



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

JUNE 13, 2023

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 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Recreation Commissioners Present
 - Chairman Dennis Mitchell
 - Brad Bowers
 - Cheryl Rand
 - Derek Kaighin
 - Jeremy Scott
 - John Norton
 - Karla Piedrahita
- Recreation Commissioners Absent
 - Vice Chairman Arjit "Jit" Saha
 - Shuntel Beach
- Staff
 - Kurt Kirby, Project Manager
 - Kim Zane Manning, Cultural Services Manager
 - Amanda Musilli, Community Services Manager
 - Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager
 - Eric Milley, Park Services Manager
 - Matt Casey, Park Services Manager (Wills Park & Equestrian)
 - Amber O'Dwyer, Administrative Office Coordinator
 - James Drinkard, Assistant City Administrator

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. ASSOCIATION PRESENTATIONS

a. Ambush 2022 Year in Review (Doug Yearwood)

- Doug Yearwood, Coach for Ambush, came forward to present the item.
- 15th year with Ambush Soccer Club.
- Pretty similar to prior years, with past year one of busiest with camps, classes, coaches.
- Clear of the COVID pandemic but will continue to keep some new procedures in place.
- Inherited Rec program from City 2 years ago. Now have 3 full-time people on staff, coach, director, and admin assistant, and several part-time helpers to run the program well.
- Spring 2021 – Club had 1175 total players: last spring 1430 – a 22% increase. Spring 2023 – had over 1500
- Will net out to more teams and camps this year, with a brand-new camp this past week. Camps were sold out in 7 days. Field space and limited staffing contribute to the sold-out camps.
- Most of the kids come and play for the five days and are not part of rec or competition teams.
- Reasons for growth:
 - Increased capacity with Innovation Academy.
 - Social media professional part-time staffer to help.
 - Connection with the rec program and The Academy (coaching clinics).
 - Increased rosters in academy.
 - The diversity of the community as soccer is an international sport and soccer enthusiastic community.
 - Organization offers a good program.
- Girls are harder to close registration.
- Rec program up to 84% (jump due to Johns Creek agreement). Overall, up 50%+.
- All travel and rec programs are compliant for the next year.
- Challenges include finding rec coaches with several coaches coaching multiple teams.
- 10 coaches are either A/B licenses national coaches which is impressive.
- Financially, the organization remains stable and competitively priced although still on the low side for fees charged via the rec program.
 - Still contributing \$10-15k toward the City with little ask for repairs/replacements in return.

- Awaiting the turf replacement project and preparing for ancillary expenses associated with it.
- Wish List:
 - Upper field at Webb Bridge Park. Hoping for turfing whether it be in the near or far future is truly critical. The association is currently working around the issue by using Innovation or playing practice on the field even if it is a little muddy.
 - Field Lights @ North Park Need Replacement
- Threats & Barriers:
 - Residency Policy in Alpharetta – struggle with the age limitations
 - Upper Field @ Webb Bridge Park
 - Elite leagues that take exceptional players from the local organizations.
- Hoping for a dry fall season!
- Looking at a Tiny Tots program with an already established U-5 program.
- Expand camp offerings during FCS breaks and summer.
- Explore 3B3 tournaments.
- Reinforcing and fostering relationship with Valor.
- Wished to recognize City Staff; Chris Anderson, Nate Hand, and Eric Milley for all their hard work to help the organization.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A

RE: AYBA 2022 Year in Review

- Q Commissioner Piedrahita wished to express appreciation for the program for her girls who participate in the program. She also appreciated the level of professionalism she saw firsthand with her husband being a coach this past season.
- A Doug Yearwood stated the tournament that her children were involved in has been a great program.
- Q Commissioner Kaighin stated he had a friend who offered to coach but was shocked at a 3-hour training.
- A Doug Yearwood stated the training was likely not soccer training but the health and safety training that all coaches and staff are required to take via Safe Sport. The training can be uncomfortable (dealing with child abuse, etc.) but is a requirement and the risk of no training does not outweigh the consequences. It is understood that the training seems cumbersome for an 8-week coaching session, but it is a necessity. It is coupled with other mandatory training and the soccer training to satisfy all requirements.
- Q Commissioner Kaighin asked if it is annual.
- A Doug Yearwood stated yes but is usually abbreviated.

