



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 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, Shuntel Beach, Kevin Johnson, Jarrett Long, Bill Lusby, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand
- Commission absent: Melissa Jurgens
- City staff present: Director of Recreation Parks & Cultural Services Morgan Rodgers, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Wills Park/Equestrian Manager Matt Casey, Project Manager Kurt Kirby, Cultural Arts Manager Kim Dodson, Community Services Manager Amanda Musilli, Administrative Assistant II Amy Rickman
- City Council: Jason Binder, Ben Burnett

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2018

- Motion by Bill Lusby to approve the minutes of July 10, 2018 as written. Second by Kevin Johnson.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. None

VII. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. **Ambush** – no report
- B. **AYBA** – no report
- C. **AYSA** – no report
- D. **NMML** – sign ups through August 24

VIII. REPORTS

A. Divisions

1. Community Services - Amanda Musilli

- Upcoming Community Events:
 - Mayor's Corporate Challenge 5K – August 23
 - Grilling and Gridiron – September 8
 - European Market – September 15-16
 - Iron Kids Triathlon – September 15-16
 - Scarecrow Harvest & Brew Moon – September 29
 - Located in Brooke Street Park this year; offers safety for attendees, many of whom are children
 - No need to close Milton Avenue
 - Saves resources (time, money)
 - Atlanta International Night Market – October 5-7
 - Wire & Wood – October 12-13
 - Restless in Resthaven – October 20-21
 - Season of Celebration – December 1 and December 8
- Department Marketing:
 - Program-specific fun guides for Athletics and Community Center are now out; Wellness Program is in production. Early registration is open; general registration opens August 15
 - Interviewing four candidates for the part-time Marketing Coordinator position this week; excited to welcome someone new to team
- Community Outreach:
 - Downtown Business Leaders – Host monthly meeting, in partnership with Economic Development. Created a working committee to discuss and collaborate on downtown events, solve waste issues. Creates clear way to communicate directly with downtown business owners
 - Holiday Events Planning – Invited downtown faith-based leaders to share ideas on holiday events and how to best celebrate Alpharetta's diversity. Group has met twice and been instrumental in developing concept for 2018 holiday celebration
- Alpharetta Community Agriculture:
 - YMCA Volunteer Day – September 14-15, 9am-1pm; 50 volunteers daily
 - Community Input Event at Farm – August 18, 9am-10am
 - Park/Farm Planning Process
 - Input from advisory group – March-August
 - Two community input events – July, August
 - Meeting with landscape architect, develop concepts – August
 - Community meetings to present concepts, gather feedback – September
 - Plans for Recreation Commission review – October

2. Recreation Services - reported by Amanda Musilli

- Fall instructional programs begin week of August 20 at the Community Center

- Registration is open for Adult Leagues (softball, basketball) and Youth Recreational Basketball
- Wills Park Pool open weekends through September 23; plus event September 29
- Kristen Liggett, Recreation Coordinator, will be assuming the position of Athletics Supervisor at Wills Park Recreation Center starting week of August 20
- Upcoming Recreation Events:
 - 20th annual Touch-a-Truck, August 18, 10am-2pm, Wills Park
 - Team ARPCS, the FUN team, will be running/walking in Mayors Challenge with 22 staff members and family participating to encourage health/wellness
 - Drool in the Pool, September 29, 3pm-5pm; bring your pup!

3. Cultural Services – Kim Zane

- Art Center:
 - Final punch list went well; generally lots of smaller items
 - Fire Marshall inspection – some larger items concerning handrails, entry points to Arts Center, handicapped parking. Architect is working on this with the Fire Marshall. Additional costs associated with these items
 - Parking – working on options
 - City staff can enter building; not open to public yet
 - Furniture delivery on week of August 20
 - Classes begin September 4, hopefully at Arts Center; back up plan in place
 - First lecture on September 18 – Photography
 - Cheryl – Will art programs still occur at the Adult Activity Center?
 - Kim – Yes, we will continue to offer programs at both
- Art Leader Groups:
 - Meeting with groups to work on MOU's, partnerships, or general involvement
 - City Band, Act1 Theater, Symphony, Arts Guild, Chorus, National Arts Honor Society at Alpharetta High School
- History Update:
 - Alpharetta History Museum
 - Tours – Historical Society docents have given approximately two tours per week, including evenings and weekends
 - Story Station/Filming – Met with producer; working on interviews and filming focus for this fiscal year
 - Historical Markers – all new markers installed; working on new brochure with Alpharetta Convention and Visitor Bureau
 - Goats arrived and ate the green foliage but did not like the non-green sticks; working on ways to clean out more underbrush
- Play Me Again Pianos:
 - Four pianos installed to date

- Located a baby grand for the arts center; to be delivered to Crabapple for prep; requesting proposals from individuals and community arts groups
- Music Plan:
 - Our music partner, Lee J. Howard, brought in our first pop-up music; world class guitarist Stephanie Wrembel with gypsy jazz

