the Adult Activity Center, 7:30am-8:30am
- Christine Young with the Community Center wanted to report about teamwork; both staff and the community came together to work during hurricane Irma; Mr. Rodgers stated Christine rose to the top working long hours, she went above the top to make sure everyone was taken care of
- Toby Smallwood wanted everyone to know about the Art Center Notice to Proceed
- Steve Ciaccio reported Ambush Soccer was awarded the Best Sports Organization in North Atlanta by Appen Newspaper
- For the Bike Share Program for the month of December alone there were 1079 bike users which equates to 260 users per week

B. Pool Operational Schedule and Fees

- Cara Prell came to discuss some of the pool plans and fees
- The pool will be open to the public on May 26, lessons begin June 5, grand reopening pool party June 9
- We want to incorporate food truck night at the pool, dogs are allowed to swim on closing day which will be September 29th
- Plans are to keep the pool open for weekends after Labor Day since we continue to have warm weather
- Senior swim gains 3 water aerobics classes, public swim gains 8 hours per week, and we can add more swim classes
- We will be able to hold swim lessons while swim team is practicing
- Adding an aquatics camp in late July and a Mermaid School
- There is a handi-cap lift available along with zero entry to the pool
- Daily admission will change from \$3 to \$5; changing the age for free swim from 3 to 2; season pass for an individual goes from \$70 to \$90 and family pass from \$150 to \$250 for residents (up to 4) with \$35 each additional family member
- With all the pool offerings staff feels the new fees are justified

C. Master Plan Update

- The process is moving along very well; Councilman Binder and Mr. Rodgers met with the 2nd half of the consulting group (Ken Battle out of Colorado w/Jacobs Engineering) while they were at NRPA Conference; we are still in the process of putting information together for the consultants; they will be in town October 22 thru 24
- We will put together a schedule for them and for any of you that would like to meet with them let us know so we can schedule a time; they will make a presentation to Mayor and Council and we encourage you to come
- Once the visit is over they will put the plan together and bring back November/December so we can take it to the council retreat; we want a fun easy to read plan that we can present to the public

D. General Items

- Greenway concerns are on our radar as well, particularly near Wild Wings; we want to set up a task force to come up with a game plan for improvements to the boardwalk; we will bring our ideas back to the commission for approval
- Log Cabin is moving Saturday
- Update on changes with the educational farm from Whole Foods; with Amazon buying Whole Foods, they will only move the farm to Rucker Road they will not send the two people they promised to run the farm; we need a plan on how to operate the \$300,000 in assets they are giving to us
- I will take this offer from Amazon to City Council on October 23 for their approval to accept the move from Amazon/Whole Foods
- We could take a year off of the planning season to give us time to gather a plan on how to handle; there is interest from Cambridge High School FFA program; there are also non-profit groups that raise crops for the needy who might be interested; the one thing we won't do is ask the city to pay for staff to operate the farm
- A group call, North Point Liveable City Initiative, made up of anyone in the Alpharetta area, city staff and business leaders, who are looking at the North Point Mall area; with the downturn of malls surviving they are looking at a way to redevelop the area that will be a walkable environment; a big part of that is green space; Mr. Rodgers was invited to join this group; on the city's website you can visit LCI or use the link below for more information; [http://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/community-development/north-point-livable-centers-initiative-\(lci\)](http://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/community-development/north-point-livable-centers-initiative-(lci))
- HGTV's Trading Places filmed in Alpharetta and for opening/closing credits they filmed at the Equestrian Center and Brooke Street Park
- Items the department are working on; an Alpharetta Walking program, certified places of fun in Alpharetta, improving the entrance to the Greenway on Northpoint Parkway, ways to improve the fencing at North Park softball fields before the National Triple Crown Softball Tournament next summer (which we are looking at a way it will be at no cost to the city) an Alpharetta Community Theatre
- Trivial Question for tonight, how many outdoor restroom buildings do we maintain; 18, so keep that in mind because they will all need replacing; we know about Wills Park and North Park but we need a schedule for the remaining 16 so the Mayor and Council can fund it properly

M. **CITY COUNCIL REPORT** – Councilman Jason Binder

- The log cabin will be moved down the street on October 14th at noon
- Excited to hear citizens input; Friends of the Arts and more about the Friends of the Equestrian Center; this helps with the Master Plan process
- Master plan, we want it fun and cost effective
- Mr. Rodgers presented the commission with the NRPA finalist plaque as one of the best 4 departments in the country; you should be proud of your department but really proud of your staff

N. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- Alpharetta Golden Age Club President, Tom Eiswerth, wanted to issue a challenge to this group; the word need to get out that this is not a monthly meeting but a game plan on what you will do in the future; we need to get the word out on social media about the results of the work you do; use media to enhance the image you show everyday

- He also thanked Mr. Easterling for his leadership and wishes him well in his future endeavors
- Mr. Long presented Mr. Easterling a plaque honoring him for his ten years as a commissioner and for the six of those as leading the commission

O. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Schutt. Second by Mrs. Beach.
- All in favor. Motion carried
- Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm
- Next meeting: Tuesday, November 14 , 2017