



RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL
SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING OF OCTOBER 13, 2020

PUBLISHED BY: VALERIE JACKSON

PHONE: 678-297-6104

This summary is provided as a convenience and service to the public, media and staff. It is not the intent to record proceedings verbatim. Any reproduction of this summary must include this notice. Official minutes are recorded and available for review.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Dennis Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Sandy Barth, Dana Davis, Scott Doll, Dennis Mitchell, Cheryl Rand, Jit Saha
- Commission members absent: Kevin Johnson, Shuntel Beach
- 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; Recreation Services Manager, Christine Young; Cultural Services Manager, Kim Zane; Administrative Office Coordinator, Valerie Jackson
- City Council:

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF September 15, 2020

- Motion by Scott Doll to approve minutes after statement clarifying that Christine Young was not in attendance to present her report is added; 2nd by Cheryl Rand
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS - none

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Recognition of Pop Up Skatepark Committee Members postponed until November 10, 2020 meeting

VII. REPORTS

A. Divisions:

1. Community Services – Amanda Musilli

- **Alpharetta Events**
 - Scarecrow Harvest - 122 scarecrows participating. They look fantastic. Very happy with grouping of them this year, based on the commission's feedback and that of council and mayor. Clustered in areas with no fewer than 4 in one place and it's created a nice difference
 - Season of Celebration - This year we will be making snow fall on 1st three Fridays in December. We'll have snow falling from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the Town Green. People will be invited to come enjoy the lights and decorations. Decorations will be the way we've typically done them in past few years
 - North Fulton Community Charities Food Drive will be held December 4th thru 18th. Wooden trees that were used last year will be out for donations again this year as well as at community locations - our facilities and faith based facilities around Alpharetta
- **Alpharetta Community Agriculture**
 - Cambridge High School students' ag business program started last week with their first CSA sales. They started with 6 members – a member in a CSA is your share, you own a share of the farm. They have 6 shares that they sell and that includes 7 to 9 items in the share. The students come on Tuesday and Friday mornings for an hour and a half. On Friday, it's harvest day so they're harvesting everything, washing it, packing it up and getting it in the bag by 9:00 a.m. Their members come and pick up from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. This year it is available to the public. Last year we only sold to teachers and administrators at Cambridge. The boxes go on sale at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday and you can go online to the Cambridge High School kids' page that they built themselves and become a member. It's \$30 a week and I can tell you that it's more food than you would get for \$30 a week at any grocery store
 - In process of finalizing our plans to expand a portion of the farm growing area where grapevines currently are. Grapevines will be removed as they're not really a productive piece of the farm. They're beautiful but they don't really produce anything that we can give to anyone. In that space we can add 6 additional rows which will enable us to continue donating to North Fulton Community Charities year round. The opportunity for us to be able to do this is because of a very generous donor who raised all the money for the soil. Another way that the community is so invested in this program and is very proud of that
 - In response to inquiry regarding status of existing fruit trees from Commissioner Rand, scions were made of apple and peach trees in early spring this year so will be nursing those, but they'll take 5 years to start

producing. Hope is that we can grow those before we lose the ones we have. This year we did get a few hundred pounds of apples and the freezer at the house at Rucker is full of peaches. Plan is to use those to make jam for the students to put in their CSA shares

2. Wills Park – Matt Casey

- We had discussed having bridge at Recreation Center open before this meeting but that has not happened. The bridge has been removed from bank on Wills Road and the piers are already set but lumber is about 3 weeks behind. We're hopefully going to get lumber in within next week or so and get that bridge open to the public
- Large Pavilion
 - Pavilion is located behind Mansell House between fields 5 and 6. Old tongue and groove roof had severe rot and you could see thru to the sky. There's a new tongue and groove roof, new shingles, new decking and we've also got some trees being removed around that area. This has really opened it up and makes it feel a lot cleaner
- Step n Wash Stations
 - First saw these stations while on a tour of another park. Basically, it's just a step that retracts and it allows smaller children to get up, wash their hands and then once they step off, the step retracts back in so that you don't hit your shin on it. Tried it at restroom at Wacky World to see how it works. Seems to be well-received so far. Commissioner Davis commented that it's a great way to encourage kids to wash their hands. In response to Commissioner Mitchell's inquiry regarding if it meets ADA requirements, there are multiple sinks available and it's only on one sink currently
- In response to inquiry by Commissioner Saha regarding status of horse shows, confirmed that shows are at capacity. They've done a really good job. There are a lot of temperature checks to get inside the show grounds. Face coverings are required and the only time they can be removed is when going in to compete in the arena. Has been well received. Haven't really been promoting spectators but people still stop along the trail and watch. They have been well attended but really no issues

