



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF DECEMBER 11, 2018

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Dennis Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Sandy Barth, Shuntel Beach, Dana Davis, Melissa Jurgens, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand
- Commission absent: Bill Lusby , Kevin Johnson
- 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, Recreation Services Manager Christine Young, Administrative Assistant II Amy Rickman
- City Council: Jason Binder

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2018

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

V. OLD BUSINESS

- A. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A. To be addressed at the next meeting

VII. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

- A. AYSA – no report

- B. AYBA – Dave McMinn

- 1369 kids played baseball in 2018

- Down approx. 9% from 2017, primarily due to:
 - i. New 'dad' travel leagues
 - ii. Ocee Park now without non-resident fee; lose some of younger children due to convenience of location
 - iii. Lacrosse draws about 30-40 children seasonally
 - iv. Summer family vacations
- Parent survey satisfaction results up 4.5% in 2018:
 - i. Spring and fall surveys
 - ii. Questions include head coach evaluation, ability to improve player skills, treating all players fairly, etc.
 - iii. Survey comments expressed thanks for investing in coaches training
- 2018 Accomplishments:
 - i. Changed out three scoreboards at Wills Park
 - ii. New sidewalk to batting pavilion
 - iii. Opening Day Celebration; most successful with 1000+ attendees; parade, vendors, bouncy house, fun activities
 - iv. New AYBA branded uniforms
 - v. Social media growth continues; seeking board member to coordinate
- 2019 Desired Projects:
 - i. Cover for spectator seating areas (fields 2, 7, 8)
 - ii. Safety netting (fields 1,4) to contain foul balls from hitting trail users
 - iii. Batting cages and bull pens (field 6)
 - iv. Upgrade scoreboards, field improvements at Webb Bridge Park
- Travel Program highlights
 - i. Bombers program had 107 perfect-game tournament wins; ranked #10 in country from over 1300 travel programs
 - ii. Switch to Georgia Grand Slam offered more benefits, including evaluations, coach/player clinics, annual field cleaning, use of indoor facility for meetings and for practice during extreme rainy season
- Special appreciation to staff for field maintenance to keep play going
- Morgan, in reply to commission question – Fencing replacement is responsibility of city; netting replacement or additions are joint responsibility between city and associations

C. NAFL – no report

D. NMML – John McLaughlin

- Miracle League continues to grow with eight different programs offered
- NMML is about changing the social architecture of our community
- Enlist assistance of high school, middle school, faith-based volunteers to be architects and engineers in this quest
- Provide 5000+ hours of community service annually
- Volunteers buddy up with the athletes; they also take experience with them back to schools to help create a more inclusive environment
- Softball expanded this year; 340 athletes ranging from 4-93 years of age

- Program growth was done strategically to meet mission of NMML
- Summer camps include assistance and care givers to help folks participate without restrictions regarding self-care; 23 special education teachers involved
- NMML program celebrates 20 years in February
- Special Olympic Travel program had two teams who medaled this year
- Battle on the Border competition between NMML and South Forsyth Loose Cannons
- Through partnerships, will continue to come up with resources and ideas for new programs and blended activities
- Seeking mer-buddies for swimmers program at the YMCA!
- Plans to build birdhouses this winter at Adult Activity Center woodshop
- Growing Together – to blend in special needs students in overall agriculture program with high schools
- Continue to utilize existing facilities and resources as available
- Offer programs/opportunities geared to whole family, not just special needs child; crisis/suicide intervention offered; reinforce family support clusters
- NMML remains focused and committed to serving unmet needs and make a difference in family lives
- Thank you for investing in NMML's mission and purpose

