



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF AUGUST 13, 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, Shuntel Beach, Dana Davis, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand, Jit Saha
- Commission absent:
- City staff present: Department Director Morgan Rodgers, Wills Park Manager Matt Casey, Project Manager Kurt Kirby, Park Services Manager Eric Milley, Community Services Manager Amanda Musilli, Cultural Services Manager Kim Zane, Administrative Assistant II Amy Rickman
- City Council:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF July 9, 2019

- Motion by Shuntel Beach to approve the minutes of July 9, 2019 as written. Second by Jit Saha.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS

- None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Draft design for Mid-Broadwell Park (approx. 4 acres)
 - Presentation by Steve Manley, landscape architect

- Original design created for bond referendum; Steve tweaked that design
- Public meeting upcoming; hope to have approved by council within the month
- Commission questions/comments:
 - Will there be bike racks, restrooms, crosswalk?
 - Parking vs. pavilion capacity; option to insert 1-2 smaller pavilions
 - Possible to have more open lawn space for use by residents?
 - Size compared to Cogburn Park, which is 7.5 acres
 - Preference for natural-looking play space
- Project Timelines (handout):
 - Will keep these updated as timelines change
 - Wills Park Maintenance Shop – approx. 1 year
 - Moving maintenance shop, new ring, parking – top priority
 - Foundation can start raising funds once shop is moved
 - Mid-Broadwell Park – 4 acres
 - Includes public input and council meetings
 - Goal to complete by next summer
 - Possible for one family restroom at park
 - Windward Park – 8 acres
 - Plans call for restrooms (two family), pavilion, trail
- Name for Windward Park (possible ideas to date):
 - Windward Parkway Park
 - Windward Community Park
 - Park at Windward
 - Name decision needed by end of year for signage
- University interns:
 - Developed plan options for an upgraded dog park at Wills Park
 - Friends of dog park group saw draft presentation and gave input
 - Formal presentation to commission will be upcoming
 - Suggestion to put up wooden privacy fence along Old Milton Pkwy

VII. REPORTS

A. Divisions:

1. Cultural Services – Kim Zane

- Upcoming Cultural Events:
 - Southern Summer Exhibit, July 6-Sept 27, Arts Center; Arts Alpharetta has gallery booked through Dec 2020
 - Saving Farm House, documentary film release, Aug 15, 6pm, City Hall
 - The Future History of Alpharetta, Aug 15, 7pm, City Hall, Alpharetta and Old Milton Historical Society program
 - Flower Photography with Joyce Dumas, Aug 21, 6:30pm, Arts Center, by Georgia Nature Photographers Association
 - Alpharetta's Music at Twilight, Aug 23, 8:30pm, Downtown

- Play Me Again Piano unveiling, Aug 24, 1:30pm, Arts Center
- Anti-Bullying Discussion and Screening of The Fat Boy Chronicles by Mike Buchanan, Aug 27, 6:30pm, Arts Center
- Arts Center:
 - Outdoor classroom with two platforms and new benches; designed by intern Sydney
 - Arts Center rental agreement to be managed by Arts Alpharetta with rental revenue utilized to raise funds for the Arts; gallery and black box spaces; limited use
 - Art Leader Groups – Arts Alpharetta and City meeting with 10 groups
 - Painted baby grand piano installed on the terrace, unveiling Aug 24, painted by high school apprentice program supervised by Deanna Sirlin
- Marketing for Cultural Services:
 - Website has Cultural Services page, work in progress; links inserted
 - Arts Guide, Arts Center classes, workshops
 - Online Cultural Calendar, partnering with Alpharetta CVB; splash page on their site
- Music:
 - AMPS, Alpharetta Music Project Strategy
 - Music Match Program; 18 applicants for fall music shows
 - Alpharetta Music City; new logo for all AMPS events
 - Online Calendar for Live Music; partnering with Alpharetta CVB
- History Update:
 - Farm House, Alpharetta's original settlement c. 1830
 - Saving Farm House, 12-minute documentary film, release Aug 15
 - Stories Project
 - Editing 70 interviews for shorter viewing in museum
 - Link for longer interviews available on website
- Public Art:
 - Plaque guidelines to communicate info about public art pieces
 - Sculptures ... *Miscellany Exhibit*
 - *The Visitor* (bear) ... permanent home in Alpharetta
 - *The Laborer* ... landscaping entry to sculpture completed
 - *Hanging* (orange drums) ... renting for another year
 - *Scorpion* ... rent to own over 4-5 years
 - Sculptures ... *Omnium Gatherum Exhibit*
 - Presenting placement plan locations to City Council

2. **Park Services – Eric Milley**

- Webb Bridge Park:
 - Drainage work along roadway, parking lots

- Mulching common areas
- Cogburn Road Park:
 - Raising tree canopy along walking trail
 - Cutting underbrush, raising canopy at entry
- Village Green:
 - Sod installation on the green
 - Drainage work by interactive fountain
- Other:
 - Adult Activity Center & Silos, awaiting third quote for painting
 - Old storage shed removed at North Park Turf Field 1

