



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

MAY 9, 2023

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

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I. CALL TO ORDER

❖ Vice Chairman Jit Saha called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Recreation Commissioners
 - Chairman Dennis Mitchell
 - Vice Chairman Arjit "Jit" Saha
 - Brad Bowers
 - Cheryl Rand
 - Derek Kaighin
 - Jeremy Scott
 - John Norton
 - Karla Piedrahita
 - Shuntel Beach
- Staff
 - Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services
 - Kurt Kirby, Project Manager
 - Kim Zane Manning, Cultural Services Manager
 - Amanda Musilli, Community Services Manager
 - James Drinkard, Assistant City Administrator
 - Lauren Shapiro, City Clerk
 - Adam Montgomery, Interim Director of Information Technology
 - Kiersten VanHorn, Assistant City Clerk

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS

a. AYBA 2022 Year in Review (Daniel Burkett)

- Daniel Burkett, president of AYBA, came forward to present the item.
- Spring registration was up 14%; summer registration was up 45% which means the organization must be doing something right!
- The organization has a great reputation and is known for being a top-notch program.
 - Any canceled games are always rescheduled.
 - The organization partners with Alpharetta High School (AHS).
 - Varsity Coach at AHS hosts an event for players in which they wear their jerseys, enjoy dinner, and have fun and it is a success.
- The organization's presence on social media continues to grow with over 1800 followers on Facebook.
- The AYBA All Star Team was runner up at the World Series in Mississippi.
- The AYBA Georgia Bombers (travel organization that plays under AYBA) has had 31 players committed to colleges.
- Despite success, the organization finds it hard to find volunteer coaches.
- 2023 Desired Projects:
 - Turf in fields at Wills Park.
 - Replacement of dugouts at Webb Bridge Park (specifically A and B fields).
 - AYBA believes this will prove a successful investment as among the various parks used, 24% AYBA's time is at Webb Bridge Park fields.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A

RE: AYBA 2022 Year in Review

- Q Vice Chairman Saha asked for clarity on the route players take that proceed to play at the collegiate level.
- A Daniel Burkett stated that players come up through the AYSA program and through travel, etc.
- Q Commissioner Norton asked the amount of the additional non-resident fee.
- A Daniel Burkett stated approximately \$112.
- Q Commissioner Scott asked what the alternative was for non-resident families who are disgruntled about the non-resident fee. And, in choosing to pay the fee, what would the organization contribute this decision to...

- A Daniel Burkett stated they could play in Milton's program at Hopewell but believes the decision to pay the non-resident fee may be attributed to the AYBA program being well organized.
- Q Commissioner Bowers asked what the two leading costs were for the program.
- A Daniel Burkett stated equipment and uniforms followed by umpires.
- Q Commissioner Bowers asked if the vote to raise athletic field rental fees coming before the Recreation Commission would impact the AYBA.
- A Daniel Burkett stated he did not see a huge impact.
- Q Commissioner Rand asked about the separation between eastside/westside residents and park locations, specifically regarding coordination of games based on resident location.
- A Daniel Burkett stated that the organization does not schedule games based on proximity but rather field availability.
- Q Commissioner Piedrahita asked about the banner sponsorship program and its impact on AYBA.
- A Daniel Burkett stated that the organization charges \$1,000 per banner. While the organization has had a few interested parties that did not follow through, more often than not, when they inquire, they buy a banner, so the program has been great for AYBA.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from March 14, 2023

- ❖ Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the Recreation Commission Minutes from March 14, 2023.
 - Commissioner Beach seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (8-0-1; Commissioner Scott abstained from voting as he was not present during the March 14, 2023, meeting).

b. Recreation Commission Minutes from March 29, 2023

- ❖ Commissioner Scott offered a motion to approve the Recreation Commission Minutes from March 29, 2023.
 - Commissioner Piedrahita seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (7-0-2; as Commissioner Bowers and Commissioner Kaighin abstained from voting as they were not present during the March 29, 2023, meeting).

