



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF MAY 9, 2017

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Ben Easterling called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm
- Introduction of new director Morgan Rodgers

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Ben Easterling, Jamie Bendall, Melissa Jurgens, Jarrett Long, Bill Lusby, Dennis Mitchell, Wendi Schutt
- Commission absent: Shuntel Beach and Kevin Johnson
- City staff present: Director of Recreation and Parks Morgan Rodgers, Deputy Director Lisa Gurganus, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Equestrian Manager Matt Casey, Marketing/Accreditation Coordinator Amy Rickman, Assistant City Administrator James Drinkard
- City Council: Councilman Jason Binder

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF April 13, 2017

- Motion by Mr. Lusby to approve the minutes of April 13, 2017 as written. Second by Mrs. Jurgens.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS

- Mr. Rodgers provided an update on plans for the log cabin at Milton High School.
- Alpharetta Historical Society will take the lead with the City providing support and seed funds for fundraising energies.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- None

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Mr. Long

- Met with Mr. Rodgers.

- Committee has discussed what's next in utilization of technology to reach out to citizens. Commission member Kevin Johnson previously offered his assistance with this.
- Commission will plan to review the department Mission Statement and Recreation Commission By-Laws in the coming months.

B. **Parks** – Mr. Bendall

- Met with Mr. Milley to look at ongoing park projects and review status.

C. **Recreation** – No Report

D. **Cultural Arts** – Mrs. Schutt

- City staff will conduct interviews with potential contractors for construction of the new art center.
- Art activities are filling up for the summer. Great classes and summer camps offered for children. Relaxing and enjoyable classes available for adults. Encourage members to spread the word about art activities.
- The downtown sculpture project is underway
- Arts Alpharetta will meet with staff to discuss ways to promote new art center classes.

VIII. **PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

A. **AYSA** - Mr. Bendall

- Tournament play started today.
- Ceremony to dedicate a memorial to the two former players who passed away last year went well and looks nice.
- First scholarships have been awarded. Mr. Bendall will invite recipients to an upcoming commission meeting.
- Board elections have been held. New officers will start service at June meeting.

B. **AYBA** – Mrs. Jurgens

- AYBA plans to ask city for signs to label batting cages assigned to each field.
- Board has reached out to Mayor Belle Isle for possible ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 3rd.
- There was discussion on the new security cameras installed at the park.
- Mr. Rodgers will consult with Public Safety officials on whether or not to publicize existence of current cameras, and also whether possible to install cameras for new batting cages.
- Summer league registration is going very well, especially with the 16-19 age group. Draft will be held May 31 for younger leagues.
- Conduct issues with a travel team (off-site) has prompted the board to update disciplinary policies/procedures for travel teams. This will include coaches training, player/team sportsmanship, and etiquette of play.
- AYBA requested the baseball equipment storage container be painted.
- The City will reimburse AYBA 50% of the cost of new equipment for the batting pavilion.

C. **NAFL** – Mr. Lusby

- Board met in April to prepare for the upcoming season. Early bird registration is ongoing.

- NAFL hosted an information booth with interactive play at Taste of Alpharetta. Movie Night will be held May 13.
- The board has ongoing concerns about potential impact of the free football program being offered in Milton.
- President Stephanie Butler will resign at the end of the year. She is interested in serving in a co-chair role to avoid leadership gap. The city's youth athletic association guidelines require members of association executive committees to have a child in the program. Mrs. Butler will not have one. A special one-year exemption to the rule would require action by the commission. Staff recommends approving the special exception due to the circumstances. The Recreation Committee will review and make a recommendation at the next meeting.

D. **NMML** – No report

E. **AMBUSH** - Mr. Mitchell

- Completing season and getting ready for tournament play. Marketing is underway for tryouts for the fall season. 300+ youth have registered for tryouts at this point.
- City is renewing the Director of Coaching contract with David Eristavi.

IX. **SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT** - Mrs. Gurganus

- Special events staff is in full event production mode for spring season
- Taste of Alpharetta was held May 4- Thank you to staff who helped make it a success.
- Alpharetta Arts Streetfest is May 27-29. Memorial Day Tribute is May 29.

