



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2022

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER

❖ Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Recreation Commission Members - Present
 - Dennis Mitchell (Chairman)
 - Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
 - Cheryl Rand
 - John Norton
 - Jeremy Scott
 - Shuntel Beach
 - Newly Appointed Commissioner Brad Bowers
 - Newly Appointed Commissioner Derek Kaighin
- Recreation Commission Members – Absent
 - Karla Peidrahita
- Staff
 - Morgan Rodgers – Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kurt Kirby – Project Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Christine Young – Recreation Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amanda Musilli – Community Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kim Manning – Cultural Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Eric Milley – Park Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Matt Casey – Park Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. SWEARING-IN

- Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Administrative Office Coordinator, Amber O'Dwyer, read the oath of office aloud and swore in Brad Bowers and Derek Kaighin to serve as commissioners on the Recreation Commission.
- Chairman Mitchell asked Newly Appointed Commissioner Derek Kaighin to give a brief background.
- Commissioner Kaighin mentioned he moved to Georgia in 2017 originally from Michigan and before that Toledo, Ohio where he has similar ties to Dan Merkel who currently lives in the same neighborhood, and thus appointed him. He works for Cox Communications in procurement. He is married with three kids under the age of five: Benjamin, Quinn, and Vaughn.
- Brad Bowers also gave a brief bio to re-introduce himself to the other members. Having moved to Alpharetta in 2010 he now has kids aged 16, 14 and 12 years. He works for Colonial Pipeline. He was appointed by Donald Mitchell back in April and has unofficially been on the Recreation Commission until his swearing in.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2022, Meeting

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2022, meeting.
 - Vice Chairman Saha offered a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2022, meeting.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (6-3) with those who were not at the July 12, 2022, meeting abstaining from the vote.

VI. TABLED ITEMS

a. Approval of Minutes from May 25, 2022, Workshop

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to remove the May 25, 2022, workshop minutes from table.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to remove the minutes of the May 25, 2022, workshop from the table.
 - Commissioner Bowers seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).
- ❖ Commissioner Beach offered a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2022, workshop.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (7-0) with those who were not at the workshop abstaining from the vote.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

IX. REPORTS

a. Community Services – August 2022 Report

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item on behalf of Amanda Musilli, Community Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
- The school year activity guide has been printed and is in facilities. A copy of the guide was provided to each Commissioner.
- The division has hired a new part-time Marketing Coordinator, Deanna McKay.
- The 2022 Wire & Wood talent line-up has been announced.
 - Commissioner Rand asked who recruits talent.
 - Director Rodgers stated the talent is procured by RCS Productions. Currently there are 32 artists.
- Applications are in development for this year's Scarecrow Harvest event.
 - Commissioner Beach asked for additional information on the Scarecrow Harvest that could be relayed to the teachers and school staff.
 - Director Rodgers let her know the applications and additional information are set to be released August 15.
- Commissioner Gary Black, Georgia's State Agricultural Commissioner, visited Old Rucker Farm last week
- Fourteen students registered for the Cambridge High School Agricultural Business Class. This number has increased by six from years past.
- On September 24th the Member Picnic will be held.
- Alpharetta High School will be preserving and pickling the harvest for Ag-Business value items.
- A microbiology honeybee study is in development in partnership with the Innovation Academy. The concept is to use tiny tracking devices on the bees to study foraging distance, pollen preferences, hive health, and the like.
 - Commissioner Bowers asked for clarification about Cambridge High School (CHS) students being the only eligible students for the Agricultural Program.
 - Director Rodgers stated this is because CHS has an agricultural class as part of their education and use the farm in partnership with Alpharetta for the purposes of the class and for students enrolled in the CHS program.

b. Cultural Services – August 2022 Report

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
- Kim Manning passed out the Art Guide for Fall/Winter 2022. The reason for more than one guide is that art instructors can only schedule 5-6 months in advance. Therefore, updates occur three times a year based on the ways classes are structured. The division does also advertise in the school guide.
- The "Colors of India" gallery opening occurred last weekend. The show was curated by the Indian American Culture Association. Coincidentally it was all women artists. The

show was wonderful with 250 plus people in attendance. A follow-up event is taking place in Duluth and details may be found on the back of the brochure provided to The Commission during the meeting.

