



RECREATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP

OFFICIAL MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

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

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. Public comments are noted as heard by the Recreation Commission, but not quoted or paraphrased. This document includes limited presentation by the Recreation Commission and invited speakers in summary form.

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
 - John Norton
 - Karla Peidrahita
 - Derek Kaighin
- Recreation Commission Members - Absent
 - Shuntel Beach
 - Jeremy Scott
 - Brad Bowers
- Staff
 - Morgan Rodgers – Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kurt Kirby – Project Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Christine Young – Recreation Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. WORKSHOP ITEMS

- Commission Meeting & Workshop Schedule
 - Recreation Commissioners discussed the current schedule of Recreation Commission meetings and how best to proceed in the future.

- Currently, the schedule includes one meeting and one workshop each month with division managers on rotation to present staff reports so that not all need be in attendance.
- Commissioners voiced they wish to feel more connected and have better conversation with department staff during commission meetings and feel this is not possible given the staff rotation.
- Commissioners also preferred to have questions answered during the meeting versus via email or phone and to not have just a bird's eye view of happenings but details on specific topics.
- A few commissioners felt The Commission was designed differently from other boards and commissions with the purpose being to include engagement and conversation and not to meet only for points of action.
- Commissioner Piedrahita stated she understood the staff rotation as an effort to make the most use of staff's time, respecting the fact that division managers may have additional commitments making attendance at every meeting challenging.
- Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department stated staff would love any guidance provided by The Commission, and candidly speaking, many are lost directionally in terms of agenda reports and that the current approach feels monotonous.
- Chairman Mitchell suggested it might be wise to have Recreation Commissioners rekindle their division liaison assignments to help address the issue.
- Morgan Rodgers, Director of the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department stated he would be happy to increase staff engagement with the Recreation Commission, requesting feedback to help steer staff in the right direction.
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department requested that if any Recreation Commissioners had questions arise between meetings, to please contact staff for more immediate answers.
- Commissioner Rand mentioned she would like to see partner associations come back before The Commission for annual reports as well.
- The final decision included a trial period lasting through February 2023 in which:
 - The meeting schedule would remain as is with two meetings a month: one official meeting and one workshop (pending items).
 - All department division managers would be present at the meetings to report on their respective divisions and to answer division-related questions.
 - Recreation Commissioners would provide continued feedback and clarification as to the level of detail and content they wish to see from staff reports.
 - Agenda packets would be released at least two days prior to meetings and workshops to allow Commissioners an opportunity to review discussion topics and reports.
 - Partner associations would begin presenting annual reports come January 2023.

- Director Rodgers asked Commissioners to provide questions pertaining to agenda items in advance of meetings, when possible, to allow staff an opportunity to prepare the best responses.
- **Johns Creek MOU – Discussion**
 - Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
 - Currently, the Parks Without Borders Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) permits residents and employees of the Cities of Johns Creek and Alpharetta to participate in either city's recreational softball, baseball, and lacrosse programs at the respective city's resident rate. It is important to note that travel programs are excluded from the MOU.
 - With the MOU up for renewal, the City of Johns Creek wishes to add recreational soccer to the list of programs shared between the two cities and City of Alpharetta staff sees this as mutually beneficial given the increased interest and participation in the program.
 - Additionally, the two parks that offer soccer fields and programs, Webb Bridge Park (City of Alpharetta) and Ocee Park (City of Johns Creek) sit along the adjoining border of both cities. This ease of access for Alpharetta and Johns Creek citizens furthers the idea that sharing in the recreational soccer programs and facilities is advantageous.
 - Commissioner Rand asked about the addition of the word "club" used in the MOU and whether it was a distinguishing difference between "travel select" and "travel select club".
 - Christine Young stated there was no difference but reiterated that travel programs are not currently included in the MOU.
 - Director Rodgers stated that while travel programs might be considered for the MOU in the future, Kirk Franz with Johns Creek wished to wait until the city's comprehensive plan was finalized before proceeding with the idea.
 - The Recreation Commission will vote to recommend City Council renew the Parks Without Borders Memorandum of Understanding to include recreational soccer programs at the October 11, 2022, Recreation Commission Meeting.
- **Design Services – Wills Park Proper & Equestrian Center**
 - Morgan Rodgers, Director of the Recreation, Parks, & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
 - Director Rodgers informed the Recreation Commission that the Department of Public Works has been steering the project and is now ready to recommend Barge Design Solutions, Inc. as the designer for the Wills Park Proper & Equestrian Center improvements to City Council at the October 3, 2022, Council Meeting.
 - Through a Request for Qualifications and thorough evaluation of vendor submissions, Barge Design Solutions, Inc. was selected for the project.
 - Rendering costs are approximately \$1.8M and includes all aspects of design leading up to construction as well as an estimated cost to build.

