



RECREATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP

OFFICIAL MINUTES

AUGUST 24, 2022

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COMMUNITY ROOM | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Recreation Commission Members - Present
 - Dennis Mitchell (Chairman)
 - Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
 - Cheryl Rand
 - Jeremy Scott
 - Karla Peidrahita
 - Brad Bowers
 - Derek Kaighin
- Recreation Commission Members – Absent
 - Shuntel Beach
 - John Norton
- Staff
 - Kurt Kirby – Project Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Christine Young – Recreation Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kim Manning – Cultural Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Lauren Shapiro – City Clerk, City of Alpharetta
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Chairman Mitchell wished to make a note for the record that Commissioner John Norton and Director Morgan Rodgers were not present at the meeting on account of them attending the AHSAA/Boosters Meeting occurring at the same time.

III. WORKSHOP ITEMS

- a. Non-Resident Fees - Events / NOC / Alpharetta Gymnastics Academy / Adult Leagues
 - Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.

- Christine Young requested the Recreation Commission consider reviewing the current policy for non-resident versus resident rates for various Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services programs.
- Christine Young suggested that often, for “one-off” events, residents could be given the opportunity to have an early registration window to register prior to opening registration to non-residents if we wished to have one rate for both resident and non-resident registrants.
- Examples of the cost difference between residents and non-residents were given, illustrating that the cost is a 50% upcharge for non-residents for some programs while others are a flat rate pending the need to fill teams (as is the case with the basketball tournament).
- Christine Young did mention that while the current process for collecting non-resident fees proves to be less challenging as in the past, the concern is the cost that a non-resident might pay when having multiple children engaged in some of the more expensive programs, or when one non-resident child is engaged in several of the costlier programs.
- Kim Manning came forward to state that the arts programs struggle to fill classes often on account of the non-resident rate. Many art instructors have followings and decline to teach for Alpharetta’s programs due to the high non-resident rate. She did, however, mention that in comparing our rates to neighboring counties and cities, each has a different approach with some mirroring the 50% upcharge and others having a flat rate upcharge.
- Commissioner Scott mentioned that often “peer pressure” to join a team when all friends are signed up could address the non-resident rate issue because a person will pay to play regardless. He also mentioned that we must have some sort of benefit for Alpharetta residents whether that means an early access registration or resident rate. Regardless of the approach, the city should also consider the added wear and tear of increased usage of program related equipment and space related to registrant expansion.
- Chairman Mitchell asked if such a decision would require Council approval.
- Kurt Kirby confirmed that it would.
- Commissioner Rand reminded that the reason a non-resident rate was initially implemented was on account of resident taxes stretching to cover operating costs for all facilities that were being used by residents and non-residents alike. Nevertheless, the rate structure was crafted several years ago and could be reviewed.
- Chairman Mitchell asked how long it would take staff to provide a monetary analysis that could be reviewed by The Commission to realize the impact of adjusting non-resident rates.
- Commissioner Piedrahita agreed that data would be helpful.
- Commissioner Scott proposed that if nothing else, the idea of changing the verbiage from non-resident/resident fees to a standard fee with an Alpharetta resident discount could prove to be better terminology.
- Christine Young stated that they did implement such wording at the pool, and it went very well.

- Commissioner Rand asked if we were losing funding hence the rationale for revisiting rates.
- Christine Young stated the recreation programs were not but that the art programs were.
- Commissioner Rand stated maybe a rate restructuring of the classes might be a wise approach.
- Kim Manning mentioned that reducing instructor rates too much could result in a loss of quality instructors.
- Commissioner Rand then stated that just as a reminder, if classes are of no interest in Alpharetta residents, Council has no desire to fund programs of interest for non-residents only.
- Chairman Mitchell stated that if program participation of non-residents is 60-70%, then the existing rates are not deterrents; if 0%, then yes.
- Commissioner Scott asked what Milton charges for art programs.
- Kim Manning mentioned that Milton does not have an organized program in place.
- Christine Young also made mention of the Roswell Camp, NOC that is offsite and whether The Commission wished to review that cost when considering rates as well as athletic team rates.
- Chairman Mitchell mentioned that teams have MOUs requiring certain resident/non-resident ratios of players and that diving deep into rates could prove to be complicated at that point.
- Commissioner Piedrahita stated she'd love to learn more about the MOUs in place and how they play roles in fees however Chairman Mitchell stated MOUs do not apply to standard recreation programs, only to athletic teams.
- The concern of varying rate structures by class or teams was also raised. That one approach is still best for all versus selectively applying rates.
- Chairman Mitchell stated that while the Recreation Commission understood that the concern lay not in participation but cost for non-residents, ultimately a review of the participation numbers and whether cost proved to be a deterrent would be required.
- It was decided that the Recreation Commission would review the rates but wished to see more data (rate difference between the two groups, number of enrollments for residents versus non-residents per program, etc.) before proceeding with a decision on how best to proceed.

b. Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Restroom Inventory

- Chairman Mitchell requested the Recreation Commission review details in the agenda packet as they relate to the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services restroom inventory and to let staff know if they had any questions.
- Commissioner Kaighin wished for changing tables in men's restrooms be considered when making design changes to restrooms.

c. Park Services Bond Update – August 2022

- ❖ Commissioner Rand made a motion to table the discussion of August 2022 Park Services Bond Update to the next scheduled Recreation Commission Workshop on account of time constraints.
 - Vice Chair Saha seconded the motion.
 - The motion passed (8-0).

d. Commission Member Orientation

- Lauren Shapiro, City Clerk and Amber O'Dwyer, Administrative Office Coordinator came forward to present this item.
- Lauren Shapiro offered a brief orientation for Recreation Commission members on current resources available to access prior meetings and upcoming agendas as well as a refresher on Robert's Rules of Order, and the City's Code of Ethics and Conduct for the City's board and commission members.
 - Vice Chair Saha asked for clarification on conflict of interest, using the example of a council member and downtown restaurateur's role with town green related agenda topics.
 - Lauren Shapiro stated that the council member would decide to recuse based upon whether the proposed amendments would lead to personal benefit.
 - Vice Chair Saha asked about how the Recreation Commission member's five-year terms factor into the four-year terms of the Council Member who appoints them.
 - Lauren Shapiro stated that said Recreation Commission member would serve his/her full five-year term and then, upon approaching the end of the term, would contact the current Council Member serving in the post associated with the Recreation Commission member's appointment to either let the Council Member know his/her term is ending and to seek a new appointment or to request consideration for reappointment.

IV. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- There were no commission comments or reports.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ With there being no further items to discuss, Commissioner Rand made a motion to table the discussion of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Restroom Inventory and the August 2022 Park Services Bond Update to the next scheduled Recreation Commission Workshop.
 - Vice Chair Saha seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).
- ❖ The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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