



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

JULY 11, 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 5:40 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

- Recreation Commissioners Present
 - Chairman Dennis Mitchell
 - Vice Chairman Jit Saha
 - Brad Bowers
 - Derek Kaighin
 - Jeremy Scott
- Recreation Commissioners Absent
 - Cheryl Rand
 - John Norton
 - Karla Piedrahita
 - Shuntel Beach
- Staff
 - Morgan Rodgers, Director of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
 - 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. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from June 13, 2023

- ❖ As only four of the seven commissioners present for the June 13th meeting were in attendance, approval of the minutes from the June 13th meeting was deferred to the August 8, 2023, Recreation Commission Meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

- There was no old business to discuss.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Phoenix Rugby - Youth Athletic Association Partnership

Approval of Phoenix Youth Rugby becoming a partnered Youth Athletic Association with the City of Alpharetta starting Fall 2023.

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Rugby is a unique sport, and the department has been in contact with the organization to incorporate them into the list of associations offering youth athletics.
- The organization already uses North Park fields on Tuesdays and Thursdays for practice. We would also allocate the field at Innovation Academy as well.
- Staff recommends adding the youth athletic association to the list of athletic associations in partnership with the City.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Phoenix Rugby

Q I understand that currently, the association would maintain its current usage of the fields. As they grow, how would the City be able to continue to support them? (Saha)

A Looking at approximately two years down the road, Ambush will likely move to Webb Bridge Park's turf field opening up additional fields at North Park.

- ❖ Commissioner Saha offered a motion to approve Phoenix Youth Rugby as a partnered youth athletic association with the City of Alpharetta beginning fall 2023.
 - Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (4-0-1) with Commissioner Bowers abstaining.

VII. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

Community Services Division Monthly Report – July 2023

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Special Events

- Taste of Alpharetta will be going out to bid for a new event management provider for years 2024-2026.

Community Agriculture

- Camps sold out by the end of the month as word of mouth spread about the new camps and the campers' experience.
- The garden at NFCC is now up and running with approximately 20 volunteers assisting (who already assisted with NFCC but were interested in gardening). City staff will assist in providing seeds, how to properly plant and harvest on a rotational plan, etc. for the best possible success.
- Staff is working on FY24 goals for the Community Agriculture Program. The last few months have been spent prioritizing the 19 recommendations in the City's Agriculture Plan finalized at the last steering committee meeting. Staff plans to present the results to Mayor & Council in August.
- It is time for cold-weather crop planting. Brussel sprouts just went in the trays and are sprouting!

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Taste of Alpharetta

Q If Jacob's Eye is being discontinued, why not have staff take back the responsibility for managing the Taste of Alpharetta? (Saha)

A Amanda Musilli responded that the contract will not be completed for the third and final year with Jacob's Eye. Staff is making revisions based on the learning experience with Jacob's Eye and is placing it out to bid. While staff will be more involved than in years prior, several items brought back in-house, and more oversight implemented, an event management team is still necessary.

Q Will the bid include the incumbent vendor? (Kaighin)

A We do not know but submitting a proposal will be entirely up to them.

Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – July 2023

- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Highlights:

- Celebrating Juneteenth was a great event and was featured on the front lawn and terrace (which the division is trying to activate more this year).
- The *Unveiling of Ms. Jean* baby grand piano unveiling recently took place which was very sentimental for many as the previous owner played piano for the Alpharetta Methodist Church. Some of her family was present for the unveiling.
- The first reading with Maia was recently featured with the Art on the Go-Go program.

Summer Camps:

- Camp Creative has been very successfully with two sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. A child can do clay in the morning and silk screen painting in the afternoon.
 - Breaks take place on the terrace.
- Art Country Camps at the Log Cabin went wonderfully.

Key Notes & Upcoming Events:

- The current gallery exhibit is *Celebrations*.
- Friends of the Alpharetta Library has monthly book sales and asked if the Arts Center could help promote the event.
- *Mariupol, the City that does not Exist*, is also on display.
- *Eclectic Lawn* the art center summer concert series will be featured again this Friday and will be a Latin band. The last event will feature reggae.
- The Baily-Johnson Basketball Team Championship Ring recognition will take place at City Council on July 17th.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Unveiling of Miss Jean

Q During the unveiling of the piano, there was a gentleman with a sign-up sheet for time and/or money and what was the outcome and success of that? (Saha)

A We are not sure and will need to inquire and provide a response.

Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – July 2023

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Summer Camps

- Having a fantastic summer. Camps across all divisions have been so successful!

- Staff has worked really hard to provide unique and a variety of camps.

