



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF APRIL 9, 2019

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Dennis Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Shuntel Beach, Dana Davis, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand, new member Jit Saha
- Commission absent: Sandy Barth
- City staff present: Director of Recreation Parks & Cultural Services Morgan Rodgers, Wills Park Manager Matt Casey, Project Manager Kurt Kirby, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Community Services Manager Amanda Musilli, Recreation Services Manager Christine Young, Administrative Assistant II Amy Rickman
- City Council:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF March 12, 2019

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

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Morgan – Revised Brooke Street Park use guidelines are still under discussion. Once draft is complete, commission will be sent a copy.
- Kevin – Update on situation with AYBA incident related to his family's participation. Commissioner did reach out to him although not a great resolution. For now, entire family will attend games together and hopefully have a greater experience next year.
- Copy of Alpharetta Music Project Strategy was emailed to members today from Cultural Service Manager, Kim Zane

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- At recent City Council meeting, a new member, Jit Saha, was appointed to the Recreation Commission
- Background – non-profit working with students to prepare for college; ran Cub Scout pack out of Manning Oaks and committee chair for last three years; will now be participating at Boy Scout level and unit commissioner for Troop 459; Manning Oaks School Council member
- Bill Lusby has now completed his service on the Recreation Commission, as he had been serving month to month until a suitable candidate was found
- No April workshop planned

VII. REPORTS

A. Divisions:

1. Community Services – Amanda Musilli

- Responsibility Focus: Downtown special events, Department marketing, Community agriculture program
- Alpharetta Special Events:
 - Event season begins with Taste of Alpharetta on May 2
 - Food Truck Alley kicks off May 22, with 22 events during season
 - Brooke Street Park Summer Concerts begin May 18; 10 events scheduled
 - Took a research trip to Nashville to experience Tin Pan South concert, which was part of inspiration for original Wire & Wood Festival. Team was able to make observations and envision new elements for planning purposes
- Marketing:
 - Marketing Strategy to be presented to staff as a Lunch & Learn at 12pm on April 23; commission members welcome to attend
 - Training to provide staff and instructors with tools to better market programs
- Alpharetta Community Agriculture:
 - Launching an annual supporting membership program to fundraise for Farm projects; launches this month; benefits include class pricing, special events, opportunities for involvement with farm
 - Community Agriculture to be represented at Taste of Alpharetta in the Locally Grown section of the event
 - Community Garden Events:
 - May 18 – Summer Seed and Transplant
 - This will be a pick up event and garden work day

2. Wills Park and Equestrian Center – Matt Casey

- Responsibility Focus: Wills Park operations, including the Equestrian Center
- Kings Ridge Playground at Wills Park:
 - New drainage system installed by staff; original playground built years ago by Kings Ridge School and now utilized daily by Amana Academy
 - Drainage improvements completed in order to keep playground playable even after an abundance of rain; re-opens to public mid-April
- Exterior Enhancements at Centers:
 - Designing concrete transition area to serve as trailhead behind Recreation Center; will be ADA compliant; aligns with Master Plan
 - Adding outdoor fitness component to existing playground
 - Projects possible through Northside Hospital partnership
- Equestrian Center:
 - Events have been well attended this year; April events include two weekends of dog agility, and wraps up with a horseshow at end of month
 - Freedom Rodeo scheduled for May 10-11; commission members invited to attend; connect with Matt to arrange
 - Lawn Mower Racing – May 31 – June 1 – ‘cutting-edge’ event!

3. **Recreation Services – Christine Young**

- Responsibility Focus: Aquatics, Athletics, Health and Wellness, Adult Activity Center, other city recreation programs, camps and events
- Athletics:
 - Restructuring of Youth Recreational Basketball League
 - At March’s commission workshop, reviewed staff’s strategy for revamping the program
 - Heard from coaches and participants about desire for more sport development opportunities, including academy, clinics, and end of season All Star event
 - Also want to offer more tools and additional training for coaches
 - Contract with Carla McGhee to run the program; currently running instructional sports programs; she will now focus on basketball
- Atlanta Braves Country Battle Youth Baseball Tournament, set for May 17-19 at Wills Park
- Summer Programs:
 - 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; generate excitement about summer
 - Summer staff hiring is underway; still need many folks for aquatics, day camp, and Camp Happy Hearts
 - Expansion of camps and locations with more variety this summer
 - Partner with Alpharetta Elementary School for SporTykes program
 - Ambush Soccer camp to be expanded
- Adult Activity Center:

- Update on woodshop; repurposing the site for other programming; announcement about woodshop closing to participants
- Opening Ceremonies for Fulton Golden Games on April 24 at 10am, at Bell Memorial Park in Milton; competition events for adults 50+
- New Aquatics Programs:
 - Special needs, one-on-one swim lessons offered by Angel Fish
 - Adapted events to be offered at the pool for scheduled evening dates
 - Master Swim Team; 6:45am to practice; opportunities to compete
- Questions regarding marketing by contracted instructors and our support methods; staff approval for marketing pieces; template being created by marketing team for use by instructors; social media posts

