



RECREATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION
OFFICIAL MINUTES
MAY 29, 2024
ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COMMUNITY ROOM | 2 PARK PLAZA | 5:30 PM

OFFICIAL MINUTES

The public is advised that the following minutes are not a verbatim transcription of business presented at the Council Meeting of the date shown; but are a synopsis of pertinent information. The public is further advised that the video recording for said meeting is a matter of public record and is available to be viewed at the City Clerk's office during normal business hours or viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/user/alpharettagov>.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• **Recreation Commissioners Present**

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Derek Kaighin
- Paul Slavik
- John Norton
- Cheryl Rand
- Shuntel Beach

• **Recreation Commissioners Absent**

- Karla Piedrahita
- Brad Bowers

• **Staff**

- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kiersten VanHorn, Assistant City Clerk
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. WORK SESSION ITEMS

a. Union Hill Park Design and Parking Proposal

- Dennis Mitchell, Chair for the Recreation Commission, introduced the item.
- Members of the Board and Commission discussed the existing Union Hill Park design and proposed future design for more parking at Union Hill Park.

RECREATION COMMISSION DISCUSSION:

RE: Union Hill Park redesign

- Chairman Mitchell brought up a recap of the project for everyone. Commissioner Kaighin asked if any of the Playground design could be put on the back burner and redevelopment could go ahead and begin. Chairman Mitchell's main concern was that if the Commission moves forward with the Playground Design, the playground would be a stripped-down playground that would look bad. He also stated that there is not a right or wrong answer between Playground or Parking lot.
- Commissioner Slavik asked if Union Hill Park is the largest covered outdoor venue in Alpharetta. Director Morgan said yes, but people that would like to rent it are turned off by it when they find out it only holds 250 due to limited parking. Director Rodgers stated there is other parking, but with that parking comes hiring a police officer, walking across Windward Parkway, or having to hire shuttle busses.
- Commissioner Rand stated that she would like to see the park converted to something that would be multi-use down the road in case the outdoor entertainment venue loses its shine. She also stated that she is not keen on it being converted to more parking, she would prefer something more park related.
- Commissioner Kaighin and Commissioner Norton both agreed that the City does not need another playground.
- Commissioner Saha stated that the Community Survey did not mention that the Park needed more parking. Commissioner Slavik stated that parking is not an issue until it is an issue.
- Director Rodgers stated that the skate park would remain part of the Union Hill Park plan and they could convert the current skate park space to a few additional parking spaces. Commissioner Mitchell stated that converting the current skate park to parking would not look that nice, and he would not like to do the redesign halfway.
- Commissioner Slavik stated that we need to capitalize on having one of the only covered event venues in Alpharetta. Commissioner Saha asked how many events take place there now. Director Rodgers answered with about one per month, the size of the parking lot is what is deterring people from renting the venue. Commissioner Saha also asked if the rental rate would be higher with more parking. Director Rodgers said it would go up; he couldn't confirm by how much.
- Chairman Mitchell asked if it would save any money to convert the redesign parking to gravel. Director Rodgers stated it would not save much.
- Chairman Mitchell recapped the budget at \$3,250,000 and the expenses thus far have been around \$650,000 on renovations to the space. The current design costs is around \$3,900,000.
- Commissioner Kaighin asked for a timeline for this item. Director Rodgers stated that it would go to vote at the June 11th Recreation Commission meeting, then it would go to City Council towards the end of June. Commissioner Saha stated that

at the next meeting we are voting on the current design or redesign unless any other recommendations come forward.

- Commissioner Slavik pointed out that it would still be considered a park due to the Skate Park aspect.
- Director Rodgers stated that with the additional parking the City can promote the space more to bigger events and try to put together a mid-week farmers market and summer camps.
- Director Rodgers stated that the current redesign plans will cost around \$3,900,000. The parking redesign will cost around \$2,700,000. The Park Bond currently has \$2,567,595.06.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

❖ Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services