Key Notes

- Pool has had challenging weather so not seeing attendance as we'd like.
- July is National Parks & Recreation Month and staff is excited to highlight what we do!
- The school year guide is coming out soon. Fall/winter registration will start on July 26th for residents and August 13th for non-residents.
- Photos to illustrate all the various activities staff offers and the fun residents have were displayed!
- She mentioned a quote by Maya Angelou, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.", and that staff keeps it at the front of their minds when it comes to their approach to the public in terms of camps, programs, athletics, special events, etc.

Special Events

- In terms of special events, July 4th was a great event. While attendance was down (likely due to weather), the fireworks were still a great show.
- Scarecrow Harvest and Wire & Wood are right around the corner and the full line-up for Wire & Wood performers is on the website.
- Planning is underway for the Season of Celebration with the tree lighting taking place November 18th this year.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Summer Camps

- C Commissioner Kaighin commented his son is truly enjoying summer camps especially the variety week after week.

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

- Eric Milley, Park Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Staff is in transition with the fiscal years and have several projects starting up with the new funding.
- Staff is working on repairing downlighting at Brooke St. Parke, along Encore, and the fountains around City Hall.
- Irrigation repairs will take place at Innovation Academy, Maddox Park, and North Main Street Park near Mercantile Social.
- Staff is currently working hard to upkeep the fields and parks for the tournaments and special events at all parks and downtown.

- Staff is also finalizing the contract with the daily trash receptacle service moving from 4 to 7 days a week.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission.

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

- Matt Casey, Park Services Manager for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

Wills Park

- Wills Park is in full swing with baseball.
- Staff is in the process of moving into the new maintenance facility.
- Staff did a great job prepping Wills Park for the July 4th fireworks as a lot of work goes into prepping the park for the event.
- Goats should be arriving around August 7th for about 18 days.

Equestrian Center

- A nationally rated horseshow will be at the equestrian center for the next two weeks.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: July 4th Fireworks

Q Why were restrooms near the stables not accessible? Was that due to safety and the fireworks? (Saha)

A Yes, those are within the blast zone of the fireworks.

Project Management Division Monthly Report - July 2023

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

Non-Bond Projects

- Greenway wayfinding signage were installed on schedule and staff are excited about the new installs as they match the standard sign in the park system.

Bond Projects

- Rucker Park has 50% plans submitted and are under review by staff.
- Waters Road Park has water/sewer approved and are awaiting the land disturbance permit from Community Development. Staff hopes to break ground the end of month/first of August.

- Mid-Broadwell Park is under construction. A few questions pertaining to water/sewer are under review and need to be answered. The playground is currently on the agenda for Council approval on 7/17. Staff hopes to begin installation September-October.
- Webb Bridge Park has an approved engineering design for water/sewer. A kick-off meeting is planned for this Thursday. As this gets going, staff will have a better idea for the turf replacement.
- The Farmhouse site is still in talks with the owners of the adjacent property to incorporate parking and access to the historical site.
- The monthly update meeting for Wills Park Proper will take place Thursday. Staff is working to finalize some things in Phase I of construction (restrooms and Wacky World). Play By Design and Barge have a good dialogue in terms of the overall master plan and the playground's design and layout.
- An update meeting regarding the Equestrian Center is on Thursday to finalize the design. Staff is taking a holistic approach to ensure no matter the phase, no conflicts will arise down the road.
- Union Hill Park still has plans under review and there is nothing new to report.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission.

b. DIRECTOR

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Sheltonville is now known as "Shake Shack".
- Christine mentioned there were some changes to the department's organization. Special Events has now been moved from Amanda's division to Christine.
 - The change permits Amanda time to focus on cultivating the City's Community Agriculture Plan. She will keep holiday décor but also take on landscaping responsibilities for park facility entrances to enhance those areas.
 - Special Events moving under Recreation Services which will expand the opportunity for more staff involvement and assistance.
 - Marketing will now directly report to Morgan versus Amanda and staff is brainstorming how to upgrade the current marketing plan.
- As mentioned, the tree lighting was moved to the Saturday before Thanksgiving to permit the City to celebrate the season a little longer. The stage will actually be placed in front of City Hall and expanded to make the event grander.
- Items coming before City Council:
 - Mid-Broadwell Playground – 7/17

- Downtown Trash Receptacle Contract + Two F150 Truck Purchases – 7/24
- Community Theater MOU – 8/7

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

- There were no questions posed by the Recreation Commission.

VIII. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- There were no Commissioner reports.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- There were no public comments.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Commissioner Scott made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Saha seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).
- ❖ Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.