



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2018

PUBLISHED

PUBLISHED BY: AMY RICKMAN

PHONE: 678-297-6102

WWW.ALPHARETTA.GA.US

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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: Sandy Barth, Shuntel Beach, Jamie Bendall, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Bill Lusby, Dennis Mitchell
- Commission absent: Jarrett Long
- City staff present: Director of Recreation & Parks Morgan Rodgers, Community Services Manager Amanda Musilli, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Project Manager Kurt Kirby, Recreation Services Manager Christine Young, Wills Park Manager Matt Casey; Marketing Coordinator Amy Rickman
- City Council: Jason Binder

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 12, 2017

- Motion by Jamie Bendall to approve the minutes of December 12, 2017 as written. Second by Bill Lusby
- No discussion
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS

None

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration Report – Dennis Mitchell:

- Wendi Schutt resigned from Commission effective January 2018
- New appointee Sandy Barth; Alpharetta resident since 1995
 - Background in integrative marketing and creative services; worked for advertising/marketing firms in Detroit, Chicago, Atlanta; own business last 15 years
 - Helped to launch Arts Alpharetta, group actively involved with new Arts Center
 - Hobbies: arts background, painting, sculpture, photography, horses
- Commission Restructure
 - Realignment to match new divisions; communicate through these areas
 - Keep relationships with partner associations; reengage with community

- Establish mid-month workshops – more time to discuss issues, interact regarding each other's areas, rework structure of meeting agenda
- February workshop to focus on making new appointments (divisions, associations)
- Members to provide reports from divisions and any relevant association news
- Encourage commission members to be at all grand openings and significant events

B. Parks Report

- None

C. Recreation Report

- None

D. Cultural Arts Report

- None

VII. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. AYSA – Jamie Bendall:

- 'Johnny Herron Way' road dedication at North Park February 24
- Shade structure is an ongoing issue; Eric working with original vendor to resolve

B. AYBA – Melissa Jurgens:

- Opening day March 3 at Wills Park; parade to start at 12pm between blocks of games
- Two new batting cages installed at Webb Bridge; turf on order
- New signage at two parks – letters or numbering to indicate specific park
- Registration ongoing; gifted \$500 from Kimberly Clarke to apply to scholarships
- Daniel Burkett selected as Secretary/Scheduler

C. NAFL – Bill Lusby:

- Discussion about open board positions to fill
- Spring Camps May 12 in conjunction with feeder programs
- Program at North Park on March 17
- Getting league directors in place along with coaches
- Working through rule changes with Forsyth organization

D. NMML – Shuntel Beach:

- Spring registration underway for participants and for volunteers, through March 17
- Fee: \$45; register online at website
- Morgan Rodgers meeting with John McLaughlin on development of MOU for additional programs
- Meeting with folks from Prism, work force non-profit to help folks with special needs transitioning into workplace; possibilities for concession operations at pool

E. Ambush – Dennis Mitchell:

- Practices going on; games starting soon
- Field dedication on March 10, 11:30am at Webb Bridge

VIII. CULTURAL ARTS / SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT

- No report

IX. WILLS PARK / EQUESTRIAN REPORT – MATT CASEY

- Restructuring, goals and vision of Wills Park Division
 - Translate experience and success at EC to entire park
 - Viewing Wills Park as a whole, versus three separate parks
 - Take what we have and improve upon it
 - Focus on bettering the park user's experience
 - Spruce up common areas, add benches, attention to most utilized areas
 - Master Plan for park to be developed
 - Engage with community groups to achieve goals for park
- Work plan status:
 - Opening day for baseball at Wills Park on March 3
 - Staff continuing to clear brush in under-utilized areas
 - Mulch added to common areas and entrances in coming weeks
 - Horse shows have been well attended
 - Staff working on leveling and adding footing materials to arenas
 - New Equestrian group being formed; report at next meeting

X. RECREATION SERVICES REPORT – CHRISTINE YOUNG

- Restructuring, goals and vision of Recreation Services Division
 - Provide quality programming that serves the diverse interests of our citizens
 - Monitor trends in industry; expand existing programs to include health/wellness, outdoor programs, pre-K, therapeutic recreation
 - Restructuring of staff; reassignment of supervision areas; relocation of programs
- Program highlights:
 - Youth basketball finals wrapped up; spring soccer practices begin
 - Spring session begins February 26 for most recreation programs
 - Alpharetta Gymnastics Academy achieved medals at recent competition
 - New aquatics instructor contract issued; pool set to open to public on May 26
 - Activation of Brooke St. Park; collaboration with YMCA to provide boot camps/yoga
 - Establish online registration for pavilion/tennis court rentals; evaluate rental fees