- Wills Park Proper improvement designs are an amount not to exceed \$625,650.00.
 - Wills Park Equestrian Center improvement designs are an amount not to exceed \$1,184,750.00.
- Commissioner Norton asked if the design would incorporate ADA restrooms for Wacky World playground.
 - Director Rodgers stated that it would.
- Commissioner Piedrahita asked for the overall timeline of the project.
 - Director Rodgers stated he believed the project would take 18 months to complete.
- Vice Chair Saha asked about tennis court lighting.
 - Director Rodgers stated that while athletic lighting was not included in the bond renovation, renovations are planned and to be funded by a separate initiative and will include lighting for the tennis courts.
- **Youth Athletic Association Banner Policy**
 - Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
 - The Youth Athletic Association Banner Policy Program permits local athletic associations to seek sponsorships through vendor marketing on banners posted within Wills Park.
 - Currently, the program includes four associations: AMBUSH (soccer), NAFL (football), AYBA (baseball), and AYSA (softball).
 - A few of the associations are still determining their bandwidth for participation while others have found it essential for funding.
 - The program includes policies and guidelines to avoid clutter or inappropriate advertising within Wills Park.
 - Banners are permitted only during the length of the season and not all year long.
 - Currently, the banner program requires review and renewal by the Recreation Commission as it expired in May 2022.
 - Chairman Mitchell asked how much the program has raised to date.
 - Christine Young stated that estimates would be provided in reports come the end of the year and that despite a vote to renew the program would need to come prior to the release of the numbers, this is due, in part, to having intentionally not asked the associations' profit margins on account of the short ROI window.
 - Vice Chair Saha asked if staff had received any feedback, positive or negative as to the commercializing of the fields.
 - Director Rodgers and Christine Young both stated that neither had heard any negative comments to date.
 - Staff will seek approval to renew the program and policy by the Recreation Commission at the October 11, 2022, Recreation Commission Meeting.

IV. REPORTS

- Director Rodgers stated that the Annual Holiday Dinner Mixer of the Recreation Commission and the Cultural Arts Commission has been scheduled for December 13, 2022 and will likely take place at Rena's Restaurant.
- Director Rodgers and Chairman Mitchell announced Recreation workshops for November and December are cancelled on account of the holiday season and would resume in January. The last workshop for 2022 would be October 26, 2022.
- Vice Chair Saha asked for staff updates to be provided at the next Recreation Commission meeting regarding Waters Road crosswalks and left turn lanes as they relate to the Kimball Bridge / Waters Road Park design. He also asked for updates on the Department's bench memorial program.
- Commissioner Norton stated the equestrian arena ribbon cutting was fantastic.
 - Director Rodgers stated that there is better to come with the entire area receiving major enhancements. He also noted that most of the arena project was funded without 2022 Series Bond funding with the exception for the natural, tiered seating wall.
- Director Rodgers announced that October 24, 2022, will be the groundbreaking of the Alpha Loop extension from Old Milton Parkway to Northwinds Parkway adding connectivity to the Atley residential development, Westside Parkway, and the Northwinds office campus. More details are forthcoming.

V. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ With there being no further items to discuss, Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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