



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2017

PUBLISHED 11-27-2017

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Dennis Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Shuntel Beach, Jamie Bendall, Melissa Jurgens, Jarrett Long, Bill Lubsy, Dennis Mitchell, Wendi Schutt
- Commission absent: Kevin Johnson
- City staff present: Director of Recreation & Parks Morgan Rodgers, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Equestrian Manager Matt Casey, Special Events Manager Kim Dodson, Office Manager Alice Smith; Christine Young Recreation Supervisor, Amy Rickman Marketing Coordinator, Toby Smallwood Cultural Arts Supervisor, Jenny Simpson Recreation Supervisor
- City Council: Jason Binder

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 10, 2017

- Motion by Mrs. Beach to approve the minutes of October 20, 2017 as written. Second by Jarrett Long.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Refund Policy – Christine Young

- The department's current seven refund policies are too wordy and confusing
- Staff would like to streamline/consolidate similar program refund policies to simplify for the customer, enhance customer service and provide a positive experience
- The staff recommends replacing the seven current policies with "The Alpharetta Recreation and Parks Department is committed to your satisfaction with our programs. We are happy to accommodate transfers or refund requests when possible. For assistance please call 678-297-6100 or email accprograms@alpharetta.ga.us Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm"
- Additional changes to post on the city's website:

- Classes: refunds will be issued prior to the second meeting; NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED THEREAFTER
- Camps: cancellations must be received by email or phone Thursday at 5:00pm PRIOR to the scheduled start of camp; NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER 5:00pm THURSDAY
- Youth Athletic & Aquatic Leagues/Teams: cancellations must be received by email or phone prior to the first scheduled game/meet; NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED THEREAFTER
- Adult Athletic Leagues: no refunds will be issued to teams requesting refunds, except under special circumstances as approved by the department Director or his/her designee
- Open gym & pool passes: refunds will be issued within 10 days from the date of purchase; NO REFUNDS WILL BE ISSUED AFTER 10 DAYS OF ISSUANCE
- All refunds are subject to a \$5 service fee.
- All receipts will have corresponding refund policy for each program under notes
- This is really not a change but a clarification; this gives staff an opportunity to speak with the customer to offer a transfer and hear what it was about the program they were not happy about
- Policies will be implemented in the Spring-Summer 2018 Leisure Guide, posted on City's website immediately, and staff will implement policies at facilities January 2, 2018.
- Everyone was in agreement with the changes

B. Half Marathon on Greenway – Mr. Rodgers

- Staff received a request from Premier Events Management to hold a women's half marathon in October of next year on the greenway
- They have been successful in holding these events in other areas; there have been between 2500-4000 runners
- The race path was discussed; race starts at 7am, will use part of the greenway and that section would be closed until noon; closing the Greenway for any event has not happened before
- Close Greenway section from Ethan Allen to the YMCA; runners come down Encore Pkwy to North Point Parkway to Greenway
- Both Public Safety and Transportation are pleased with this route, as well as ACVS who gives their full support
- Comment made, if we allow this one more requests will follow; discussed setting a number of events allowed on Greenway
- Mr. Rodgers would like to move forward for this event and then meet afterwards to discuss; if successful we could limit to two events per year
- We have plenty of time to get the word out for the October event so it won't be a surprise
- Motion was made by Mr. Mitchell to accept the recommendation for the approval of the road closure for the half marathon on October 15, 2018 with the stipulation of no more than 2 events per year on the Greenway
- Second by Mr. Lusby
- All in Favor. Motion carried.

C. Thompson Street Park

- Mr. Rodgers presented a map showing the location for Thompson Street Park; this park will be easy to maintain; using the same trash cans as other parks and it will have hardy plant material

D. Encore Park

- This park is across from Verizon Wireless Amphitheater; directly across from the VIP parking
- 6 acre park that will be open to the public; development will be passive with nice lawn area, trails and swings
- Verizon will build and turn over to the city; under construction now, both parks should be on line between 12 to 15 months

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration Report – Mr. Long - no report

B. Parks report – Mr. Bendall - no report

C. Recreation – Mrs. Beach - no report

D. Cultural Arts Report – Mrs. Schutt

- Construction for the new Art Center has started; grand opening Fall 2018
- Play Me Again Pianos had their first unveiling (piano painted by Mrs. Schutt) at Cogburn Park last month; next 2 to be unveiled at the Equestrian Center and Rock Mill Park in the spring/summer of next year
- Arts Alpharetta is working on a path similar to the beltline called Miscellany; art path will have both permanent and temporary sculptures placed around Brooke Street Park and a few other sites
- Arts Alpharetta Board met and discussed the possibility of purchasing at least one or two of the sculptures
- AA Board will also replace the Co-Directors in 2018; Ben Hollingsworth will head the Friends of the Alpharetta Arts Center and Clark Savage will head the Public Sculpture Project; both will be co-directors replacing Diana Smeal and Wendi Schutt
- Recruiting for high quality art instructors for the new center

VIII. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. AYSA – Mr. Bendall

- Fall games are finishing; rescheduled games due to weather cancellations
- On the radar; the better AYSA has done with including Johns Creek also brings the potential of no room for players to move up and play on the Fire League

B. AYBA – Mrs. Jurgens

- Spring registration begins tomorrow, November 15
- Discussion on raising fees next year; umpire fees continue to go up; they have not had a price increase in two years
- Updating their web site; including rules update for Dizzy Dean Tournament
- Their umpire group was at the October board meeting; discussed some rules for better clarification
- A vendor from Single Score came to demonstrate new technology that will allow control of a scoreboard by using an app on your phone; cost is \$599 per scoreboard but does not include installation; they offer good range, something to think about as old ones go out
- The association has several open board positions
- Concrete pads at Webb Bridge have been poured

