



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING OFFICIAL MINUTES FEBRUARY 14, 2023

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 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
 - Jeremy Scott
 - Karla Peidrahita
 - John Norton
 - Derek Kaighin
 - Brad Bowers
- Recreation Commission Members - Absent
 - Shuntel Beach
- 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
 - Amanda Musilli – Community Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Eric Milley – Park Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Matt Casey – Wills Park Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. Approval of Recreation Commission Minutes from January 10, 2023

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell asked for a motion to approve the minutes.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, as written and corrected, from the January 10, 2023, Recreation Commission Meeting.
 - Commissioner Saha seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (8-0).

V. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS

a. Ambush – 2022 Year in Review

- ❖ *This item was deferred by the association and will be presented at the May 2023 meeting of the Recreation Commission.*

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- Chairman Mitchell noted there was no old business to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- Chairman Mitchell noted there was no new business to discuss.

VIII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

- Community Services Division Monthly Report – February 2023
 - Amanda Musilli, Community Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
 - Wire & Wood.
 - Headliners are locked in but cannot share who they are at this time. Excited about the artists able to be secured and will be promoting earlier than before.
 - Taste of Alpharetta
 - Only three months away and plans are underway.
 - Commission feedback on e-ticketing has been considered by staff leading to modifications and staff is feeling good about the new approach.
 - Summer Activity Guide
 - In the final stages of review and should be in hand February 15th.
 - Old Rucker Park and Union Hill Park Public Input Surveys
 - Old Rucker Park survey is currently live, and results will be presented at the next Recreation Commission workshop.
 - Union Hill Park's survey goes live next month.
 - Community Agriculture
 - Still recovering from crops lost in the prior month.
 - February is still a busy month and several crops such as collard greens, spinach, peppers, eggplant, okra, tomatoes and more will be in the grow room several of which will soon migrate to the green house.
 - In the ground, radishes, turnips, beets, and peas will be in the ground.
 - Staff is working hard to produce regular donations to the NFCC by March.

- Started construction today on the community garden redevelopment to address the ant issue at the terrace. It will be rebuilt over the next two weeks so members may begin receiving their plot assignments and start the February 24th seed distribution.
- Staff is aware that ants will still exist and working with pest control vendor to implement new, organic, treatments.
- Mayfield Grow-A-Row
 - Currently staff is exploring the possibility of expanding the grow-a-row program to the Mayfield property in partnership with the City of Milton.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Wire & Wood

- Q. Commissioner Norton asked if staff had the dates for 2023.
- A. Amanda Musilli responded it is always 2nd weekend of October so this year will be October 13th and 14th.

RE: Taste of Alpharetta

- Q. Commissioner Rand inquired as to the notation in the report about offering incentives for restaurants to participate.
- A. Amanda Musilli responded that it is rare that a restaurant breaks even for the event, and it is often a loss. Jacob's Eye will have a tiered approach this year for restaurants to make the event profitable for them and Jacob's Eye. Historically, restaurants run out of food halfway through the event. If they keep enough food for the event, the better chance of sales. With the tiered approach, as restaurants meet higher thresholds in sales, the less they must give back in percentage of profits to the City. The less sales, the higher they must pay back. It works well for all but most importantly event attendees.
- Q. Chairman Mitchell asked if GDOT was on board with closing Hwy 9 for the TOA.
- A. Amanda Musilli stated the last update was that Public Works had submitted the request and is waiting to hear back from GDOT. There were no issues last year so staff is optimistic that it will be approved.

RE: Old Rucker Park Public Input Survey

- Q. Commissioner Piedrahita asked what the difference was with this survey compared to the initial input when there were in-person or virtual meetings.
- A. Amanda Musilli stated this survey took the feedback from the initial meetings and crafted a design. Questions focused on proximity to park and thoughts on the new design.
- Q. Commissioner Rand asked if the survey had a good response.
- A. Amanda Musilli stated that we did.

- Director Rodgers also commented that full results of the Old Rucker Park public input survey and presentation would be provided at the next workshop of Recreation Commission and encouraged commissioners to attend to have questions answered and additional comments made.

RE: Mayfield Grow-A-Row Program

- Q. Commissioner Rand asked if the City would have to put up a fence up and inquired as to if that could be costly.
- A. Amanda Musilli responded that yes, a fence and water would need to be implemented but for now, staff is only exploring the idea and there is nothing concrete yet.
- Q. Vice Chair Saha asked if the City owned the property or if the City of Milton owned it and inquired as to how the program be financed.
- A. Amanda Musilli stated the cities each own 50% of the property and the concept is so new and early in exploration that no decision on the financing of the project has been established.

