



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF MARCH 12, 2019

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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, Dana Davis, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Bill Lusby, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand
- Commission absent: Shuntel Beach
- City staff present: Director of Recreation Parks & Cultural Services Morgan Rodgers, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Project Manager Kurt Kirby, Cultural Arts Manager Kim Zane, Recreation Services Manager Christine Young, Administrative Assistant II Amy Rickman
- City Council:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF February 12, 2019

- Motion by Cheryl Rand to approve the minutes of February 12, 2019 as written.
Second by Melissa Jurgens.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS

- None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- None

VII. REPORTS

A. Divisions:

1. Cultural Services – Kim Zane

- New Cultural Arts Coordinator to start around March 25
- Arts Center:
 - Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce After Hours March 14, 5:30-7pm; marketing awareness event
 - Parking overflow available through relationship with Alpharetta Elementary School; only a .3 mile walk to center
 - 2019 Exhibits Calendar is finalized for Arts Center Gallery
 - Deanna Sirlin Exhibit show was a success! Artist Talk will be held on Friday, April 26 at 12pm
- AMPS – Alpharetta Music Project Strategy:
 - Strategy is to bring music to Alpharetta through different levels: learning, listening, experiencing in a variety of ways
 - TRAP Teacher Training – Fri/Sat, March 15-16 at Arts Center; participants will be from Lionheart and Miracle League; training to teach rhythmic drumming to persons of all ages with special needs; learning to speak, count, and develop other skills through drumming experience
 - Teachers will be certified in the TRAP drumming program; they will teach a music special needs program in the summer or fall
- Public Art:
 - Mural proposal – Arts Alpharetta recommendations, city process
 - Sculpture Tour – Arts Alpharetta working on new sculptures; current ones are for sale
 - Jazz Sculpture, Gregory Johnson – coordinating with Cheri Morris
- History Update:
 - Historical Society met with potential developer who wants to preserve our local history; interested in the property where old school is located
 - Bailey-Johnson School is a Fulton County building on Kimball Bridge Rd; currently used as a school system maintenance facility (moving out soon); was first African-American school in the area
 - Nearby is St. James United Methodist Church / Pineview Cemetery
 - Farm House, Alpharetta's original settlement c. 1830
 - Underbrush at site scheduled to be cleared; currently completing a metal detecting survey of area
 - Filming a short info documentary on site: What is Farmhouse?
 - Found 1912 date mark on wall from old dam structure
 - Museum; Stories Station Interviews
 - Filming approx. 10 interviews in 2019 to record local history
 - 70 stories currently in Alpharetta Collection; link: <https://vimeopro.com/mjmpro/alpharetta-historical-society>
 - Museum Docent Tours average about 4/month; please express your appreciation to the Historical Society for their volunteer time

2. Park Services – Eric Milley

- Webb Bridge Park:

- Public Works working on parking lot and roadway drainage
- Scoreboards replaced; upgraded to LED's
- Clean-up Day held with Young Men's Service League, Natural Resources Commission, and Boy Scouts; cleaned up debris in woods on the left after entering park
- City Center:
 - Replacing arboretum trees
 - Interactive fountain is now operational
 - Data-Scan donated and planted 50 trees behind city hall and in grassy area by Publix
- North Park:
 - Repairing all backstop fencing on fields 1-4 and 5
- Rock Mill Park and Greenway:
 - Crew working hard to keep the trails open and cleared
 - Frequent rains and flood waters have affected the trails

3. Recreation Services – Christine Young

- Athletics:
 - AYBA and Ambush Soccer opening days held at the parks on March 2
 - AYSA opening day was delayed due to heavier rains at North Park
 - First youth athletics meeting held on March 7 with Youth Athletic League Associations and Ambush Soccer; Dennis Mitchell was in attendance; reviewed annual facility use agreements, covered field usage, schedules, and events; plan to make this an annual meeting
 - Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB) representative invited to attend youth athletic meeting to discuss partnership with City to bring business to area through athletic tournaments hosted by various organizations
- Summer Programs:
 - Registration now open for City of Alpharetta residents; opens March 20 for non-residents
 - Summer Kick-off event scheduled for April 27, 2-4pm, Wills Park Pool parking lot; instructors and youth associations available to showcase what activities are available
- Health and Wellness Program:
 - Establishing a walking program, with availability of destination walks and one-mile walking loops
 - Free fitness classes start in April at Brooke Street Park and Garden
 - Free monthly workshops being planned for parents; possibly to be held at the schools; topics might include healthy eating, sports injury prevention
 - Website calendar in development for fitness programs
 - Northside logo will be placed on all promotions, give away items, etc.
- Upcoming Events:
 - Alpharetta's Got Talent, April 11, 2pm Adult Activity Center
 - Kite Day, April 14, 2pm, Equestrian Center Open Field

- Yo-Glo in the Park, April 16, 7:45pm, Community Center Event Lawn
- Division Update:
 - Customer Service staff training held March 10; 35 staff in attendance
 - Striving to offer consistency in customer service experience
 - Provided tools for conflict resolution

4. Wills Park and Equestrian Center – Kurt Kirby for Matt Casey

- Wills Park:
 - Opening Day for AYBA on March 2 was a success!
 - Barry Pike and Wills Park staff worked extremely hard to prepare the grounds in advance; following Friday afternoon's heavy rain, an additional 36+ man hours was spent early Saturday morning on prep
 - Commend all parks crews for working hard to keep fields play-ready after ongoing inclement weather this past year
 - Addition of a walkway at the batting pavilion was installed, with matching funds provided by AYBA
- Mansell House:
 - Magnolia trees have been installed behind the house
- Exterior Enhancements at Centers:
 - Recreation Center Gym – upgrade to player's side entrance is complete; more visible and safer entry for participants
 - Community Center Gymnastics Center Patio – black metal railing installed and new tables assembled