- Kim Manning mentioned the division is also working hard to partner with various cultural groups and initiatives and asked that if the Recreation Commission knew of anyone interested in connecting to please let her know.
- Biyearly, Alpharetta has the outdoor sculpture exhibit updated. The city hires Arts Alpharetta to secure artists whose work is then rented by Alpharetta for a two-year display. She mentioned the new exhibit "MEDLEY" will include five sculptures recently approved by the Cultural Arts Commission for the new exhibit.
 - The theme to the art includes lots of color. Kim Manning spoke briefly regarding each piece's title, and it's intended location (one at Wills Park, one at Thompson Street Park, and three at Brooke Street Park).
 - Chairman Mitchell asked about the installation timeline.
 - Kim Manning mentioned mid-September is the set date (varying slightly by each artist's timeline) with the art on display for two years.
- Kim Manning explained an initiative with the Cultural Arts Commission which is Performance Permits for Pocket Parks. The initiative is to permit performers to play in four locations in Downtown Alpharetta.
 1. The fountain across from Nest Café.
 2. Food Truck Alley area.
 3. Near La Casa fountain.
 4. Beside Mercantile Social.
 - Permits are limited and will be completed online via Sign-Up Genius. With the City Council's blessing, it is currently in beta-testing for six months.
 - Commissioner Rand asked if Public Safety would be made aware.
 - Kim Manning stated interdepartmental staff are made aware via the special events email distribution list. It is important to note the parameters are limited to keep the initiative respectable catering to starting artists or high school artists looking for places to perform.
 - Commissioner Norton asked about input from merchants on competing performers/bands.
 - Kim Manning stated the goal is to try and avoid conflicts, by limiting times in which music may be scheduled (steering clear of Music Match performers).
 - Vice Chairman Saha asked about application fee.
 - Kim Manning stated there is a \$50.00 fee as well as set guidelines that must be followed. Strikes can incur if selected performers do not follow the guidelines. In addition, a badge and a vetting process is included the pre-approval.
 - Vice Chairman Saha asked if staff will be on site to monitor performances.
 - Kim Manning mentioned that while staff will not be on site, QR rating codes will be displayed so that people can send in comments. The hope is that business owners, etc. will also follow the notion, "If you see something, say something."

- Commissioner Rand asked about how the Cultural Arts Commission was doing.
 - Kim Manning mentioned they were doing well and perhaps the two commissions could get together to mingle in the future.
- Regarding public art, the “A” Sculpture is on the consent agenda for council based on the Cultural Arts Commission’s recommendation which is to repaint and repair the piece.
 - Chairman Mitchell asked if this was to repaint “as is”.
 - Kim Manning responded that the idea is to repaint the piece with a new artist design selected and implemented later.
- Regarding upcoming cultural happenings, these can be best seen on the calendar, but several fall events are on the horizon. Current and upcoming shows include, “Comforting Stitches: The Quilters’ Response to the Pandemic”, “Colors of India”, and “Riders Give Back”.