4. Park Services – Eric Milley

- Responsibility Focus: Parks including Rock Mill, North Park, Webb Bridge Park, Brooke Street Park, City Center, pocket parks
- North Park:
 - Reconfiguring batting cages; funded primarily by AYSA
 - Added two more large cages and a pitching lane
- Webb Bridge Park:
 - Entrance to Webb Zone Playground was redesigned; enhanced with a fun, child-interactive design by Park Supervisor Nate Hand
- Rock Mill Park and Greenway:
 - Several sections of the greenway boardwalk have been replaced
 - Portion of trail has been closed for three months; will re-open soon
 - Total of 26-28 sections replaced

5. Project Management – Kurt Kirby

- Responsibility Focus: Involvement with various department projects, working with other managers to plan, implement, and find funding for potential projects
- Happening Now
 - Wills Park Pool maintenance contract approved by council and awarded to DC Pools, our current provider
 - Little Free Library installed at Webb Bridge Park by flagpole
 - Privet removal along the greenway
 - Southern front (near North Point Park access) rooting and removal has being taken care of by parks staff to open up area
 - Northern front (near Preston Ridge access); funded by Audubon Society grant; environmentally-friendly herbicide and cutting related to terrain; taken care of by a contractor
 - Eagle Scout Project on greenway
 - Culvert and bridge built to address erosion along natural mulch trail near North Point Park access
 - Work led by Alex Jones of Alpharetta Troop 51
 - Parking lot resurfacing at Art Center completed
- Upcoming

- Wills Park Pool shade structures to be installed in April
- Competitive diving board being installed at Wills Park Pool
- Call boxes in parks scheduled to begin mid-April; installing four boxes at Wills Park, two at North Park, and two at Webb Bridge Park
- Last year's projects along greenway have held up well with heavy rains

6. Cultural Services – Kurt Kirby for Kim Zane

- Responsibility Focus: Cultural Art events, exhibits and programs, including Arts Center, public art, music program; History program and museum
- Arts Center:
 - Fulton County Arts Council Strategic Planning Meeting: April 9, 7pm at Arts Center; Kim Zane and Sandy Barth in attendance
 - Lecture by GA Nature Photographers Association: April 17
 - Play It Again Piano, Baby Grand Piano Unveiling: April 26, 11am
 - Deanna Sirlin Artist Talk: April 26, 12pm
 - Alliance Theater Family Day: April 28, 1pm
 - Fiber & Folk Art Exhibit: next gallery show starting late April
 - Fulton County Arts Council Meeting: May 14
 - New Workshops: oil glazing, voiceover, jewelry workshop
 - New Classes: improv, digital photography, abstract acrylics, fiber arts
 - Sample publication for art exhibits, with artist bio and info about exhibit
- Alpharetta High School Apprentice Program:
 - Baby Grand Piano: painting piano at Crabapple Center with supervision by Deanna Sirlin; target finish date of April 24
- AMPS – Alpharetta Music Project Strategy:
 - Music Match Program awaiting grant notification from Fulton County
 - TRAP – rhythmic drum educational program for special needs; planning camps and programs following recent Teacher Training event
- History Update:
 - Farm House, Alpharetta's original settlement c. 1830
 - Filming a short documentary on historic significance of site
 - Ground-penetrating radar confirmed site as an old mill community
 - Community Development looking to re-route new storm water drainage pipe around site
 - Possible future site for a Heritage Park
- Public Art:
 - Update on Marietta Street mural, partnered project with Alpharetta High School National Honors Arts Society
 - Wall cleaned and primed for painting
 - Working with students to adjust mural details
 - Provision by city of a sign to elaborate significance of wall mural
 - Sculptures
 - New outdoor exhibit scheduled for late summer
 - Enjoy the Miscellany Exhibit pieces before they go home!

B. Director Update – Morgan Rodgers

- Creating database of visual inventory with PowerPoint presentations; spearheaded by Amy Rickman with assistance by Ruby Flynn
- Pavilion Inventory – highlights:
 - Includes how pavilions are installed in order to plan for replacements
 - Surface mounting preferred, ease of replacement with metal sleeves
 - Metal pavilion is preferred style and look
 - Stone work included at Rock Mill Park as an environmental park
 - Webb Bridge Park pavilion near Webb Zone; painted pickets from old fence will be installed on inside of pavilion roof; connection from original community built playground project
 - Wills Park Pavilion 1 has a new grill and shed built by Rotary Club
 - Wills Park Lions Club Pavilion hosts Shakespeare in Park in summer
 - Wills Park small pavilion to be moved with future plans, possibly to dog park area
- Playground Inventory – highlights:
 - Engage kids in community to gather ideas for updating Wacky World playground as part of Wills Park Master Plan; also include more accessible playground features
 - Wills Park Recreation Center playground will be at head of new trail; updates to include opening area up and making it more visible
 - Webb Zone playground at Webb Bridge Park, many recent updates
 - Miracle League playground at North Park; most accessible playground
 - Westside Park includes a neighborhood playground which is a hidden gem; plans with developer to create an entrance off of Maxwell Road; will rename as Maxwell Park; accessible for use by the nearby school
- Invitation for commission members to attend a picnic on April 16 at 11:30am at Mayfield Park; invitees include representatives from the cities of Milton and Alpharetta; walk the property and discuss potential for partnered park project

C. City Council

- None

VIII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Dana Davis.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm
- Next Commission meeting: May 14, 2019 at 7:00pm