E. Ambush – Doug Yearwood

- Club structure remains the same with board of five directors
- Administration run by Mr. Yearwood; staff of 13 head coaches
- Three A-license coaches, licensed and experienced coaches with two-ten years tenure
- Improving safety awareness; extensive coaches safety training; all coaches are CPR/First Aid certified; attending first responder training at hospital
- Health of club involves maintaining level of teams due to field limitations
- 43 teams with 615 travel-select soccer participants (rec soccer is additional)
- All teams compliant with city residency requirements; club averages 60%
- Residency policy is biggest threat to club over the years
- Financially very stable; maintained fees for 4th year; competitive coaches pay
- Contributed \$15,000+ towards improvements at Webb Bridge facilities
- To strengthen relationship with Bridgeway, purchased new goals for facility
- Points of Pride:
 - i. Fall Charity Drive – NDD.org support included \$4250 t-shirt sales donation, and 'no distracted drivers' workshop and presentation
 - ii. Code of Ethics – drives sideline behavior; referee abuse-free zone; signage/flyer to explain code, with Georgia State Soccer consequences
- Capital Requests:
 - i. Appreciation for improvements this past year at Webb Bridge Park

- ii. Parking is an ongoing issue, along with speed in parking lots; consider speed bumps, educating parents for child pick-up protocol
 - iii. Upper grass field an issue when rainy weather turns it into mud; seeking solutions to consider to alleviate inability to use property during extensive periods of year
 - iv. Stadium behind Old Milton School; hopeful to get back into this facility
- Soccer popularity in Atlanta high right now with Atlanta United!
- Dynamics and diversity of our community, coupled with local soccer popularity will increase participation interest
- Consider residency policy impacts and spacing; not to grow club but to continue to add value to our programs

F. Alpharetta Golden Age Club – Tom Eisworth

- Urge department to seek ways to highlight impacts each of these associations provide for our youth, seniors and community, in partnership with the city
- AGA is a 'Friends Of' group at the center; has existed since center's inception
- Funding secured for club over next four years for center projects
- AGA sponsors events, partners with city on events, and hosts member events
- Compared to other area senior centers, our center is a gem, comfortable, home-like, mostly free activities
- Kudos to center staff for variety of programs and efficient operations
- Facility plans with outdoor pickleball courts are appreciated
- In regards to opening another senior center in town, suggestion is to take what we have and build upon it, add to staffing and resources, rather than adding a new center

G. Arts Alpharetta – visual presentation; Ben Hollingsworth

- Arts Alpharetta organization started three years ago
- Appreciation for city's reorganization to include Cultural Services component
- Arts Alpharetta is dedicated to working with artists and local partnerships to advance Alpharetta as a cultural arts destination; city has enhanced that mission through its commitment and support
- Board members contributed almost 1300 hours of volunteer time
- Arts Project Involvement:
 - i. Instruments of Inspiration (permanent) and Miscellany (temporary)
 - ii. Play Me Again Pianos – recruited/coordinated artists to paint pianos
 - iii. Biggest accomplishment was involvement with Arts Center opening; included yarn bombing and interior lights to let people know it was there before construction even began
- Arts Alpharetta is an umbrella organization for arts-oriented non-profit groups in Alpharetta; grow awareness; work together on performances, grants, space, cross-promotions, etc.
- Member groups include:
 - i. Act 1 Theater – 23 years of performances; expanded into parks

- ii. Alpha Arts Guild – group of artists; provide exhibits, workshops
 - iii. Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra – seeking place to perform
 - iv. Alpharetta Community Chorus
 - v. Alpharetta City Band
 - vi. The Lionheart School
 - vii. Metropolitan Ballet Theater
 - viii. Georgia Nature Photographers Association – newest group
 - ix. Just received a grant from city; funds to be disbursed this month
- Plans for 2019
 - i. Awareness and growth for center; coordinate gallery artists
 - ii. Develop high-tech media lab; seek ways to equip
 - iii. Attract leading professional artists, performers, speakers
 - iv. Create art-oriented park along Thompson Street, and second phase of public sculpture/art project in Brooke Street Park
 - v. Business partnerships and sponsorships; develop relationships with city's arts-related non-profits
 - vi. Partnership with Fulton County's new STEM school to activate their auditorium and provide art education at center for their students
- Appreciation to city for support of arts and culture
- Arts Alpharetta – provide and enhance cultural experience for citizens through public art, umbrella groups, art center