c. Recreation Services – August 2022 Report

- As Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item on behalf of Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department the report was presented prior to the Park Services reports.
- It was a great year of summer camps. Kudos to Lindsey, Angel, Jennie, Tyler, and Will for all their hard work.
- The school year guide is available with open registration tomorrow, August 10th.
- NAFL registration is completed for fall and resident registration is up. Everyone is looking forward to a great football season at North Park.
- Pools are now only open on weekends through Labor Day; senior swim to continue as late as possible pending weather.
- Kat Abdolrazagh did well her first season for the Aquatics Division, and staff look forward to what is in store next year with the success of this past summer.
- The GRPA Pickle-Ball tourney was this past weekend. It went very well with the teams and the newly forming professional organization.
 - Commissioner Rand asked if GRPA Pickle-Ball was officially organized.
 - Director Rodgers stated not quite yet but the group is moving in that direction.
- Kim Manning concluded with a sweet letter from a summer camper regarding the Arts Center.
- Vice Chairman Saha commented on the smooth and quick process of recreation registration for Commission families wished for the feedback to be passed along.

d. Park Services

• Parks Excluding Wills Park - August 2022 Report

- Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item on behalf of Eric Milley, Park Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
- Staff is getting ready to go into the 2nd season of the Soccer Innovation Academy. They have been aggressively treating the field to get it green. Kurt Kirby made a

point to state that contract services only go so far until staff takes it to the next level. He shared that Alpharetta's Park Services staff is professional, outstanding, and produces "picture perfect" green fields every day.

- Staff is beginning the annual tree maintenance program. Capital funding helps staff be more aggressive with the initiative. Currently \$250,000 is being spent to address deadwood or dangerous trees as quickly as possible to protect citizens from injury. The staff are very careful in the approach to tree removal not simply removing any tree with the focus being that good work would go unnoticed in terms of tree removal.
- Drainage and stormwater are a hot topic in Alpharetta, and it is no different with our parks. Pictures shown during the meeting illustrate proper drainage takes time, funding, and much effort.
- **Wills Park - August 2022 Report**
 - Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item on behalf of Matt Casey, Park Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
 - Staff is working diligently on completing Arena 1 at the equestrian center.
 - The plan is to build a rock tier wall observation area just below the concession stand with Park Bond funding to further enhance the equestrian arena. The scope has been increased to include an additional level to the wall and sod.
 - Chairman Mitchell asked when the ring will be available for use.
 - Director Rodgers stated the plan is to have dedication the first weekend after Labor Day weekend to include food trucks, etc. to make it a big deal.
- Vice Chairman Saha asked if students were treating the newly redone space at the Innovation Academy respectively.
 - Chairman Mitchell asked if the field was used for athletics.
 - Eric Milley mentioned the field was not used for athletic programs with usage focused primarily on the track.
- **Park Bonds**
 - Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
 - Design contract proposals are in for nearly all Park Bond projects. All designs (not construction) are set to go before Council during the August 22, 2022, Council Meeting.
 - Regarding Old Rucker Park, the design is complete and is estimated at \$357,900.
 - Regarding Mid-Broadwell Park, the design is complete, and pricing is being finalized. At this time staff has a scope of work and is awaiting pricing for restrooms which must be completed prior to Phase II which is the build out of the rest of the park. The rationale to the method is to save time and money by using preexisting erosion control and tree save for Phase I which will need to be replaced for Phase II.
 - Regarding Waters Road Park, a design/build proposal is being considered which is not to exceed \$1.1M. This comes under the Park Bond projected cost \$1.25M.

The Guardian Group is who the staff is considering (resourced via Source Well, a collaborative co-op of vendors that operate as general contractors).

- Chairman Mitchell asked if this design would be like Windward Park.
- Kurt Kirby stated the idea is to present the general design concept to City Council in September. As staff moves through the design and hits 40%, we'll have a better visual of what the park will look like.
- Commissioner Rand asked about the process of approval or public input regarding the park's design.
- Director Rodgers stated that the city began with initial public input meetings on site and virtually. The final will circulate back for approval through the public, the Recreation Commission, and City Council.
- Vice Chairman Saha asked regarding the addition of a dog park/no dog park.
- Director Rodgers stated the consensus is no dog park at Waters Road. Aside from many residents not desiring a dog park, there is not enough space at the location. Elements of Windward Park and Cogburn Park is what you will most likely see at Waters Road resembling a true community park design.
- Commissioner Bowers asked if the upfront design funding is what City Council was approving come August 22nd.
 - Kurt Kirby confirmed City Council will be approving the funding.