3. Community Services – Amanda Musilli

- Alpharetta Special Events:
 - Old Soldiers Day Parade; estimated 1500 attendees, 100 parade entries
 - Upcoming Partnered Events:
 - Mayors Corporate Challenge Run, Aug 22
 - Grilling & Gridiron, Sept 14
 - European Market, Sept 21-22
 - Brew Moon, Sept 28
- Alpharetta Community Agriculture:
 - Young Farmer Program at Cambridge High School, organized by FFA teacher; young in experience, not age; coordinate sustainable program
 - Pending Farm Projects
 - Rainwater cistern installation, two 500 gallon units, built-in pumps
 - Perimeter fence
 - Food Well Alliance update
 - Not selected as pilot city; knowledge and mentoring support offered
 - August 26 council meeting presentation
 - Farm Food Donation
 - Cambridge High School – schoolyear harvest for use in cafeteria
 - North Fulton Community Charities – summer harvest via Growers Connection
 - Agriculture Events
 - August Farm Work Days ... Aug 4; Aug 24, 9am-11am
 - Great Pollinator Census ... Aug 24, participate in count, 11:30am
 - Fall Gardening Class ... Aug 24, 9:30am-11am
 - Final Plant/Seed Pick-up ... Aug 24

4. Wills Park and Equestrian Center – Matt Casey

- Equestrian Center (EC) Covered Arena:
 - Railings replaced, painted; funded by Wills Park Equestrian Foundation

- LED lights on order to replace outdated fixtures; funded by local GHJA, show sanctioning organization
- New PA sound system to be installed; funded by private donor
- Wills Park – Field 1:
 - Backstop netting added along first/third baselines
 - Provides trail users with an added layer of safety from foul balls
 - Funded by AYBA
- Wills Park – Fitness Playground:
 - Fitness component installed at playground near recreation center
 - Equipment funded through Northside Hospital sponsorship
 - Poured surface and surrounding border added to define space, provide easy access to fitness component and children's playground

5. **Recreation Services – Kim Zane for Christine Young**

- Open Registration for Fall/Winter starts Aug 14
- Summer Camps ... 9 successful weeks!
 - Wills Park Day Camp ... 1,291
 - Camp Happy Hearts ... 220
 - Specialty Camps ... 877
 - Served total of 2,388 Summer Campers
- End of Summer Bash held July 31
 - Carnival theme event for Wills Park Day Camp, Camp Happy Hearts
 - Over 350 campers and their families in attendance
- Aquatics
 - Pool Passes: 141 individual, 569 family, 2102 swiped entries
 - Daily Drop-in: 31,700 patrons to date
 - Total Visitors: 33,800 patrons to date
 - Pool open weekends through Labor Day
- Exceptional Population:
 - Special Needs Services and Expo – July 27
 - Highly successful event with 41 vendors and 250+ attendees
 - Substantial interest in participating, attending next year
 - Vendors able to make connections and form partnerships
 - Task Force follow up meeting to be held in September
 - BrewAble provided refreshments for the event
- Upcoming Recreation Events & Highlights
 - 21st Annual Touch-a-Truck, Sat, Sept 14, North Point Mall
 - Drool in the Pool, Sun, Sept 29, Wills Park Pool
 - School Year Programming
 - Expanded music programs

- Youth Basketball Program and new Youth Basketball Academy, headed up by Carla McGhee (WNBA, Olympian)
- BRAVE: Bee Radiant Active Vibrant Energetic, adaptive gymnastics

6. Project Management – Kurt Kirby

- Park Enhancements:
 - Park Amenities
 - Park Swing in every major park ... six on order
 - Park Benches and Trashcans ... a consistent standard
 - Park Facility Enhancements
 - North Park restroom floors to be resurfaced with SaniGlaze
 - Adult Activity Center exterior to be painted
 - Complete restroom/concession painting at Wills/North Parks
 - Ballfield fencing repairs, upgrades
 - Silo Park restoration
- Park Repairs and Improvements:
 - Webb Bridge Park pedestrian bridge
- Greenway Repairs:
 - Greenway bridge near Rock Mill Park; focus of initiative
- Park Development:
 - Windward Soccer Park redevelopment
 - Moved from design to review phase for permitting
 - RFP being drafted for playground
 - Finalizing specification for site work, trail construction
- Wayfinding and Signage Replacement:
 - Park Sign Replacement Phase I
 - Both entrances at North Park
 - Cogburn Road Park
 - North Point Park, Rock Mill Park (greenway)
 - Phase II, Wills Park Wayfinding
 - Entrance signage
 - Traffic wayfinding
 - Trail wayfinding
 - Preston Ridge Park
 - Final landscaping around sign
- Playground Enhancements:
 - Wills Park Recreation Center playground; design review phase; focus on inclusivity, accessibility, adaptability
 - Webb Zone playground; adding musical component

B. Director Update – Morgan Rodgers

- Aug 26, 6pm – Dedication of Zagster Bike Share station at City Center; photo op

- Handout of schedule for upcoming council/commission meetings, workshops
- Aug 26 Council Meeting – many department items on the agenda for approval
- Commission questions:
 - Wills Park
 - Stream restoration still high priority; actual costs coming in higher than original allocation; seeking grant funding to offset through match
 - Restrooms addressed in Master Plan; currently no funding; priority is to move the equestrian maintenance barn first
- Recognition again of the high quality team we've put together; includes not just the managers but the entire team of staff throughout the department. Everyone continues to knock it out of the park with the vast accomplishments achieved on behalf of our Alpharetta residents

C. **City Council – none**

VIII. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

- None

IX. **ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Melissa Jurgens.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm
- Next Commission meeting: September 10, 2019 at 7pm