



RECREATION COMMISSION WORKSHOP

JULY 26, 2023

OFFICIAL MINUTES

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 pm.

II. ROLL CALL

- **Recreation Commission Members - Present**
 - Dennis Mitchell (Chairman)
 - Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
 - John Norton
 - Karla Peidrahita
 - Shuntel Beach
 - Derek Kaighin
- **Recreation Commission Members – Absent**
 - Jeremy Scott
 - Brad Bowers
 - Cheryl Rand
- **Staff**
 - Morgan Rodgers – Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Kurt Kirby – Project Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amanda Musilli – Community Services Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Claire Thurber – Special Events Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - Amber O'Dwyer – Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. WORKSHOP ITEMS

a. Community Agriculture Sponsorship Program at Old Rucker Farm

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Manager for the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services presented the item.

- Residents and the corporate community have been very supportive of the city's community agriculture program.
- Staff is proposing signage as a way to recognize these sponsors in support of the program.
 - Five years ago, the division came up with a membership program to fund the fence for the community garden.
 - As part of the membership benefits, small recognition plaques (that included a quote or family name) were crafted and placed on the "wall of fame" but eventually the sign deteriorated.
 - With the program's growth, the City now receives higher monetary donations and larger volumes of volunteers.
 - One example is the recent donation from Site One who helped install an irrigation system and donated numerous hours of volunteer time for the project. The company hoped for some sort of recognition, and they sent a banner to the City to be posted.
 - The banner has served as a catalyst for staff to revisit formal recognition offerings for those that offer products, time, or funding to supporting the program.
- The recognition program would be tiered based upon the size of the donation.
 - Supporting/Sustaining Members (\$250-\$500 cash donations): Small 3x5" sign with name added to the supporting/sustaining board (designed, approved, and produced by COA)
 - Under \$1,000 in goods and services: Small 3x5" sign with company name and logo added to the supporting/sustaining member board (designed, approved, and produced by COA)
 - \$1,001 - \$2,500: Medium sign, not to exceed 2' x 2' or 1' x 4' for a total of 4 sq ft. (designed by sponsor; approved and produced by COA)
 - \$2,501 - \$5,000: Large sign, not to exceed 3'x3' or 2' x 4.5' for a total of 9 sq ft. (designed by sponsor; approved and produced by COA)
 - Over \$5,000: Extra-large sign, not to exceed 4'x4' or 2' x 8' for a total of 16 sq. ft. (designed by sponsor; approved and produced by COA)
- Signage would be displayed on the farm fence facing inward, would be on display for 12 months unless renewed, and be made of a durable, weather tolerant material (which will hold up for the duration of the time posted).
- In addition, for sponsors contributing over \$1,000 annual, the sponsor's logo would be included in the monthly community agriculture e-newsletter mailed to 900+ residents.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

RE: Old Rucker Farm Signage

- Q Would signage be consistent in color/design to what other divisions have in place (such as athletic organization sponsorship signage)? Would plaques be in lieu of banners or separate? (Mitchell)

A Plaques would be displayed on boards indefinitely. The banners would be far and few between.

Q How many plaques are there now (Mitchell)?

A 30+

C John Norton liked the idea of recognizing those that give to the city.

Q Is there currently a newsletter (Saha)?

A Yes. It goes out at the first of month.

Q Would this require a vote for approval? (Piedrahita)?

A It may not require a vote if considered the area is considered a park, the program falls under existing park sponsorships signs, and therefore was already voted on. (Mitchell)

A It may require a vote as the banners will have more color, etc. than those pre-approved for other parks. The issue will also be revisited with the Equestrian Center when the time comes as well.

Q How long will the banners last? (Mitchell)

A One full year and should look nice for the year.

Q How will you gauge the design? (Beach)

A The sponsor will submit a design, but staff would approve it and pay for it.

Q Who will build the display board for the plaques? (Mitchell)

A Signarama, the same company that did the park's blue wayfinding and park signage.

Q Where would the plaques and banners be located? Along the driveway, facing in? (Mitchell)

A Along the fence closer to the maple grove.

Q Is there a precedence we need to set now for future signage projects? (Kaighin)

A Yes, as sponsorship signage is a consideration for such projects as Wacky World Playground and the equestrian center.

Q When do you need an answer (Mitchell)?

A There is no rush. Staff can also request a mock-up of what the plaque arrangement would look like and send it to commissioners prior to approval.

b. Wacky World Next Gen – Staff Update

- Kirk Kirby, Project Manager for the Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services presented the item.
- Staff has been working with Play By Design whose specialty is in rebuilding playgrounds off the preexisting designs of the Weathers Group playgrounds.
- Two years ago, staff started the discussion on rebuilding the Wacky World playground.