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Athletic Field Rental Fees

- Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services came forward to present the item.
- The item was presented at the March 29, 2023, workshop; however, staff has acknowledged that the information presented at the time was inaccurate, and a follow-up email was sent illustrating a new fee structure more in keeping with the Recreation Commission's requests.
- Morgan Rodgers offered that, on account of the confusion, The Commission may elect to defer the vote until the topic could be revisited in a Recreation Commission workshop.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Athletic Field Rental Fees

- A Commissioner Bowers asked if the local associations must pay the field rental fee.
- Q Morgan Rodgers stated the fee structure is for tournaments outside of the standard, recurring partnered athletic association programs. Tournaments hosted by local associations such as AYBA would be required to pay the fees for athletic field rentals.
- A Commissioner Beach asked if the Braves clinic was required to pay the fee.
- Q Morgan Rodgers stated that the Braves are required to pay the fee and are aware that a fee adjustment is coming. Current contracts for the Braves clinic and Triple Crown tournament include locked rates and cannot be raised during the contract term but both organizations are aware prior to new contract execution, that rates are changing.
- Q Commissioner Rand sought clarity regarding the new time and noticed that "all play must end by 8:30pm".
- A Morgan Rodgers stated he was under the impression that no play could begin after 8:30pm. The new clause should read, "shall begin no later than 8:30pm". Staff's intent was to move away from a specific end-time cut-off as this may result in the cut-off of a game mid-play.
- A Kurt Kirby stated that staff prefers to have the fields ready for the following morning the night before. The time change is intended to assist staff in developing a feasible timeline field prep for the following day's games.
- A Morgan Rodgers stated he would like to officially, for the record, amend the clause to include that "no game shall begin after 8:30pm".
- ❖ Commissioner Norton offered a motion to approve the new athletic field rental fee structure with an amendment that the last game shall begin no later than 8:30 p.m.
- Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.

❖ The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

b. Pickleball Court Rentals

- Vice Chairman Saha stated that he had several questions, and an FAQ was drafted and provided in response to those questions in advance of the Recreation Commission meeting.
- No additional questions were posed.
- ❖ Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the Pickleball Court Rental policies.
 - Commissioner Beach seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

VIII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

Community Services Division Monthly Report - May 2023

- Amanda Musilli, Manager for the Community Services Division of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Event season is in full swing; Food Truck Alley, Farmer's Market, Wine Festival, Home by Dark Concert Series, 5k races, plant sales, and Taste of Alpharetta.
- Community Agriculture is also in full bloom, distribution of crops for members occurred, Earth Day Volunteer Day was very successful and very well organized.
- The Ag-aretta Box program with Cambridge High School had its grand finale at the Farmer's Market achieving over \$600 in sales. Boxes will also be sold at the Taste of Alpharetta.
 - 50% of the sales go back into the Ag-aretta program.
 - Students are only \$35 shy of their annual sales goal and have been brainstorming ways to achieve the revenue.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Garden Faire

- A Commissioner Rand expressed that some residents who wished to take their children to the Alpharetta Community Center (ACC) programs struggled to find parking the day of the Garden Faire event that was hosted on The Grove behind the center.
- Q Amanda Musilli mentioned that a shuttle was made available for additional parking but that in the future, perhaps reserved parking could be made available for ACC program patrons.

RE: Taste of Alpharetta

- A Vice Chairman Saha asked what staff planned to do to address the issue of transferring tickets between individuals for Taste of Alpharetta attendees.
- Q Amanda Musilli mentioned that tickets may be transferred via email with a QR code, a picture of the QR code may be shared via text, and information booths will be available at the event to answer questions. There will also be "ticket cards" that will house a QR code that can be dispersed between families.
- Q James Drinkard also mentioned information will be released by the City's Communications Team further providing details to the public about the new approach to the Taste of Alpharetta.

RE: Marketing

- Q Amanda Musilli asked Commissioner Kaighin if he had any follow-up questions relating to his inquiry about the Department's marketing strategy.
- A Commissioner Kaighin mentioned he had none.