3. Recreation Services – Christine Young

- Free Fitness Classes
 - Would like to highlight all the free fitness classes that are being offered in parks. These businesses are looking for open spaces to bring their classes out because they can't do it inside. When they called to see if they could use the parks, we asked them if they would like to be a partner with us and provide some free fitness classes. That gave them the space to hold classes and the ability to market their programs. We have grown our partner list threefold in the time that this has happened. Kudos to Anna Virgo and Cara Prell for that. They both have stepped it up and done a lot of great things.

There are 108 classes being offered just in month of October. In response to inquiry from Commissioner Rand regarding any of these businesses renting outdoor pavilions for classes, we are looking at that. Right now, they're partners. I have a plan to bring to a workshop and we'll talk a little more about how to do that. 108 classes do not include fitness programs that Recreation Services is doing as a team. Also have Run Club, Park PE, After School Fun Stop, Music with Movement, and Walktober. Also have new partnership with Jekyll Brewing for Trails and Ales

- Upcoming Events

- Trails & Ales on October 22, Spooktacular Halloween Party and Gymnastics on October 30th and Halloween Crafts & Treats on Halloween
- Winter and Spring – working on more outdoor activities

- Adult Activity Center

- Currently holding a lot of outdoor activities in North Metro Miracle League Pavilion and on their field. Yoga, tai chi, line dancing, bingo and a socially distanced get together today in the pavilion
- Soft opening planned for Monday. Will be letting small numbers of people go into art wing. Will keep eye on numbers and make sure that we don't see a rise in cases

- Pickleball

- Taking it indoors due to weather and we want to keep people active and healthy. In response to inquiry by Commissioner Doll regarding how courts were laid out in gym, there are usually 4 courts in ACC but we're taking it down to 3. At Wills Park it's 2. Confirmed the lines are now actually in the court at the ACC since floor was redone. Started a pickleball league and have 19 teams. People love playing it

- Questions

- In response to inquiry by Commissioner Saha regarding update on remote learning at Preston Ridge Community Center, there were between 40 and 80 kids per day at different times. Plan was to close down on 14th because kids were going back to school. Confirmed for Commissioner Rand that Adult Activity Center was not needed for students and they stayed strictly at Preston Ridge
- In response to Commissioner Davis' inquiry regarding policy for COVID and flu now that classes are coming back inside, test results are not required to participate. Temperature checks are still being performed and we're keeping numbers small. Also encouraging people to wear masks, especially at Adult Activity Center. For those who think their child may have had COVID, test results are not required and we notify parents of other children who were in same activity. In the past, we've also shut down some activities. We're not really tracking a whole lot. We've had very few instances since this started and past incidents were mostly due to instructors. Commissioner Davis stated that she started thinking about it because some people might have flu, and not COVID, and wondered

whether we would start shutting programs down unnecessarily. This is something that Recreation Services will consider and discuss

4. Park Services – Eric Milley

- General Projects
 - An inground detention pond was installed at Cogburn Road Park along the sidewalk and while water still accumulates in parking lot, it goes down immediately. Also put a drain by walkway into playground which takes water down into drainage ditch. Recent rains have been more than drains could handle and there still has been some puddling
 - Constantly cleaning up storm debris in parks and on greenway
 - Trees taken down at Innovation Academy
 - Goats are still on cabin property. Once they've eaten all they will, a crew will come in to clean up remaining underbrush
 - Webb Bridge has tournaments every weekend. Painting all the soccer fields every week takes one or two guys all day and has to be done every time the grass gets cut