- New plans for their spring opening day ceremony; moving date up to March 3rd and talks are going on about a parade in the park
- C. NAFA – Mr. Lusby
- The association now has two qualified candidates to replace Stephanie Butler
- D. NMML – Mrs. Beach
- Reminded the commission of the December 7 at 7:00pm presentation of the Christmas Carol at the Cobb Energy Center; let her know if you interested
 - There was a meeting with Mr. Rodgers, John McLaughlin, Michael Haynes and Mrs. Beach to discuss their 5 year strategic plan; meeting went well
- E. Ambush – Mr. Mitchell
- Wrapping up soccer with last practice on turf field this Thursday; starting placement of new turf on Friday

IX. SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT - KIM DODSON

- Update on History Room Museum; setting up all the displays; five eras, 3 audio areas and one video area; might hold a soft opening
- Working on 2018 event calendar; with all the new changes in downtown it takes a longer time to piece it all together
- Holiday light will go up next week

X. EQUESTRIAN REPORT – MATT CASEY

- Setting up this week for the GHJA, Georgia Hunter Jumper Association Local Finals Horseshow; begin arriving Wednesday and show starts Thursday and runs through Sunday, riders from all around the state compete for State Championship titles
- Over Thanksgiving weekend Equus Events will have 2 weeks of A Rated December Classics running thru December 17th ; final horseshow of 2017
- Continuing with clearing underbrush as needed; this is an ongoing project
- Staff added aggregate to roadways and barns and graded arenas for upcoming winter season

XI. PARK SERVICES REPORT – ERIC MILLEY

- Milton High had a senior day of service today at Wills Park Dog Park; they cleaned up the area and spread 40 yards of mulch in all 3 sections of the Dog Park
- Plans are to remove the bushes in front of the Community Center and create a little picnic/seating area just outside the gymnastics hallway
- North Fulton Rotary planted sixteen 2” caliper ball and burlap trees out at the Reflection Garden; 6 nuttall oaks, 5 dogwoods and 5 eastern redbuds
- Webb Bridge soccer field renovation will begin this Friday; estimated completion time is 6-8 weeks
- Main focus at Webb Bridge has been replenishing the walking trails and clearing all drains
- Waiting on purchase order for Tri-Scapes to rebuild 6 sections of the board walk by Wild Wings
- We are now responsible for the maintenance of Brookside Park pond; Downey Tree will be out to showcase a few of the specimen trees; this is where the department holds their annual Fishing Derby.

XII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MORGAN RODGERS

- As previously stated the replacement turf field project at Webb Bridge will begin later this week; after speaking with the vendor we decided to only have one logo on the field which will be the Ambush logo and place the City's logo on the windscreen
- Update on the farm at the Rucker Road property; we are holding two public hearings to allow residents in the area a chance to voice their concerns; these will be held November 28th and December 5th, more to follow
- Moving along rapidly with the Master Plan; staff will meet tomorrow with consultants from Jacob's Engineering to discuss funding for the masterplan; possible funding thru CIP or bond program so we can get a feel as to what's coming so the plan will be ready; plans are to take Master Plan to Mayor and City Council December 11th; staff will get a copy November 27th and will share with the commission; there will be no formal presentation to the commission
- Showed slides of some elements of the pool; would like to set up a hard hat tour of the pool site after Thanksgiving
- A representative from NRPA will make a formal presentation of the Gold Medal Finalist Plaque at the City Council meeting November 27th
- List of holiday fun activities were handed out to commission, along with 2018 dates for commission meetings
- Toby Smallwood and Mr. Rodgers prepared an agreement with Act1 Theater (community theater with actors working out of Alpharetta Presbyterian Church); the volunteer group needs storage so we will allow them to use the cells at Crabapple for storage, in return they will provide acting classes at the new art center; they also want to hold seven or eight plays at Brooke Street Park during the year

XIII. CITY COUNCIL REPORT – COUNCILMAN JASON BINDER

- City Council approved the development of the property where Matalida's now stands; part of the conditions is the property owner will donate the music venue structures to the city; now the city needs to locate an appropriate place for this structure, possible park location
- Excited with the development of the master plan; we can start planning for 2018
- In regards to capital projects and the master plan, he would like to focus on how to engage more people in their passion; we started an equestrian advisory group, what other groups do you see that are passionate that want to involve our parks and recreation
- The Greenway bond project it is still continuing, however it is a slow process with property access
- YMCA Community Center on the east side; productive meeting on how to have a community center on the east side; discussed making the teen center more of a community center, could use a liaison from the commission for this project
- Mrs. Schutt stated during the Master Plan discussions someone brought up the need for an open outdoor amphitheater; small intimate area about the size of Matilda's; commission members discussed the possibility of Union Hill and Brooke Street Park
- Discussed the potential of hosting civic dinners to discuss subject matters such as traffic, quality of life, things they are passionate about; we could start this in 2018 with a group of twelve
- Mr. Mitchell, Commission Chair, would like the commissioners to think of different ways of doing things; give thought about what we do, how we do it and how we can become more engaged and get more feedback from the public

XIV. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - NONE

XV. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Schutt. Second by Bill Lusby.
- All in favor. Motion carried
- Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm
- Next Commission meeting 12-12-2017 at **6:00pm**