X. **EQUESTRIAN REPORT** – Mr. Casey

- April consisted of 4 horseshows, 2 dog shows; Go Kickball Atlanta started their spring season; Public Safety offered their monthly driving course in the front lot
- Hosting Celebrate Freedom Rodeo this weekend; tomorrow staff will set up bleachers and panels for livestock moving in Thursday evening; this is the 3rd year with Bar W Productions
- The following weekend we will host Belshoi Benefit Horseshow; show benefits the UGA Colic program through the vet school
- Rolling Hills Saddle Club will finish out the month
- Start off June with the Northern District Cub scout camp; around 750 scouts attending

XI. **PARK SERVICES REPORT** – Mr. Milley

- **General**
 - City pool had its annual inspection from Fulton County and we passed and the pool can open on time
- **Wills Park**
 - Wills Park batting cages are on track to be completed by the 30th of this month
 - The Church of Latter Day Saints Mormons had a work day at Wills; April projects were mulching outdoor classroom, painting the fence, planting flowers in the planters at the tennis courts, and cleaning up the wooded areas
- **Rock Mill Park**
 - Volunteer work days of service at the park included putting out pine straw and cleaning the YMCA restroom parking lot and entrances
- **North Park**
 - The memorial was installed at Fields 6 and 7
 - Turfed planed lips off of Fields 1-4 and the cost was split with AYSA

- **Webb Bridge Park**

- Spectator seating is complete; in time the landscape will be established
- Working on a quote to have the pavilion stained and roof shingled
- Turf planning was complete at the soccer field at a cost of \$28,000
- Working on a plan with Nate Hand to move the temp batting cages from Wills Park to Webb Bridge Park once the batting cage pavilion is complete and open at Wills

XII. **RECREATION SERVICES REPORT** – Mrs. Gurganus

- Spring programs and athletic leagues are winding down
- Seasonal staff orientation will be held later in May (aquatics and camp)
- Staff continues working with vendors on various projects; see project update spreadsheet
- City pool is scheduled to open May 27
- Summer camps begin June 5
- Swim lessons begin June 6
- Events:
 1. Mother's Day Celebrations:
 - My Cup of Tea – May 11
 - Mother's Day Luncheon – May 13
 2. Food Truck Alley – Thursdays
 3. Youth fishing Derby – June 3
 4. Summer Kickoff Pool Party – June 10
 5. Alpharetta City Band Concert – June 11

XIII. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Mr. Rodgers

- Proposed budget was presented to Council – see handout with budget highlights
- Mr. Rodgers goals are to provide a timely transfer of information to the commission; to engage members in plans; and to gather input for direction. Requests members to reach out to him any time.
- The department was named a National Gold Medal Award finalist. The next step will be production of a promotional video to mirror the application package. Staff is working with Community Development and CVB.
- The new Avalon Fitness Park with five fitness stations on Westside Parkway is close to completion and will be our amenity to maintain.

XIV. **CITY COUNCIL REPORT** – Councilman Binder

- There was more discussion on the log cabin. If AHS cannot raise funds, plan B may be to store in pieces after end of year until funds are raised to relocate and reassemble. Preferred location is on Milton Ave on newly purchased property.
- Softball memorial dedication event for the girls - great that the community came together for the families.
- Budget (refer to handout)
 - Operating initiatives – added a 3-event concert series at Brooke Street Park; expanding Bike Share program at 2 sites
 - Recurring CIP – includes turf field at Webb Bridge Park
- For next budget year, with support of Council and Finance, Mr. Binder would like to update Master Plan 2025 since there have been so many new projects since the plan was created (the Loop, the bond projects, etc.). The goal is to create a systematic, efficient approach for long-range, holistic plan for facilities/programs expansion; to reflect expansion capital items, needs to maintain current assets, and recommended amount to save in reserves.

- Recommendation to consider creation of a 'Friends of the Park' advocacy group
- Mr. Drinkard discussed the reduced Facility Repair and Maintenance funds for Recreation and Parks budget. These funds are included in the Public Works budget since they are now handling facility repairs.
- There was discussion on the Cityworks work order system. A new version of City Works will be released soon and our staff will be trained on that version.

XV. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS - NONE**

XVI. **ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn by Mr. Long . Second by Mrs. Schutt.
- All in favor. Motion carried
- Meeting adjourned at 8:32pm
- Please note next meeting date: Tuesday, June 13, 2017