5. Cultural Services – Kim Zane

- History Update
 - Log Cabin - The Alpharetta & Old Milton Historical Society posted a video of the goats at the Log Cabin and during the board meeting this week they announced that they had gotten the most likes they've ever had! Historical Society is very happy and appreciative of support the City's given at the cabin. They were recognized at a recent Council Meeting and now have certificate of occupancy
 - Archives – we have been given access to all of Chestene Carter's photos at her home. It's an immense collection of photos and provides a really long history for our African American community and Bailey-Johnson School. We've been greatly lacking in that. We're not allowed to remove any items, but we've set up scanners and tables in the home. Project will take a few months to complete
- Music/AMPS (Alpharetta Music Project Strategy)
 - Last month, our podcast had 500 listens and 7,000 impressions, which is where people popped in and viewed it
 - Music Match Program – 17 more shows coming up. We're excited to do some smaller shows and give the community live music to listen to
 - *An Evening with Shakespeare* – was scheduled for 2 weekends but last weekend had to be cancelled due to rain. Attendance during first weekend was about 40 people. Other than fitness classes, believes this is first event held at Grand Pavilion. There was plenty of room to spread out. Even got recognition in AJC for the event
- Cultural Arts

- Cultural Arts Commission Ordinance was officially adopted. Council will be appointing people to those positions
- Proclamation for Alpharetta Arts & Humanities month in October
- Upcoming Cultural Happenings
 - Resthaven Cemetery Tombstone Cleaning – still going on. They've cleaned 40 or 50 tombstones
 - *Mix It Up* – show at Alpharetta Arts Center Gallery thru November
 - Day of the Dead Family Photo & Workshop on October 24
- Arts Center & Public Art
 - This Friday we'll be presenting the Alpha Loop Connection Mural to the Design & Review Board. Eventually we'll be shifting that over to the Cultural Arts Commission
 - Crosswalk Mural Windward Community Park – did survey with women of Windward back in February. They wanted something natural and thought koi, like a koi pond, would be fun for the kids. We had a couple of other options. The high school apprentice group did meet with Arts Alpharetta and went thru a review process. There were three options and this is final one that was selected
 - Community Room Gallery is progressing. Arts Alpharetta is partnering on that. We're getting closer. Working on getting approval thru
 - Art Studio on the Go Go is going great. Have pop-up free outdoor programs around town and we're also going to do some paid outdoor programs. We'll have signage that will indicate whether it's free or a paid program

6. **Project Management – Kurt Kirby**

- Park Development
 - Since June, have closed out three projects - Windward Community Park, Alpharetta Elementary School and Union Hill Skate Park
 - Mid-Broadwell still in permitting phase for restrooms
 - Permitting phase for Wills Park Master Plan Maintenance Facility, as well as Equestrian Center
 - Clearing out is continuing at Innovation Academy. Getting to point where we can start sandblasting, pressure washing and restoring the stadium
- Greenway
 - Last month we reported on removal of trees from stream to prevent erosion. Now into Phase 2 – two areas north of Rock Mill Park going toward Preston Ridge. To clarify, that doesn't mean one or two trees. Each area probably has five or six significant trees that had to be pulled out of creek and removed. This is a very time-consuming and expensive process. We have to do it in phases, and it will be a continuing project. In response to Commissioner Doll's inquiry regarding what type of equipment is being used, they're using track cranes of significant size

with wenchers connected to arm. They cut tree, wench it out and then grab it. Some trees can be relocated in the woods and others have to be taken out. The process has worked well without having to shut down greenway

- Webb Bridge Park
 - We received a donation of outdoor fitness equipment from a citizen who used to be in outdoor fitness business. At least 10 pieces were donated and will be installed at Webb Bridge Park. Our partnership with Northside and the grant we get from them falls right into what we're trying to do. Northside is on board with helping us pay for the installation. Will be located in flagpole area right above the soccer field and hopefully will be installed within next 6 weeks
- Storm Response
 - We've had a lot of rain and August had some significant flooding. We're working on Old Rucker property where we had a collapsing garage. We've demo'd that and now we're waiting on a design for a retaining wall
 - In addition to bridge that Matt reported on, there is also a second bridge that we're working on at Wills Park. After we kept trying to repair holes, it was determined that it needed to be replaced, too. Will have to get three quotes again. As soon as we get thru with first bridge, we'll be working strategically to repair the second bridge