Cultural Services Division Monthly Report - May 2023

- Kim Manning, Manager for the Cultural Services Division of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Kim Manning provided each of the Commissioners with a copy of the 2023 Summer Arts & Culture Guide.
- Upcoming cultural happenings may be accessed via the live link located on the back of the guide.
- Summer art camps are approximately 90% booked. The staff hopes to fill up the Country Living Arts Camp at the log cabin.
- There have been 22 new bookings for the Music Match program.
- A new summer concert series, Eclectic Lawn, will be introduced on the Arts Center lawn to include Latin, jazz, and reggae music on Friday nights.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the community theater with North Point Mall is in the process. The MOU is with the Mall's legal team, and staff is awaiting the draft for our city attorney to review.
 - Kim Manning presented the layout for the theater which illustrates seating for about 150 and stated the location will be near the foot court in the vacant Foot Locker location. Staff is currently obtaining estimates for chairs, curtains, and modular walls to outfit the space.
- Kim Manning mentioned the baby grand piano was recently replaced by a donation from a local family. A local artist is now finishing the artwork and an unveiling will take place soon.

- Kim Manning recapped two shows that proved to be successful recently; one being the black and white gallery show and the other one that of the Alpharetta Chorus. She asked if commissioners would promote the organization's shows as they were likely hit the hardest by COVID and could use the support.
- The annual "Paint the Town" event is coming up and a postcard with the event schedule and further details was provided to the Commission. The "Paint the Town" event is the Arts Alpharetta main fundraiser for the year. The artwork will be for sale at the Arts Center and the exhibit reception will feature music and food.
- Kim Manning finalized her report by mentioning several upcoming events presented by the Alpharetta Symphony and Metropolitan Ballet Theater.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Community Theater

Q Commissioner Rand asked about the City's financial commitment to the project.

A Kim Manning stated the space is at no cost, but the City would be responsible for utilities and water. Staff's plan is to make it a "flex space" in which all chairs, curtains, and walls are transportable to be used elsewhere long term but to also promote several different uses of the space.

Q Commissioner Piedrahita inquired as to how the new space differs from the Arts Center Black Box Theater.

A Kim Manning stated the space is larger and more conducive to larger showings.

Q Commissioner Piedrahita asked if the theater's seating was stadium-style seating.

A Kim Manning stated that while the seating would be all one level, staff incorporated opinions on the seating arrangement from several local art leader groups who all believed the single level seating currently planned is still conducive to showings.

RE: Paint the Town

Q Commissioner Rand asked the location of North Main Street Park.

A Staff confirmed that the location of the park is where the old Christmas tree used to stand in the town square.

Recreation Services Division Monthly Report - (May's report to be combined with June's)

Park Services Division (Excluding Wills Park) Monthly Report - May 2023

Park Services Division (Wills Park & Equestrian) Monthly Report - May 2023

Project Management Division Monthly Report - May 2023

- Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present all three items listed above.

- Park Services staff, excluding Wills Park, was currently focusing on downtown and the need to refresh the landscaping around City Center.
- Park Services staff for Wills Park & Equestrian recently hosted a rodeo which was a great success.
- The challenge across all Parks Services staff has been the rain and trying to get all athletic games scheduled.
- The Wills Park Maintenance Facility is in the final stage. The inspection resulted in one question which was quickly answered by staff and use of the facility will likely begin the week following the Taste of Alpharetta.
- In terms of park project management and enhancement projects, the focus has been on updating the wayfinding along the Big Creek Greenway. The project has been in partnership with the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau and staff hopes to have the project completed by end of summer.
- Mid-Broadwell Park's project is back on schedule in cooperation with the Community Development Department. The construction phase of the project is slated for Council approval at the May 15, 2023, City Council meeting.
- Waters Road Park project design plans have been submitted to Community Development with the hope of beginning construction this summer.
- The artificial turf installation project at Webb Bridge Park does not have any change to the current approach. At this time, staff is focusing on the sewer plan and seeking proposals to gain a better understanding of when the turf installation can take place whether the sewer and turf projects may be concurrent or in succession.
- The Wills Park project concept is nearing completion. The monthly project meetings coincide with the master plan for the project and staff is determining how to best proceed within the project's budget. This includes the reconstruction of Wacky World and how it will interact with the rest of the park's layout.
- The equestrian center project is a month behind schedule. Staff is working with the Equestrian Foundation on a partnered approach and the funding available for the project's various needs.
- City Council asked to hold approval of the Union Hill Park design until June 2023. Staff is still progressing with the covered arena renovations including conduit replacement and installation, new paint, electrical work for dimmable lighting, and resurfacing of the concrete flooring.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Aquatics Staffing

Q Commissioner Norton asked if there were any recruitment issues for summer pool staffing.