- Q Commissioner Rand had a comment that location is where location is scheduled and that most parents will adapt and stop complaining.
- A Doug Yearwood stated they realize that convenience is a factor and that some parents wish to have location match up with other commitments. Staff will try, if they can, to match up address with field but it isn't a perfect solution.
- A Commissioner Rand asked about the grant regarding the lights at North Park.
- A Kirby stated there is an initiative with the LWCF to upgrade lights at North Park. The application has been submitted and staff are awaiting a response but if awarded, would likely not be funded until the next budget cycle.
- A Commissioner Rand asked if soccer hosted any big tournaments.
- A Doug Yearwood stated last time was around 2012-2013 and the only time all fields could be scheduled around baseball, etc. was in February and weather was terrible and the tournament proved to be disaster and have decided since to not run a full tournament (as there are not enough rectangle fields). Between 6-8 fields are needed. Despite proposed locations by C. Rand, Valor is too small.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from May 9, 2023

- ❖ Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the Recreation Commission Minutes with a point of inquiry into two points from the AYBA 2022 Year In Review from May 9, 2023; 1) most games at Webb Bridge, 2) sponsorship banner program with no follow-through but good for organization.
 - Commissioner Norton seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (7-0).

b. Recreation Commission Minutes from May 24, 2023

- ❖ Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the Recreation Commission Minutes from May 24, 2023.
 - Commissioner Scott seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (5-0-2; Commissioners Kaighin and Norton abstained from voting as they were not present during the May 24, 2023, workshop).

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

VIII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

Community Services Division Monthly Report - June 2023

- Amanda Musilli, Manager for the Community Services Division of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- TOA was a great success. 45,000 people in attendance. Record ticket sales.
- Digital ticketing platform worked well.
- Working on better signage for 2024.
- Summer farm team has started. Two adults working on masters have joined the seasonal team. They are genuinely interested in the work and are highly skilled.
- Farm camp started last week. On average have 12 campers each week. Last year's camp was outsourced. This year, the camp is in-house.
- Staff is having a lot of fun with the kids.
- A grow-a-row garden has been installed at NFCC. The need continues to grow with so many families in need. In addition to food donated by the City, NFCC will be able to grow their own. NFCC will also continue to benefit from the seed program at Old Rucker.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Grow-A-Row

Q Commissioner Rand asked for the location of the grow-a-row beds at NFCC.

A Amanda Musilli responded that the raised beds behind the facility have been installed.

Q Commissioner Rand inquired about the grow-a-row program at Mayfield.

A Amanda Musilli responded that staff is waiting on the Memorandum of Understanding to permit demo at the property. As can be imagined, two cities partnering on the program slows the process, however, staff hopes to have the program up and running and rows in production in April 2024.

Cultural Services Division Monthly Report - June 2023

- Kim Manning, Manager for the Cultural Services Division of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Art & Culture Camps started the week of Memorial Day.
- Rock Band camps were loud, but campers learned to play three songs in four days.
- The all-day Arts Center Camp known as "Camp Creative" is super exciting.
- New classes are starting at the Arts Center including Capoeira with Brazilian Arts Center, master class workshops, as well as free improv classes.
- The Art Garden at the Arts Center features a new fig tree in bloom and art featured by class students.

- Art Studio on the Go Go proves to be a very successful program. The program will soon feature the dog and author behind *Maia's Whimsical Adventures* for book readings and signings.
- Lionheart completed a piece of artwork for the City which is on display in the rotunda at City Hall. In addition, "Tiny Take Out Art" has been introduced and is art kits in lieu of free art featured in the Lionheart Free Art Gallery.
- Community Art Sponsored Program offers financial assistance for local art leader groups. Each group is awarded \$4k to support an initiative.
- *The Visitor*, the bear art sculpture behind City Hall, is in the process of being restored. The original artist lives in China and cannot repair it, so staff is issuing a call for a new artist.
- *Unveiling of Ms. Jean*, the new baby grand piano will take place before the Celebrations Gallery show opening that is coming up.
- Kim covered upcoming recent events including the newly launched *Eclectic Lawn*. At the last concert, about 200 attendees showed up for the first night of the new summer concert series.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission.

Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – June 2023

- Christine Young, Manager for the Recreation Services Division of the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Camp registration opened for residents on March 8th at midnight and by 7:30am the following day all of Wills Park Day Camps were full with waitlists started.
- The waitlist average was 51 per week and because of this, open registration that began March 22nd had staff encouraging parents to attempt to enroll kids in other camps.
- This quick sell-out has staff brainstorming ways to expand camp offerings in the future. Goal is to serve high quality programming to citizens while balancing ways to offer more camp offerings in the future.
- The Sharks swim team had over 200 swimmers.
- School year planning is underway with the school year guide coming out in July.
- Capacity is still an issue when it comes to programming, but staff has added several new items.
- The Recreation Services Division is also partnering heavily with the Fire Department more so than before. As opposed to the Fire Department offering training for free and yielding little return, The Recreation Division in helping them charge a small fee for

training and assisting with funding supplies that is resulting in more commitment and therefore a better turnout. In turn, the Fire Department is offering CPR training for counselors and staff as well as coaches for athletic organizations.