XI. PARK SERVICES REPORT – ERIC MILLEY

- Restructuring, goals and vision of Park Services Division
 - Get back to basics with facilities and common areas of parks
 - Realignment of weekend staffing for appropriate need
 - Extend community group service projects into other parks
 - Continued partnership with youth athletic associations for shared project funding
- Work plan status
 - Rock Mill – post flood clean up along trail; cutting back privet behind pavilion
 - Webb Bridge – pruning trees in parking lots, around playground; staining pavilion
 - North Park – installing new walkway for field 6 batting cages; ballfield maintenance in prep for opening day
 - Around town – pergolas painted by mid-March, weather permitting

XII. PROJECT MANAGEMENT REPORT – KURT KIRBY

- Restructuring, goals and vision of Project Management Division

- Phrase to live by – Keep the ball rolling!
- Vision – Ensure that all department projects progress through to completion
- No project is too big or too small; if something will impact the community in a positive way, then it is important
- Primary functions
 - City Works – oversight of city initiative; Parks, Public Works, Community Development; work order system, project tracking, resource management
 - Capital Projects – keeping director informed on progress of CIP; assuring department has input in project planning, development, and execution
 - Department Projects – keeping staff informed on progress of ongoing projects, and any recommendations for projects to pursue
 - Team Communication – involvement with all division managers to stay on track, get things accomplished in an efficient manner
 - Assist with finding a home for community involvement projects (scouts, etc.)
 - Upwards of 50 projects currently in the cue and being tracked

XIII. COMMUNITY SERVICES – AMANDA MUSILLI

- Excited to start work with the city on February 26
- Background – 15 years in event/community-based marketing; grassroots community organizer at heart; integrating marketing with the community is a passion and purpose
- Involvement with relocating educational farm to Alpharetta
- Has a vision and will be developing goals to share at a later meeting

XIV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – MORGAN RODGERS

- General Information (meeting handout attached)
 - Activation plan for Brooke Street Park
 - Historical Society's report on use of Mansell House
 - MOU with YMCA for free exercise programs at parks
 - Program cancellation policy due to inclement weather; recommended adaptation
- Important dates:
 - Wed, Feb 21 - City Council meeting; Master Plan Update on agenda for approval
 - Sat, Feb 24 - Johnny Herron Way dedication at North Park; first day of softball
 - Sat, March 10 - Webb Bridge Park new turf field dedication
- Letter of appreciation for staff member Tyler Spinnenweber
- 'Have You Had Your Fun Today?' (presentation attached)
 - Six guiding principles
 - Review of department reorganization with six divisions
 - Look Good; Be Cool; Have FUN!
- Miscellany program update (presentation attached)
- Tours set up to see the bones of ongoing projects (pool, arts center, educational farm)

XV. CITY COUNCIL REPORT – JASON BINDER

- Love to refer to 'People, Ideas, and Systems' in that priority
- Excited about organizational changes and fresh focus of department and commission
- Welcome to new Commissioner Sandy Barth; excited to welcome aboard
- Council Retreat discussions:
 - Approval of Recreation and Parks Master Plan; on council agenda Feb 21

- Focus on Wills Park/Equestrian Center as gems of Alpharetta and North Fulton
- Support to create and fund Master Plans for Wills Park and Equestrian Center
- One of bond initiatives – performing arts center as smaller venue for concerts; initial IOI sent out, no proposals received; second one to be sent; based on response, stay tuned
- City of Milton has new council members; developing their Master Plan; share notes on their needs/plans; how to work together to develop additional opportunities for partnerships
- Mayor Belle Isle’s state of city and farewell address; mid-year election for new mayor/council members; refer to James Drinkard memo regarding date for board resignation if seeking to run for council seat

XVI. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS

- Guest introductions:
 - Jodie Gilfillan, Director of City of Chamblee Recreation and Parks
 - Chamblee Recreation Advisory Committee members; observing meeting format
 - Cheryl Sims invited to be part of Equestrian Advisory group; notification that formation of 501c Equestrian Foundation is in process
- Commissioner comments:
 - Kevin Johnson appreciative of the new risers in gym at community center and opportunity for son to participate in basketball this year

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Bill Lusby. Second by Shuntel Beach
- All in favor. Motion carried
- Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm
- Next Commission meeting 3-13-2018 at **7:00pm**