B. Director Update – Morgan Rodgers

- Most recent edition of Park Rules was handed out (Attachment A). Took back to council for second workshop and the highlighted items are ones they recommended that we make some changes on. Really not major but wanted to bring back to commission before going to next step with council. There was discussion about bikes not being permitted on trail and they wanted it added that parents could walk with kids under six using training wheels. The second thing was about skateboards being allowed on greenway and in designated areas. That was just a verbiage change as we had skateboards in two places, and we put it in one sentence. Designated areas will be posted with proper signage. Also, three rules on front page that said no golf or archery and no cutting the trees was put under those things that require a permit. In addition, Park Hours by Park Category (Attachment B) was updated to add Maddox Park which is on corner of Old Milton Parkway and Alpharetta Highway where Visitor's Center is. After discussion, it was agreed that removing the word "damage" under items prohibited except by permit was a better option. Commission Chairman Mitchell stated that a vote was not necessary as this was already voted on it at a previous workshop. Mr. Rodgers stated that a no damage statement is probably needed in park rules and it could be added there instead. It should be a hard rule, just like alcohol is a hard rule, that there should be no damage to any structure. Will clean it up and take back one more time to workshop with council. After workshop, will have to have two readings before we can put it into the ordinance. Just so everybody understands, the Park Hours by Park Category is

not going in the ordinance so we can make changes any time the Commission wants to make changes. If we don't, any time we want to add one, we must go back to the two readings

- Miracle League playground surface – still about \$10,000 short so if anybody knows of a \$10,000 donation, we'd really like to get that done by the spring, if we can
- Greenway expansion connecting Marconi to Union Hill is on schedule. Hoping to finish by end of 1st quarter or beginning of 2nd quarter of 2021. During the next six months, the greenway is going to be connected. This is a reminder that once they turn it over, it becomes our responsibility, so we'll be picking up another mile of greenway. Will be talking with Mayor and Council about needing extra resources. That, along with the other parks we've been bringing on, means we're going to need some assistance soon
- Preston Ridge tour is tomorrow at 4:00. If you can't make it and you want to see it, we'll make arrangements to go out whenever you can. Really nice facility and we're excited about getting in it

C. City Council – none

D. Recreation Commission

- Commission Chairman Mitchell wanted to relay something that happened last Friday at Rotary Club. The Mayor was going to talk about the City and before the talk, Rex Grizzle, a longtime Alpharetta resident, made a comment that he walks parks and trails all the time and he wanted to compliment the Mayor on how clean and tidy everything is all the time. It was impromptu, the Mayor then spoke to the Rotary Club and mentioned it again. It was his way of saying thank you for everything that you do. It was a resident saying they do a great job, he sees them out at 6:30 in the morning when he's out walking. Thank you for what you do
- Second thing is for Commission – name tags are for us to be a little more visible. Please remember to wear yours when you're out and about
- Several months back we talked about assigning people on the Rec Commission to divisions inside the Commission. We have done that with the help of everyone and we'll make all those announcements either at the next workshop or we'll do it formally here. Would like to make it happen over the next two or three weeks
- In response to inquiry from Commissioner Davis, Mr. Merkel will be at next workshop. Morgan has said that he's only really going to have one item on agenda, so if there are questions for Dan, we'll have time to do that
- In response to Commissioner Rand's inquiry regarding who will be taking Melissa Jurgen's place, it is in process now and if anybody has someone to nominate, please let us know. There is a name being floated around now but it's still in process

VIII. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

- None

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Rand. Second by Jit Saha.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm
- Next Commission meeting: November 10 at 6:30 pm

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Motion to adjourn by Cheryl Reed. Second by Hil Zahra.
- 2nd in favor. Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.
- Next organizational meeting November 10 at 6:30 pm.