- A Morgan Rodgers stated staffing for the pools is done, however, the department is still seeking camp counselors specifically for the special needs camps.

b. DIRECTOR

Director's Monthly Report - May 2023

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present all three items listed above.
- Morgan Rodgers provided a draft copy of the department's FY24 budget currently being reviewed by Mayor & Council.
- The department did well with the upcoming budget, getting preliminary approval for many of the must-have items and several desired items. The budget includes a few salary adjustments as well as the addition of a Downtown Parks Services Supervisor. The budget also accounts for inflation in the next year.
- The department is applying for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant for funding of the athletic lights at North Park. The project would include replacement of the wooden poles and upgrading the halogen lighting to LED lighting. It is a 50/50 matching grant up to \$500k. Staff is seeking approval by City Council to apply for the grant which includes a pre-application and application process.
- In between The Hamilton Hotel and North Main Street Park is a brick wall that will expand the leveled footprint of North Main Street Park to allow for additional space for park activity.
- The Commission was invited to attend one of the concerts hosted by Home by Dark at Union Hill Park.
- The Alpha Loop tunnel under Westside Parkway is almost done on one side and construction will move to the other half of the tunnel allowing the path to traverse from Old Milton Parkway to Northwinds once completed.
- The Wills Park Recreation Center is freshly painted, matching all other park buildings, and the basketball courts at the facility are being renovated.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: FY24 Budget

Q Commissioner Rand asked for clarity on the sewer line project being listed twice in the budget.

A Morgan Rodgers stated the two-line items represent; one) the design and two) the actual cost to construct based on design.

RE: Basketball Court

Q Commissioner Beach asked how long the basketball court will be unavailable for the completion of the project.

A Morgan Rodgers stated the courts will not be available for one more week.

Q Commissioner Beach asked how the indoor courts at the Alpharetta Community Center were holding up since the renovation.

A Morgan Rodgers stated the courts are doing very well.

RE: Court Lighting

Q Commissioner Bowers asked if there has been any consideration for adding lights to the outdoor basketball courts.

A Morgan Rodgers stated lighting of the courts has not been requested and can be added to the list of projects but would be likely low on the priority list.

Q Vice Chairman Saha asked if lighting of the tennis courts at Wills Park was apart of the LWCF grant.

A Morgan Rodgers stated the grant focuses on North Park but that the lighting at Wills Park tennis courts is on the list of funded lighting projects.

RE: Act 1 Theater & Innovation Academy

Q Vice Chairman Saha asked about the success and any feedback of the *Silent Sky* production at the Innovation Academy.

A Kim Manning stated the focus was less on filling the seats and more on establishing a partnership with Innovation Academy's drama and props program and theater space.

A Morgan Rodger also stated that Act 1 Theater would likely benefit from the Community Theater project underway at North Point Mall.

IX. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Scott shared that the Wacky World committee is looking for volunteers and donations for the Wacky World Park. Please visit thewackyworld.org for more information and there is a volunteer form to complete online for those who are interested.
- Commissioner Rand asked for clarity from the City Clerk regarding city email addresses.
- City Clerk, Lauren Shapiro responded that the City is issuing each board member and commissioner an email address for the purposes of open records and cyber security. Once all accounts are established, training will be scheduled for board members and commissioners on how to move forward with proper city communication.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Commissioner Rand offered a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Beach seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).
- ❖ Vice Chairman Saha adjourned the meeting at 6:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Amber O'Dwyer". The signature is written in a cursive style, with the first name "Amber" and last name "Dwyer" clearly legible, and the middle initial "O'" written in a smaller, more stylized script.

Amber O'Dwyer

Administrative Office Coordinator