RE: Annual Recreation Activity Guide

- Q. Commissioner Bowers asked how activity guides were distributed and if the preference was to direct people to the website or centers to pick-up a guide.
- A. Amanda Musilli stated all the above. 1500 hardcopies are printed and are distributed, but staff works hard to drive people to the digital version. Currently working on a postcard with a QR code that supports that initiative. Staff does not promote going to the centers to pick-up guides as they are limited.

• Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – February 2023

- Kurt Kirby came forward to present the item on behalf of Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department.
- Kim Manning submitted a detailed presentation leaving little to say.
- She wished to focus on Black History Month programs which began at the end of the month and will be continuing throughout the month.
- Additionally, ACT1 will be doing its first performance in Innovation Academy.
 - Staff has been working hard to form a partnership with Innovation Academy which may become a reality.
 - Director Rodgers commented that the Presbyterian Church had pipes freeze that took out part of the preschool program classrooms. The program then had to be moved into the space ACT1 has historically used. ACT1 approached the City for potential new spaces and was able to connect the organization with Innovation Academy. To be mutually beneficial, the students help build the set design, props for ACT1 as part of their educational drama/production classes while ACT1 uses the space for rehearsals and productions.

- In addition, staff is having early conversations with North Point Mall regarding the use of mall space for a community theatre to keep traffic driving to the area prior to future development plans for the area.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: ACT 1 & Innovation Academy

Q. Vice Chair Saha asked if Innovation Academy gets paid for facility usage by ACT1.

A. Director Rodgers stated it is a non-monetary agreement but a trade of services. The benefit is an exchange for curriculum provided for students to build props/site design, for use of the facility for productions.

• Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – February 2023

- Christine Young, Cultural Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
- Selma Merbaum turned 100. The Adult Activity Center and the Historical Society had celebrations for her at which the mayors of Johns Creek and Alpharetta were in attendance.
- Jack Buckner turned 100 in the City of Milton and February 3rd was designated “Jack Buckner” day.
- Gymnastics
 - Aven Van Gelder scored a 9.9 on the vault in one of her gymnastics competitions.
 - Alpharetta’s Gymnastics Academy is doing great this season winning several first-place categories at their meets!
 - Katelyn Ohashi is a gymnast on the UCLA team and several of the girls got to meet her at a competition that she hosted.
- Polar Bear Plunge
 - It was very cold that morning!
 - The event was great and the “bunny guy” jumps every year.
 - Councilmember Hipes was there and jumped too.
 - Rotary raised over \$118k this year!
 - You can see the BrewAble team which includes Mayor Gilvin who does the same jump every year.
- Summer Guide
 - Guides will go live online February 15th for the “best summer ever!”
 - Resident registration begins March 8th.
 - Open registration begins March 22nd.
- ACC Family Valentine’s Dance
 - Staff did a great job with a fairy land décor.

- 130 people came.
- Princess Ana was a dance teacher's daughter staff has known for years.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: 2023 Polar Bear Plunge

- Q. Commissioner Norton commented that the money raised at the Polar Bear Plunge does not keep any of the \$118k raised but it is distributed back to the organizations that participated. And there was a huge crowd!
- A. Christine Young stated there was at least 250 people and the Fireman were there for the Chili Cookoff!

RE: Annual Community Center Family Valentine's Dance

- Commissioner Piedrahita extended a big thank you for the work that went into the Valentine's Family Dance.
- Parks Services Division (Excluding Wills Park) Monthly Report – February 2023
 - Eric Milley, Park Services Manager Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
 - Over the past month, staff installed automatic locks in the restrooms at the parking deck, The Greenway, and North Park. The restroom locks are on a timer and will in the evenings and open again in the mornings. Hours are currently 7am to 6pm.
 - Staff is preparing to put mulch around City Hall, Brooke Street Park, Haynes Bridge, the medians, and tree wells. Tree wells will be delayed and due to repairs and concrete pouring.
 - Park staff is preparing for the spring season by replacing bases, netting, portable mounds, filling in areas where infields hold water.
 - Staff has also been working hard to keep the Greenway clear for minimal trail closures and keep them safe by raking silt from trail flooding that covers the Greenway from rain.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Restroom Auto-Locks

- Q. Chairman Mitchell asked for confirmation that the restrooms close at 6pm.
- A. Eric Milley stated they close at 6pm which is dusk, but as the season gets longer the restrooms will remain open later. The concern is residents in the restrooms at night and the locks are to deter the activity.
- Q. Rand asked for clarification on "residents".
- A. Eric Milley stated sleepers.