VIII. REPORTS

A. Divisions – Written reports

1. Community Services - Amanda Musilli

- Community Events:
 - Season of Celebration
 - December 8 event canceled due to ominous weather forecast
 - For two events, raised \$17,500 in sponsorships; some to be refunded due to cancelation of second event
 - Nutcrackers are on display and garnering a lot of attention
 - Food Drive
 - Publix Supermarket food drive display
 - Finale planned for December 21 from 2pm-5pm
- Alpharetta Community Agriculture:
 - Farm Committee year-end meeting held on December 5 at 8am; five new advisory board members have joined
 - Alpharetta's Community Recreational Agriculture program
 - Nominated to be one of four highlighted cities developing community agriculture programs
 - Alpharetta, Lovejoy, Atlanta, Decatur will each have a profile story written about their approach to incorporating agriculture into their community; used as models for cities looking to do the same

- Our program invited to apply for technical, mentoring support in further developing our community recreational agriculture plan
- Support to come from Food Well Alliance and Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC); includes hosting a Community Food Forum in Alpharetta in January/February 2019; no money from or to city
- Community Garden Program
 - Ready to launch this month; registration starting December 14 (residents) and December 21 (non-residents)
 - Program will launch with 12 raised beds at Old Rucker Park farm

2. Recreation Services – Christine Young

- Athletics:
 - Youth recreational soccer registration ongoing
- Recreation Programs:
 - Winter session of classes underway
- Active Adults:
 - Variety of holiday trips and activities
- Holiday Events:
 - Pet Photos with Santa Claws moved indoors due to weather
 - Santa's Mailbox through December 14, Community Center
 - Jolly Jingle Jam, December 14, Community Center, ages 2-5
 - Grinchmas Party, December 15, Community Center, ages 5-10

3. Cultural Services – Kim Zane

- Art Center Update:
 - Arts and Culture Spring Guide in development
 - Outdoor reading nook under the tree
 - Joe Dreher exhibit
 - Artist reception planned for a Saturday in January 2019
 - Un-Silent Night event
 - Postponed until December 2019
- Art Leader Groups:
 - Meeting with groups to work on partnerships
 - Working on an MOU with Arts Alpharetta
 - Arts Alpharetta received check for art leader groups and will distribute funds before end of year
- History Update:
 - Black History Month
 - Working with marketing to give historical photos, details to release throughout the month
 - Historical Markers
 - Pineview Cemetery marker installed a few weeks ago; holiday spray on the marker

- Wreaths Across America Program, Saturday December 15, 11am; organized by Pineview Cemetery Committee and St. James United Methodist Church
- Music Strategy:
 - Alpharetta Music Scene Strategy
 - First draft edited; will present to Commission in early 2019
- Public Art:
 - Sculptures
 - Gregory sculpture to be installed at City Center, hopefully by end of month or early January
 - Murals
 - Alpharetta High School National Honors students to work with Arts Alpharetta on a proposal to paint wall on Marietta Street; more information to be presented to Commission in early 2019

4. Wills Park and Equestrian Center – Matt Casey

- Wills Park:
 - Recreation Center wall restoration project to start late December and be completed by end of year. Adding awning, retaining wall, and minor landscaping to improve area
 - Staff clearing underbrush visible from Old Milton surrounding the dog park; goal is to tie into area cleared beside community center
- Equestrian Center:
 - Second week of Equus Events Holiday Classic starts this week and runs through the weekend; last event of 2018

5. Project Management – Kurt Kirby

- North Park:
 - Turf Field 1 replacement work to begin today
- Call Boxes in parks:
 - Boxes delivered; waiting on work schedule for installation
- Mansell House:
 - Pavers project completed in November
 - New sign in production

6. Park Services – Eric Milley

- North Park:
 - Large magnolias installed at Cogburn Road entrance to park
 - Scheduling for painting of exterior of tennis court restrooms
- Mid-Broadwell property:
 - Tree work being scheduled

B. Director Update – Morgan Rodgers

- Managers written reports will be included in December meeting minutes

C. City Council – Jason Binder

- 2018 Accomplishment Highlights – Pool, Arts Center, Community Farm
- 2019 Projects:
 - i. Special needs programs at Crabapple
 - ii. More Parks Without Borders programs
 - iii. Enhanced engagement of 'Friends Of Equestrian Center' group
- Expression of pride for this group of Community Builders!

IX. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

A. None

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Sandy Barth.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 7:15pm
- Next Commission meeting: January 8, 2019 at 7:00pm