RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
MEETING OF MARCH 13, 2018

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I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Sandy Barth, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Jarrett Long, Bill Lusby, Dennis Mitchell
- Commission absent: Shuntel Beach
- City staff present: Director of Recreation Parks & Cultural Services Morgan Rodgers, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Wills Park/Equestrian Manager Matt Casey, Office Manager Alice Smith, Project Manager Kurt Kirby, Recreation Services Manager Christine Young, Cultural Arts Manager Kim Dodson, Community Services Manager Amanda Musilli, Recreation & Parks Supervisor II Steve Ciaccio
- City Council: Jason Binder

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2018

- Motion by Bill Lusby to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018 as written. Second by Sandy Barth.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Picnic Shelter Rental Fees – Christine Young

- Requesting the increase in pavilion rental fees; mainly looking at the small, medium and large pavilions at Wills Park
- After comparing prices with other areas around we are lower
- Staff would like to increase the hourly rental prices for city residents as follows: small pavilion $15, medium $20 and large $50; all with a minimum of 2 hour rental
- The non-resident fee will be 50% of the resident rental fee
- Our plan is to have online pavilion rentals available in ActiveNet next month
- Mr. Lusby made a motion to accept the increase in rental fees. Second by Mr. Long.

- **All in favor. Motion carried**

B. Mr. Mitchell reported Commissioner Jamie Bendall stepped down to be a member of the Planning Commission

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Equestrian Advisory Group – Matt Casey

- Mr. Casey reported an advisory group was formed; their main focus is on the masterplan for the Equestrian Center
- This group is comprised of four city residents; Jarrett Long will be the liaison for Wills Park and Equestrian Center, Jamie Bendall will also continue as part of the advisory group; there are also two non-residents who are part of the equine community giving us a total of six members
- Members will be introduced to the commission in the near future; the group will make recommendations to the commission during the monthly scheduled meetings
- Mr. Rodgers wanted to make sure everyone understood there are two different groups; one is the advisory group and the second is the foundation group, which will help raise money for the center; however it takes longer to form this group through the state
- Funds were approved mid-year to move forward with a Master Plan for Wills Park and the Equestrian Center; staff is requesting Jacobs Engineering as the vendor since they are familiar with the parks and worked on previous department master plans

B. Webb Bridge Park Soccer Field Opening – Steve Ciaccio

- Mr. Ciaccio would like to propose we treat the new soccer turf field a little differently to help protect the city's half million investment
- We do rent other fields and tennis courts however, staff would like to minimize the rental of this particular field to preserve it; limit rentals to those that would have a substantial financial impact to the city suchhas those we might get through the CVB; right now the field can be rented to organized groups and partnered associations
- Webb Bridge Park Turf Field Rules & Restrictions sign is posted at the field; states access by park permit only, field is locked unless used by city programs or Ambush
- Mr. Rodgers mentioned the email (also sent to commissioners) he received from Mr. Prantl regarding use of the soccer field for pickup soccer games
- We have other rectangle fields; two turf at North Park, one turf and one grass field at Webb Bridge Park and grass field at Windward
- Mr. Prantl, resident of Johns Creek and an avid soccer player, has participated in pickup games at WBP and now they are not allowed to use the new turf field; he feels it is a public park and therefore should be open to the public
- There are alternate fields they could use but he felt they are too far away
- Question was raised asking the percentage Ambush paid towards the new turf field; Mr Rodgers replied it was a small percentage; we have an agreement with them to run the select and travel leagues

- Mr. Mitchell would like to take this to the workshop for discussion and invited Mr. Prantl and his group
- On another note, Mr. Lusby stated he met with Cara Prell (Health & Wellness) to discuss family biking and cycling; Bike Alpharetta will host 4 rides in the Fall on the greenway; she will help promote the beginners bike ride held the first Wednesday of the month

VII. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. Alpharetta Youth Baseball Association had a great opening day and parade through the park

B. Ambush – Thanks to everyone involved in the opening/ribbon cutting for the new turf soccer field last Saturday

VIII. REPORTS

A. Divisions

1. Community Services - Amanda Musilli

- Beginning April 10 and running through October 13th, programs and concerts will be offered at Brooke Street Park; such as Yoga, YMCA Fitness Classes, Alpharetta Chorus, Act 1 Performances, Symphony and Band, and Home by Dark concert series
- Food Truck Alley starts back April 19 and will run every Thursday through October 11; music entertainment will be booked by Mary Jane of Matilda's
- Taste of Alpharetta is May 3rd, we have 59 confirmed restaurants (64 is the max)
- Marketing begins this week for Alpharetta Arts Street Festival held Memorial Day Weekend; all artists are booked and you can view the listing on the city's website under Special Events
- Alpharetta Farm Park is a designated GNPS Wildlife Habitat Restoration Site; this small pollinator garden was designed and will be installed later this summer by community residents
- We are really excited about the formation of a Community Advisory Group; we have nine residents who have been engaged since the beginning; they have already received donated plants

2. Wills Park and Equestrian Center – Matt Casey

- We added some new windscreens at the park, along with hardscapes
- Mulch was added around trees and plantings; did some upgrades to the bathrooms; tennis courts were pressured washed; continuing to remove privet throughout the park
- There will be a horseshow and dog show at the park this weekend

3. Recreation Services – Christine Young

- Water features came in this week for the pool; pool is scheduled to open on time and we are working on a plan for our opening day ceremony
- Reviewing ways of running the pool concession
- Offering two new programs at the pool; Merkids and Log Rolling

- Pickleball for seniors is very popular and staff wants to expand the program with leagues and tournaments
- Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for March 24th at North Park
- Spring programs are up and running; we have a new event "Kite Day at the Park", scheduled for May 16

- **Project Management – Kurt Kirby**
- There are 74 days remaining for the pool grand-opening, construction will finish mid-April
- Art Center - shout out to Toby Smallwood for his leadership and vision; in the next couple of weeks you will see the center take off
- Educational Farm - we are at the point of finishing the first phase; the main structure is up and all the material came from Whole Foods; working with the neighbors to construct a fence
- Coming up – renovate the fencing at Mansell House

- **Park Services – Eric Milley**
- Working on replacement shade structures at North Park; hope to have written quotes by the end of the week; shade structures caved in under the snow storm
- Another project will be enhancing the park entrances at both North Park and Webb Bridge Park with new signage, fencing and plantings
- Arbor Day was last Saturday; we had around 30 volunteers at Webb Bridge Park and they planted about 100 saplings; mix of Dogwoods, White Oaks and Redbuds
- At the farm we have about 50 Japanese Maples; some were spaded and planted at Wills Park and North Park
- We have an Eagle Scout who is rebuilding the picnic tables with recycled lumber and redo the pergolas at Brookside pond, (city property where the fishing derby is held)

4. Cultural Services – Kim Zane
- History Room update; logo will be placed on the door frosted windows; grand opening will be a soft opening around the 3rd week in April for those that contributed to the museum; added a story area with 75-80 videos of people that lived in Alpharetta telling their story
- Art Center is running ahead of schedule; finishing June 4 instead of June 20
- We have a beautiful gallery space; we created movable walls to use for displays and they are permanent

B. Director
- At the last Council meeting our department name was changed to "Recreation, Parks and Cultural Services"

C. City Council
- Working on the budget; should have news next month
- "Indication of Interest" went out for the Performing Arts Center which is part of the parks bond money

IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS -None

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Lusby. Second by Mrs. Jurgens
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm
- Next Commission meeting April 10, 2018 at 7:00pm