Q. Vice Chair Saha asked when they close at North Park?

A. Eric Milley stated at 10pm when the park closes. The Greenway closed at 6pm like the parking deck.

Q. Chairman Mitchell asked if someone was in when the restrooms, could they get out?

A. Eric Milley stated yes, there is an override.

- Director Rodgers stated the goal is to have all outdoor restrooms include automated locks to control unintended usage of the restrooms.

RE: Greenway Clearing

Q. Vice Chair Saha asked if the approach to clearing the Greenway is manual.

A. Eric Milley stated there is machinery but some areas must be addressed manually because the equipment will not work in those areas.

- Director Rodgers stated the work is recurring as every time it rains the work must be done again.

- **Parks Services Division (Wills Park & Equestrian) Monthly Report – February 2023**

- Matt Casey, Park Services for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
- Field #4 is just about complete. There are a few remaining punch list items before opening day March 4th.
- The mound shipped was not correct so had to be corrected and now have it for opening day.
- The Recreation Center playground was reconfigured to be compliant with State streamline buffer requirements and the reforestation grant project. Trees are being planted and erosion control completed and should be completed by March 31.
- Equestrian Center has been going through wintertime maintenance.
 - Covered arena has been laser graded.
 - Outdoor arenas have been graded.
 - Shows started a few weeks ago and should be every weekend for the season.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Wills Park Turf Fields

Q. Commissioner Piedrahita asked about the downtime of the turf fields.

A. Matt Casey stated that they must go through testing but before then it is considered a construction site so try to keep people safe, but all fields should be open now.

RE: Wills Park Rec Center Playground

Q. Commissioner Rand asked if staff considered the issue of mulch run off when reconfiguring the Recreation Center playground.

A. Matt Casey stated the new reconfiguration should help with the issue in addition to the black buffer installed to shield the mulch from sliding.

RE: Equestrian Center

Q. Commissioner Norton asked if there were shows every weekend.

A. Matt Casey stated yes.

Q. Commissioner Rand asked if shows were booked out for 2023.

A. Matt Casey stated yes.

RE: Annual Baseball & Softball Spring Season

Q. Chairman Mitchell asked for confirmation that opening day for the spring baseball and softball season was March 4.

A. Matt Casey stated yes.

- **Park Bonds and Project Management Monthly Report – February 2023**

- Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
- Wills Park Maintenance Facility:
 - In the final stretch. It is enclosed, windows are in, the mezzanine stairs are installed, and started painting this week. The fire suppression system has been submitted to the Fire Marshall for approval.
- Park Bond Updates:
 - Old Rucker Park & Union Hill Park
 - Design concept is going for approval to City Council.
 - Hoping to have designs for both approved by April and to move to the next phase by May 1.
- Waters Road Park
 - Construction plans are anticipated by end of February.
 - Should progress quickly as well and should break ground in May pending permitting.
- Mid-Broadwell Park
 - Going out for bid next week with a revised, phased concept next week.

- Hope the initial plans will come back preparing the parking area, site work for the playground, and bioretention work. Hope it comes back positive as the lower the cost for site work, the more funding for the playground.
- Webb Bridge Park Artificial Turf
 - Install of turf and sewer have been divided into two separate projects.
 - Working on sewer project first and can then circle back to the turf installation in a design-build concept.
 - Director Rodgers stated the City has taken a stance that the sewer is not part of the Park Bond project but rather an infrastructure issue. The plan is to complete the project in such a way that the baseball restrooms and maintenance shop could be added to the new sewer lines.
- Farmhouse Historical Site
 - Community Development is to reach out to new property owners of the development adjacent to the site to see about a potential parking easement for accessibility to the site.
- Wills Park
 - The first design concept for Wills Park Proper was provided by the design team. Staff is pleased with the direction of the project.
 - Should have a design for the equestrian center soon.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Webb Bridge Sewer Replacement & Turf Project

Q. Chairman Mitchell ask if Webb Bridge would be a straight bid.

A. Yes, that would be advertised for four weeks.

Q. Chairman Mitchell asked if the Webb Bridge line would connect to the other bathrooms.

A. No, will go down the trail, back towards the parking lot, continue in a straight line until it gets to the road, and then turn again to the entrance of the park.