- Currently there are two components: the playground's actual design and the playground's layout (as it effects the overall master plan design for Wills Park Proper being crafted by Barge) to ensure site is suitable for both the build and the fundraising committee. That said, staff is working closely with the fundraising committee to ensure a united vision and logistically, staff has been working with Barge and Play by Design and everyone is collaborating well.
- Staff is working to lessen the impact to the area by minimizing tree removal. A few, large trees, already in decline, will need to be removed as they are unsafe but others on the outskirts of the design can be salvaged.
- The presented playground layout illustrates how the playground's elements are divided and separated by age groups 2-5 and 5-12 as abilities differ.
- Additionally, a few standalone components such as swings, spinners, and a rope climb will be incorporated into the design.
- A zip line is also included in the design which was one of the most requested items by the polled students.
- Unfortunately, the gaga ball pit had to be removed from the plan as flowability, safety, and functionality could not be met within the Wacky World design. That said, staff will see if such a pit could be included at another park.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

RE: Wacky World

- Q Will the zip line require waivers or any safety measures? (Saha)
- A It is a rope with a seat, and a child would have to be manually pulled back to be initiated so it isn't a highly dangerous element.
- Q Will there be a gaga pit? (Multiple Commissioners)
- A Perhaps at another park.
- Q Will there be a perimeter fence? (Saha)
- A Yes, and staff hopes to include greenery, so the fence is not so stark.
- Q What are all the changes to the schematics to the original plan? (Piedrahita)
- A Only the gaga pit and addition of the zip line.
- Q Where is the dragon (Piedrahita)?
- A The dragon is more of an artistic element while the rendering presented focuses on structural.
- Q Are the standard benches the only seating? (Piedrahita)
- A Staff is also planning to incorporate seating walls. When construction of the restrooms is completed and poured surfaces are in place, the fence and seating can then be better defined.
- Q Are the bleachers next to the restroom going away? Will new benches have shade? (Saha)

- A Yes, the bleachers will be gone. Some benches may be in the shade while others may not be. It was never the intent to have a central gathering location for parents to sit outside of the playground but rather to promote interaction with kids. Unfortunately, the current rendering cannot indicate the exact location of all benches. Additionally, benches and picnic tables are limited in the design because staff hopes to include those as part of a sponsorship package. The current rendering is literally what the City and fundraising efforts will buy.
- Q What about ADA elements and accessibility? (Piedrahita & Norton)
- A The spinner and swings are intended for inclusive play as well as the "small city" and ramps are to help with accessibility.
- Q What is the surface comprised of? What about heat? (Piedrahita)
- A The surface will be comprised of poured rubber that acts similarly to mulch in terms of heat.
- Q What is the anticipated timeline for the build (Piedrahita)?
- A Ten days not including the pouring of the surface. This estimate is based solely upon the community build of the playground.
- A Chairman Mitchell mentioned the poured surface, fencing, grading, etc. would add to the completion timeline as well.
- Q Is completion still set for May 2024? (Beach)
- A Staff is hoping to complete it within the school year before summer starts.
- Q Can the design still expand based on total donations (as there was mentioned that if donations exceeding the budget, more elements could be considered)? (Kaighin)
- A The plan is as robust as it can be in terms of footprint and is budgeted at over \$1.2 million. The City has already contributed to site work and some of the playground equipment. The fundraising committee is aiming for \$750k. If successful, and donations exceed the goal, funds can help with enhancements outside of the current footprint.
- Q How close is this rendering to the final design? (Mitchell)
- A Staff is confident this is close to the final design. The only changes have been to the location of some playground elements and the removal of the gaga pit.
- Q Where are the detention areas? Are there any inside Wacky World (Mitchell)?
- A While stormwater must be part of the overall plan, there will not be a detention area within Wacky World's parameters. A partial space outside of the playground is designated as a retention area for stormwater. Trees on the upper portion of the playground will be preserved and should help provide natural shade but there are no trees planned for within the fenced area of the playground. If citizens wish to include more shade, some play elements would have to be removed or more funding raised to incorporate additional shade structures. It is important to note that play elements require buffer zones for safety. The more shade structures incorporated, the more you limit the buffer zones and consequently, the number of play elements available.
- Q To confirm, there are no issues with the arboretum? (Beach)
- A No.

Q What is the cost for added shade structures? (Saha)

A \$40k+

Q Where is the dragon design element going? (Saha)

A The design is not to the point in which artistic elements can be incorporated so that's why the dragon isn't shown in the design. To add, the location has not yet been finalized (as staff may use the dragon for the preexisting Wacky World, have Kim Manning input advice, etc.)

Q Is the pavilion also going away? (Mitchell)

A Yes, in order to make room for the retention area and the new restroom.

IV. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

a. Wacky World Next Gen – Committee Update

- *This item has been pulled from the agenda by the submitter.*

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

RE: Miscellany

Q A new wall along the town green was featured in the paper. Does RPCS staff have any concept of what it would look like? (Norton)

A Public Works is in charge of the project. The wall will mirror the wall on the opposite side of the green but be comprised of two sections to serve as both a safety pedestrian wall and a seating wall with an opening to the town green.

Q Will the 2024 Taste of Alpharetta footprint change, or will it impact local schools as it related to annual A/P testing as was an issue in 2023? (Saha)

A Yes, it will have the same footprint.

V. ADJOURNMENT

❖ *Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:27pm.*

Respectfully submitted,



Amber O'Dwyer

Administrative Office Coordinator