



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION
SPECIAL CALL MEETING OF
APRIL 17, 2019

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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, Dana Davis, Kevin Johnson, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand, Jit Saha
- Commission absent: Shuntel Beach, Melissa Jurgens
- City staff present: Director of Recreation Parks & Cultural Services Morgan Rodgers, Recreation Services Manager Christine Young, Recreation Supervisor Kristen Liggett, Administrative Assistant II Amy Rickman
- City Council:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. OLD BUSINESS – Morgan Rodgers

- Just learned this afternoon and excited to announce that department is a recipient of a \$4200 grant from the Fulton County Arts Council. Grant process through the council is to apply for smaller grants initially, show success, and then apply for larger grants. Grant will be used for Music-Match program to assist local restaurants to host musical performance, with grant to pay half of the cost. Application process is being developed now for restaurants to apply.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Morgan Rodgers

- This special meeting was called to discuss a proposal for short term adjustment to the City's residency requirements for travel team formation with current youth athletic association partners. Proposal is being recommended due to the initial impact following the recent dissolution of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City of Milton, as it relates to the upcoming youth athletic seasons.
- Recap of Milton MOU details:

- For the past five years, the City of Alpharetta and the City of Milton had an MOU that allowed residents of each city to participate in certain fee-based recreation programs of the other city at resident rates. At the end of the year, each city would calculate applicable non-resident fees, apply a multiplier to the difference, and this amount was then payable to the city with the highest participation rate by the other city's residents. Over the course of the MOU, the largest majority of participation occurred by Milton residents in Alpharetta programs.
- At the start of the MOU, youth athletic programs were the primary focus of the agreement; other fee-based recreation and instructional programs were added later. Early non-resident fee payments by Milton were just over \$100,000, growing to nearly \$500,000 by this past year.
- Terms of the MOU were reviewed annually, discussed by both cities, and traditionally renewed for another year. Back in the fall of 2018, as the existing MOU was up for renewal, discussions lingered past the MOU's expiration at the end of November. At the first of the year, the City of Milton abruptly announced a decision not to renew the MOU.
- Following the dissolution of the MOU, the City of Alpharetta determined to not penalize athletic associations that had already begun registration for the spring season, and opted instead to grandfather Milton participants at resident rates for these specific spring athletic programs. All other Alpharetta fee-based programs immediately applied non-resident fees for Milton participants, starting with registrations occurring January 8 or later.
- While that decision helped to get through the immediate season at hand, it has now come to our attention that the city's 50% residency requirements will greatly impact participants in our competitive youth athletic teams this fall, due to the abrupt dissolution of the MOU. Under the terms of the former agreement, Alpharetta and Milton residents could be counted towards meeting the 50% residency requirement for travel team formation. Without that ability, many of our teams would not meet the residency requirements and would either dissolve or go elsewhere to play, where residency is not an issue.
- With registration for fall season fast approaching, staff met with representatives from our youth athletic associations, to discuss possible short term solutions. Mayor Jim Gilvin and City Councilman Jason Binder attended the meeting as well. After much discussion, a recommendation was determined, which must be reviewed and approved by the Commission, before moving forward to City Council for a vote. With upcoming season registration on the horizon, a quick decision was necessary, and thus, this special call meeting was scheduled with the commissioners.
- Proposed Recommendation (short-term solution):

- For the next twelve months Milton youth participants, who are currently on a competitive team with our youth athletic associations partners, will be given residency status only for the purpose of team formation. The appropriate non-residents fees will still apply to all non-residents, including these participants. This recommendation would apply to participation with our youth athletic association partners for football (NAFL), softball (AYSA), baseball (AYBA), and soccer (Ambush)
- Our staff team has reviewed, provided input, and is in agreement with the one year extension recommendation. Due to time constraints, the recommendation was narrowed to one best option for consideration by the commission. It provides time for parents to consider the future of their players, and time for the associations to balance team formations. This also offers the City an opportunity for further discussion with our youth athletic association partners, to determine a longer-term solution

Discussion

- Morgan Rodgers – Distinction for 50% residency requirement for competitive travel teams is to discourage over recruitment of players outside of the City of Alpharetta, and potentially reducing opportunities for our residents to play. If these teams cannot meet the current residency requirements for formation, these teams will either dissolve or go to play elsewhere. This would create an unfortunate loss of competitive play for our young city players, as well as a tremendous loss of revenue for our partner associations and us.
- Christine Young and representatives from AYSA, AYBA, Ambush Soccer spoke on the potential effect on teams, due to the dissolution of the MOU:
 - Ambush: 56 of 620 Academy/Club participants are Milton residents, which is 9% overall; distributed over 6-7 teams
 - AYSA: up to 40% of team players are Milton residents
 - AYBA: 130 players are Milton residents; distributed over 11 teams; potential loss of \$30,000 if these teams dissolve
 - Associations appreciate the ability for a discussion, to come up with a one year option, as a stopgap to get through one year's season, then have further discussion to determine future requirements, or potential negotiations for a new MOU with the City of Milton

Commission Action

- Motion by Cheryl Rand to move the recommendation forward as presented
- Second by Sandy Barth.
- No further discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Dana Davis .
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 6:32pm