4. Wills Park and Equestrian Center – Matt Casey

- Wills Park:
 - Continue to work on underbrush in park; assisted by 40 hungry goats! Identifying other areas in park to utilize goats in the future
 - Staff has done a great job addressing issues along walking trail; washout areas restored and sod planted around facility
 - Tree canopy raised near upper fields and event lawn; allows activation of shaded area with seating for park users
 - Walking trail between fields 7-8 will reopen this week, following repairs to broken storm water basin. Allows basin to function properly and slow down water or disperse where needed
- Equestrian Center:
 - Very busy over last month; two large horseshows to finish up August
 - Putting final preparations on 2019 schedule; ready by end of month
 - Dennis – What constitutes a ‘large show’?
 - Matt – 200 or more competitors

5. Project Management – Kurt Kirby

- North Park Improvements:
 - Turf field replacement – first bid advertisement this week; anticipated completion by February 1, 2019
 - Tennis court resurfacing – currently getting quotes; possibly incorporate pickleball courts in resurfacing project
 - Dugout covers for Fields 5-8 in the works
- Greenway:
 - More boardwalk repairs completed around Mansell Road area
 - Sinkhole below the YMCA; assessment complete and being reviewed by city engineers
 - Jarrett – Will this be an ongoing repair issue, or require rerouting trail?
 - Kurt – Bigger project looking at overall sinkhole, underground springs; bank restoration project in the works
- Webb Bridge Park:
 - Netting around two baseball fields to be replaced
- Wills Park:
 - Two park swings on order; to be placed near Wacky World and t-ball areas
 - Looking at this model to place at other parks as well

6. Park Services – Eric Milley

- Webb Bridge Park:

- Upper soccer field sodded; approximately 16,000 square feet
 - Enhanced entrance to park
- Rock Mill:
 - Several boardwalk repairs made near Wild Wings
- North Park:
 - Removed old block shed behind Adult Activity Center; plan to grade/mulch area
 - Enhancing both park entrances in next few months, with volunteer group
- Brooke Street Park:
 - Getting prices to replace all dead trees/shrubs; by end of September

B. Director

- Wills Park Master Plan
 - Process – public input meetings, gathered ideas into concepts, shared online, not presented well as ‘concepts’ versus plans
 - 1625 comments in online surveys
 - Could have given three ideas or option to create own version
 - Developing new draft of conceptual ideas for folks to have input and additional meetings; for prior review by commission members
- Equestrian Center Master Plan is on pause until park master plan complete
- Northside Hospital \$150,000 over 3 years with sponsorship plan; conversations with community group now
- Two additional promotions: Cara Prell (Aquatics/Wellness Supervisor), Carlo Maignan (Crew Leader at Rock Mill/ Greenway)
- Electric bicycles advertised as being able to do tours on greenway. Company notified that motorized vehicles not permitted on the greenway trail. Conferred first with city officials and Public Safety
- Propose taking lightening detector funds to install call boxes in secluded places along trail. Plan to install at Webb Bridge and at North Park, with call going directly to Alpharetta 911. Lightening/thunderstorm apps available to coaches at fields which is more efficient
- Four Little Free Libraries built, to be placed at Community Center, Wacky World, North Park playground, Cogburn Park. Have to be certified to operate little free libraries which are registered, tracked, and looked at weekly to ensure no inappropriate materials
- Monday night workshop at city council with locations and plan for events through 2020; decisions for how events are impacted and why moved
- Touch-a-Truck approached by North Point Mall to move event there since we are outgrowing space and parking at Wills Park
- Upcoming park performances: Alpharetta City Band at Brooke Street Park, Shakespeare in the Park at Wills Park

C. City Council

- Agenda

- Adjusted budgets with increase for parks
- Look at activating passive park opportunities: Mid-Broadwell, Windward, Kimball Bridge and Waters
- Sponsorship with Northside Hospital to fall within department's current sponsorship policy in order to remain fair for other groups
- Go through commission for plans and changes with events, as impacted by construction and changing downtown landscape
- Tours of capital project plans, for commission to prioritize items for budget planning process
- Wills Park Master Plan: Based on what we heard through survey, develop a more community driven plan, communicate with public for planning schedule, host online place for public to comment, hold a commission workshop before public meeting, all scheduled before Council workshop
- Kevin – Inquiry about policy change dynamics related to Old Soldiers Day Parade. Was city attorney consulted?
- Jason:
 - Yes, attorney and staff worked together to draft policy; reviewed with partners; participants complied; public exercised right to protest
 - Confederate flag not allowed in the parade last year either, but compliance not followed by all participants. This year staff addressed issue up front with participants, who agreed to abide by policy
 - Public exercised their right to protest this policy by flying confederate flag after parade
- Discussion about moving forward with policies for events as related to community diversity and inclusion; how to communicate better with public and partners
- Introduced Councilman Ben Burnett, former commission member
- Ben – Residents are passionate about the park system and supportive of it

IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- No comments
- Bill Lusby – Honda Power Systems (Marconi) recognized as bike-friendly business. Amanda Clay sent Bike Friendly Community application this week; notification in November

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Shuntel Beach.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm
- Next Commission meeting: September 11, 2018 at 7:00pm