ATTACHMENT A

Park Rules

10-13-20

Alcohol is not allowed except in designated event venues during city sponsored events

Tobacco/smoking/vaping/illegal drugs are not allowed

Motorized vehicles on roadways only

- No motorized vehicles on trails
- Bikes are not permitted on park trails except the Greenway. Exception, children under the age of 6 on bikes with training wheels are allowed on park trails when accompanied by an adult
- Bikes are only allowed on roadways, and Greenway and maximum 15 mph
- No motorized scooters, motorized skateboards, E-bikes, hover boards on trails or Greenway

Skateboards are allowed on the Greenway and in designated areas only.

- Designated areas will be posted with proper signage

Park hours are set according to park categories and are posted at each park. Park categories and a listing of all park hours can be found on the City of Alpharetta's website

- Active Parks – 5:00 am – 11:00 pm
- Greenway & Greenway Access Parks – Dawn to Dusk
- Neighborhood Parks – Dawn to Dusk
- Downtown Parks – Dawn to Midnight

No littering, vandalism or damage or removal of City property allowed

All pets must be on-leash, under physical control at all times, except at designated off-leash areas

- No pets or animals are allowed on athletic fields
- Pet waste must be picked up and disposed of properly

All organized programs and activities must be approved by the City

- Groups of 25 or more require a permit
- When using an athletic field, a group of 10 or more and Private Instruction require a permit

Cooking fires and charcoal are allowed in pavilion grills only

Park Rules continued

The following are prohibited except by permit issued by the City:

- Hunting, camping, urban camping, tents, open fires
- Fireworks, explosives
- Golf or archery
- Soliciting, vending, peddling, selling
- Cutting of trees or shrubs
- Removal or attachments of any kind to trees, plants or structures
- Amplified music or PA systems
- Overnight parking
- Drones, unmanned aerial vehicles, rockets, model aircraft
- Inflatables, petting zoos
- Metal detecting
- Construction of any structure (temporary or permanent)

Disorderly conduct is not permitted in any City Park

- Any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to a breach of the public peace such as
 - Engaging in fighting or threatening, violent or tumultuous behavior
 - Jostling or roughly crowding persons unnecessarily
 - Creating a hazardous condition by any act which serves no legitimate purpose
 - Causing or risking public inconvenience, annoyance or alarm
 - Making an obscene communication or display

ATTACHMENT B

Park Hours by Park Category

10/13/2020

Active Parks – 5:00 am – 11:00 pm

1. Wills Park
2. North Park
3. Webb Bridge Park
4. Fitness Park on Westside
5. Union Hill Park

Greenway / Greenway Access – Dawn to Dusk

1. Big Creek Greenway
2. Beaver Creek Park
3. Haynes Bridge Park
4. Marconi Road Park
5. North Point Parkway Park
6. Preston Ridge Park
7. Rock Mill Park

Neighborhood Parks – Dawn to Dusk

1. Brookside Park
2. Cogburn Road Park
3. Encore Park
4. Windward Community Park
5. Maxwell Road Park
6. Silos Park
7. Old Rucker Park
8. Milton Avenue Park

Downtown Park – Dawn to Midnight

1. Brooke Street Park
2. Ole Milton Park
3. Thompson Street Park
4. Town Green
5. Maddox Park

ATTACHMENT B

10/15/2010

Back Hours by the City

Active Time - 3:00 am - 11:00 am

1. Active Time
2. North Park
3. West Ridge Park
4. North Park - West
5. North Park

10/15/2010 - 10/15/2010

1. Active Time
2. North Park
3. West Ridge Park
4. North Park - West
5. North Park
6. North Park - West
7. North Park

10/15/2010 - 10/15/2010

1. Active Time
2. North Park
3. West Ridge Park
4. North Park - West
5. North Park
6. North Park - West
7. North Park

10/15/2010 - 10/15/2010

1. Active Time
2. North Park
3. West Ridge Park
4. North Park - West
5. North Park
6. North Park - West
7. North Park