Q. Commissioner Rand asked if there were only two septic areas in the park and inquired about the tennis restrooms being on septic.

A. Director Rodgers stated there are four, soccer, baseball, tennis, and the maintenance shop. Since tennis does not get as used as much as the baseball and soccer fields, they are lower priority. Current goal is to hook-up the soccer restrooms, and then return to the baseball restrooms. Focus is on soccer septic as those have failed. A capital improvement project is planned for baseball restrooms.

b. DIRECTOR

- Union Hill Park – Covered Arena Electrical Upgrades Vendor Selection

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present this item.
- First wished to state he was excited about the Park Bond projects and the progress being made.
- Staff will be seeking approval by City Council at the February 20 Council Meeting for the use of a pre-existing contract with Meer Electric for covered arena electrical upgrades.
 - Total for the project is roughly \$86,000.
 - Must seek approval because it exceeds \$50,000.
 - Current electrical works but is not ideal for special event productions which is the future purpose for the site.
 - Following the electrical conduit upgrades, the plan is to paint the facility.
 - Additionally, \$300,000 has been allocated for the entire renovation of the arena and including:
 - Restrooms
 - Concessions
 - Roof & Gutter Repairs
 - Electrical Upgrades
 - Non-slip Floor Sealant

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Union Hill Park

Q. Chairman Mitchell asked what the actual capacity was for the venue.

A. Director Rodgers stated easily 200-300 with table and chairs up to 500 for a theatrical performance but parking is limited. Staff is currently talking with surrounding businesses for parking options.

Q. Commissioner Norton asked if Home By Dark would be there again this summer.

A. Director Rogers stated, yes at least six concerts. In addition, six special needs camps titled "Camp Momentum" will be hosted at the park this coming summer.

Q. Commissioner Bowers asked if the design would remain open air.

A. Director Rodgers stated yes as the acoustics are ideal for the venue.

RE: 2023 City Council Retreat

Q. Commissioner Piedrahita asked about the City Council Retreat.

A. Director Rodgers stated he is awaiting a report to be provided by the City Administrator. Until then, this item has been deferred. All he can say is that it was a good retreat, and

he is hopeful he can provide a full report at the Recreation Commission workshop, but it might be the March meeting.

- 2023 City Council Retreat Update

- ❖ *This item was deferred by staff and will be presented at the March 2023 meeting of the Recreation Commission.*

IX. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Scott wished to provide an update on Wacky World.
 - The playground is due for a millennial upgrade given its age.
 - The city has set aside funds in the bond referendum to help support the initiative.
 - Commissioner Scott is on a citizen committee for Wacky World 2.0 to help shepherd the project which has gained a lot of momentum recently.
 - Play By Design is the designer behind the project which specializes in community piloted projects.
 - The first big date is March 28th which is the official design day at Alpharetta Elementary School.
 - Students will get to provide input with the designer on specifications they'd like to see in the playground design.
 - Later that evening there will be an unveiling of the conceptual design composed from the students' input and will open the concept to citywide families and residents interested in learning more about the project.
 - The hope is to have the new playground built in Spring 2024.
 - More information will be coming and volunteer, donation, and subcommittee opportunities for the project will be introduced.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION

RE: Wacky World 2.0

Q. Commissioner Rand asked if the target audience was west side only or all Alpharetta?

A. Commissioner Scott said it is open to all.

Q. Commissioner Kaighin asked if the company was used for all playground designs?

A. Commissioner Scott stated this company specializes in community build projects (including tool donations, food donations, childcare, etc.) which differs from projects solely the responsibility of the City.

Q. Commissioner Bowers asked for clarity in the student/contractor design day elements.

A. Beginning early in the morning, students give ideas to consultants within a certain number of hours, and the designer crafts a preliminary design from the feedback provided which will be unveiled to the public attending that evening.

- Q. Commissioner Bowers inquired as to the donation process from a corporate standpoint. Asks because some companies are reluctant to donate directly to the City versus an organization.
- A. Commissioner Scott stated funding is given directly to the City and filtered through the City's Finance Department to help fund the project, but donations are tax deductible.

RE: Equestrian Center Arena #3 Renovation

Q. Chairman Mitchell asked for confirmation that it took a while for materials to arrive last time.

A. Matt Casey replied yes but hopefully supply chain issues will not be an issue.

- Chairman Mitchell reminded commissioners to send in their 3 objectives for 2023.
- Director Rodgers stated arena #3 has been signed by the City and is waiting for the vendor to execute contract so we can proceed.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Bowers seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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