- Christine Young recapped a few upcoming events: National Day of Yoga; Trails N Ales; Adaptive Swim Night was rescheduled for June 18th; iCan Bike is now taking place at UHP under the covered arena; Hero Day at pool.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Summer Camps

- Q Commissioner Rand sought confirmation that the robust registration was a not a glitch but accurate.
- A Christine Young responded it was no glitch, but true numbers reflecting many parents registering kids for camps.
- Q Commissioner Rand asked about the program and camp expansion as it relates to staffing.
- A Christine Young responded that staff's struggle was with special needs day camp counselors. Nevertheless, staff is still amazing and managed to find ways to recruit seasonal counselors.
- Q Commissioner Bowers asked if the counselors had the same regulatory requirements as Ambush.
- A While not under the same umbrella as Ambush, extensive training is required for counselors.
- C Commissioner Piedrahita expressed her appreciation for the counselors.

Park Services Division (Excluding Wills Park) Monthly Report – June 2023

- Eric Milley, Park Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present all three items listed above.
- The fountains at City Hall have been removed to be restored and will be returned for reinstallation. The entire process will take 4-6 weeks to complete repairs.
- The Hayne Bridge Road round-about landscaping features new seasonal colors.
- The Brooke Street Park declining landscape, not including street and Arboretum trees, has been completed.
- Baffles are to be installed on the gas lanterns located downtown to attempt to reduce the frequency of blow-outs from the wind.
- Cleaning of downtown trash receptacles will be serviced more frequently than before because of how quickly they fill.
- Lastly, staff is prepping park grounds for the tournament season and summer play.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Gas Lanterns

Q Commissioner Rand asked where the gas lanterns were located.

A Eric Milley responded that there were 22 in total; all around the town green and a few behind City Hall.

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

- Matt Casey, Park Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present all three items listed above.
- Field 4 is complete and all items in the Wills Park parking lot have been used or removed.
- Baseball fields look great for the season as staff has done an excellent job in prepping them for the season.
- Landscaping was added to Wills Park Pool before opening day.
- Staff has added tiered landscaping walls near the outdoor basketball courts at Wills Park to enhance the area and provide some erosion control coming down towards the playground.
- The Equestrian Center is in full operation hosting a variety of events, camps, horseshows, rodeos.
- The new arena is being very well received and all are ready for the next installment.
- The new maintenance facility is in the process of being brought fully on board.
- Staff is working to schedule the goats for some underbrush maintenance around Wills Park.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Wills Park

Q Commissioner Piedrahita asked if the goats were in preparation for the Wills Park spine.

A Matt Casey stated, yes, they are, as staff prepares for the new entrance.

Q Commissioner Rand asked what the next step was for the equestrian center.

A Matt Casey mentioned staff was working with Barge to finalize next steps.

Project Management Division Monthly Report - June 2023

- Kurt Kirby, Project Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

- Hoping to install Greenway Finding Directional signage from UHP to Roswell come end of next week.
- While Matt Casey mentioned the new Wills Park Maintenance Facility, staff has a CO and are moving in!
- The Old Rucker Park project has 50% of construction plans submitted to staff and is currently under review.
- Waters Road Park has 100% construction plans submitted to staff and are currently under review.
- Mid-Broadwell Park construction has begun! Work is currently focused on installing erosion control measures and on ensuring the construction layout does not conflict with the playground plans.
- As for the Webb Bridge Park turf replacement, the field does not drain or percolate. The septic tank is not adequate and therefore sewer must be addressed first before turf can begin. That said, the artificial turf and the sewer installation are now separate projects. Request for proposals for the design of the sewer installation has been reviewed. City Council will consider a recommendation from City staff to award the design contract to Prime Engineering, Inc at the June 19th City Council meeting.
- In terms of the Farmhouse historical site, the property owners of the adjacent property were receptive and open to future discussions about parking and accessibility to the historical site.
- Union Hill Park is currently awaiting approval to place back on the agenda for Council approval.
- Kurt Kirby reminded commissioners that July is Recreation & Parks Month, and more information is likely forthcoming.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Innovation Academy

- Q Commissioner Norton stated that while walking the track at Innovation the athletic field looked worn and had a crown on top that made it seem not conducive to soccer.
- A Kurt Kirby responded that Fulton County Schools will not allow modifications to the fields and only maintenance in the event the field is deemed for full use for high school football in the future. Rain also makes the field difficult to maintain for ideal play.

RE: Webb Bridge Park

- Q Commissioner Rand asked how the restrooms, not percolating, at Webb Bridge stay hygienic for use.

- A Kurt Kirby mentioned staff can keep them operational, but any new modifications would result in either the septic tank being replaced or connecting to sewer. Thankfully, the turf project brought this issue to light.

IX. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- There were no Commissioner Reports.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Commissioner Rand offered a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Bowers seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (7-0).
- ❖ Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.