At this time Chairman Mitchell excused himself for feeling under the weather and requested that Vice Chairman Saha chair the meeting.

- Regarding Union Hill Park, the design (with incorporated public input) will be \$328,000. Once more, this park design is set for funding approval by City Council at the August 22, 2022, Council Meeting.
- Regarding Wills Park, the total cost for Wills Park's Proper (which included both the athletic and equestrian renovations) is \$1.8M.
 - Commissioner Rand asked for clarity on the Wills Park Proper renovations.
 - Kurt Kirby mentioned the Wills Park Proper includes the two gateways, a connecting spine between the two gateways, and the renovation of Wacky World Dog Park. The restroom design is also including only in terms of the site work but is a separate project. Phasing and concurrent jobs all depend on scheduling and the desire to keep the park operational during the renovations.
 - Director Rodgers stated of the \$1.8M, \$800,000 is for Wills Park Proper and \$1.0M is for the equestrian center. To add, it is the staff's intent to complete the restroom and Wacky World at Wills Park as soon as possible.

- Commissioner Beach asked about community input and the “selling of stakes” with family names to fundraise as was done when Wacky World was first constructed.
 - Kurt Kirby stated it is a community concept again. The company, Play by Design is likely to be included once more. A committee will be created to address fundraising but currently it is too early in the process for details.
 - Commissioner Bowers asked for clarification on the restroom renovation role in Park Bond funding.
 - Director Rodgers stated the restroom design is not part of the design funding as the design component was completed prior to Park Bond funding. It is included only in the design terms of the site work. The construction of the restroom, however, is being funded from Park Bonds.
 - Commissioner Bowers then asked if work being done at the equestrian center was funded by operational funds or Park Bonds.
 - Director Rodgers stated it was funded by pre-existing operational and capital funds. Park Bond funds for the equestrian project have not been spent to date for the purposes of his question.
- **Capital Projects**
 - The Alpharetta Community Center gym floor replacement was approved, and work began yesterday. Staff is still unsure as to what resulted in the water damage. They are confident the moisture-barrier epoxy to be added to the new floor will prevent future water damage.
 - Wills Park Field 4 turf replacement is scheduled to begin November 1st including enhancements to the field with updated fencing and netting.
 - Auto-locks will be added to North Park and Cogburn Park restrooms. Vandalism has spiked and thus spurred this initiative. It was noted that two restrooms at North Park were vandalized just before the Triple Crown Tournament.
 - Commissioner Rand asked how the auto-locks work.
 - Kurt Kirby stated they are set to lock at specific times with overrides for cleaning crews or staff.
 - Commissioner Beach asked about whether cameras could be added to watch for vandalism activity.
 - Kurt Kirby stated conversations have occurred about adding additional cameras, but this is yet another initiative that requires funding.
 - Park signage initiative was placed on hold with COVID but now has the support and funding to begin wayfinding at the Greenway. Signage will be enhanced with directional signs, wayfinding, and additional options currently sought out from the city’s on-call company. That said, the Greenway is coming to completion for Alpharetta’s portion of the track.
 - Commissioner Norton asked about an update on Webb Bridge Park.

- Staff is looking at water/sewer/septic and how to address the issues to be able to place the new field. The process is taking a little longer and may require a different initiative. Currently, staff is asking for more studies to get authentic pricing and ideas on how to best approach the issue. The goal is to preserve the park's \$1.0M in Park Bond funding to replace the turf as intended and not to address the septic issue.

X. CITY COUNCIL / COMMISSION MEMBERS

- There were no commission comments or reports.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Vice Chairman Saha offered a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Scott seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to hear or discuss, Vice Chairman Saha adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amber O'Dwyer
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services