5. Project Management – Kurt Kirby

- Upcoming
 - Wills Park Pool:
 - Four additional shade structures approved for install by May 1
 - Little Free Library Program:
 - Entering into Phase 2; next one to be installed at Webb Bridge Park by concession stand near soccer field
 - Has been very successful at other locations
- Happening Now
 - North Park:
 - Turf Field 1 complete; grounds repair work finalized
 - Working with AYSA & ACVB to add batting cages at Fields 1-4; install scheduled for early April; AYSA leading project fundraising
 - Laser grading on ballfields scheduled to begin; working around youth/adult athletic league schedules as much as possible
 - Mansell House:
 - New sign has been installed; lighting to be relocated this week
 - Crabapple Government Center:
 - Sign was updated to reflect what is currently going on at facility
 - This is not a new sign, just a refurbished version

- New sign will be installed as part of department's sign initiative when new programming is offered at the facility
- Other:
 - RFQ for trail development in new parks is in advertising stage
 - RFP for updating park sign has completed finance editing phase
 - RFP for pool maintenance/service contract is in evaluation phase; three companies submitted proposals; contract up to five years
- Rain Delays
 - Call boxes in parks: Wills Park-4, North Park-2, Webb Bridge Park-2
 - Greenway boardwalk repairs; area closed during repairs

6. **Community Services – Morgan Rodgers for Amanda Musilli**

- Alpharetta Special Events:
 - Logistics company contract approved by Council on March 1; new contract will include all new events as well as prior events covered
 - Event season begins with Taste of Alpharetta on May 2
- Marketing:
 - Marketing Strategy has been developed; implementation phase is next
 - Department-wide staff training to be held as a Lunch & Learn on April 23; commission members welcome to attend
- Alpharetta Community Agriculture:
 - Food Well Alliance Community Food Forum
 - Held on February 27 and very successful!
 - 120 folks registered, with 103 signed in at the event
 - Held as part of grant application process
- Community Garden Events:
 - March 2 – early seed pick up; March 16 – early seedling pick up
- Farm at Old Rucker Road:
 - 19 garden members; 15 home members

B. **Director Update – Morgan Rodgers**

- Brooke Street Park:
 - Tasked by Mayor/Council to develop a strategy for utilizing the park
 - Workshopped with Council to gather ideas and direction for future use
 - Recommendation is that park does not need to be rented; overuse would affect city events, general public's use, and overall look of the park
 - Fall back to right-to-assemble in a public space; i.e. church can have an activity without renting space as long as city is not hosting event at park; area must still remain open for public use during activity
 - Proposal of plan is to be sent to Mayor/Council; commission asked to review and offer feedback or questions in writing via email
 - Formal Garden is still available for private rental with its own guidelines
- Rendering by Steve Manley, local architect (handout):
 - Drawing for what corner of Roswell St, Old Milton Pkwy might look like
 - Make it a gateway for Wills Park, as park of Master Plan recommendation

- Tree and Circle of Friends would stay, with walkway around area
- Sidewalk would connect road to building; pedestrian pathway only
- Steve asked to price out potential project; approximate \$125,000 all-in
- Morgan will return to commission later as project evolves
- Special Needs Task Force:
 - Second meeting of the task force held March 14, 6pm; representatives from area cities to attend, including Roswell, Alpharetta, Milton mayors
 - Moving discussion towards development of cooperative programming in the area; possibility to house at Crabapple Government Center
 - Commission will be informed on outcome of meeting
- Joint Cook-out at Mayfield Park:
 - To be held sometime in April; inviting Mayor/Council/Commission of Alpharetta and Milton to tour property that was jointly purchased
- Project with Alpharetta Elementary School and Miracle League:
 - To improve play at the school; grant opportunity and possible donor
 - Inclusive playground would be developed as a school/city park
 - School includes 27% of students with special needs
 - Would also serve as neighborhood playground for new Mayfield residents
- Photo Op:
 - Privet-cutting on Friday, March 15, 1:30pm at YMCA
 - Audubon Society received grant to remove privet along Big Creek
 - Trailhead will look entirely different when project is complete
- Update on Milton MOU:
 - Long-term agreement was not renewed by Milton; currently in termination phase
 - Mayor/Council of both cities in discussion for planning possibilities of a new agreement going forward; partnership will definitely be vital aspect
 - Alpharetta customer service receiving many inquiries about termination of agreement; encouraging folks to contact their Milton representatives to share feedback on what they might like to see as part of new agreement

C. City Council – Jason Binder

- None

VIII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

A. Tom Eiswerth:

- Appreciates the department's reorganization
- Fulton Golden Games planning is underway
- Golden Age Club and Adult Activity Center to host tables at upcoming 55+ Expo
- Great exposure for marketing center's programs, make connections to acquire speakers, and to showcase activities of Golden Age Club

B. Kevin Johnson:

- Speaking to commission as a resident, with child as a participant of AYBA
- Concerns with a recent incident involving a verbally aggressive parent

- Letter written to AYBA Commissioner regarding enforcing spectator behavior which is addressed in the rules
- Open to suggestions from commission members on how to resolve concerns
- Morgan asked questions for clarity. Bill Lusby and Dennis Mitchell volunteered to be part of a conference call with Morgan and the AYBA Commissioner, to gather information and work towards a mutually satisfactory resolution

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Dana Davis.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm
- Next Commission meeting: April 9, 2019 at 7:00pm