



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

MAY 14, 2024

ALPHARETTA CITY HALL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS | 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 5:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• Recreation Commissioners Present

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Karla Piedrahita
- Cheryl Rand
- Brad Bowers

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- Shuntel Beach
- Paul Slavik
- Derek Kaighin
- John Norton

• Staff

- James Drinkard, Assistant City Administrator
- Kiersten VanHorn, Assistant City Clerk
- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kim Manning, Cultural Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager(Northern, Southern, Eastern, Downtown Districts), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Matt Casey, Park Services Division Manager (Western District & Equestrian), Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

IV. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. Recreation Commission Minutes from April 9, 2024

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, as presented, from April 9, 2024, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Saha seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (5-0).

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Youth Athletic Association Banner Policy

- Christine Young presented the renewal of the Youth Athletic Association Banner Policy for FY2025.
- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Piedrahita offered a motion to approve renewal of the Youth Athletic Association Banner Policy for Fiscal Year 2025, as presented.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

b. Union Hill Park Design and Parking Proposal

- Morgan Rodgers presented the possible redesign of Union Hill Park to add parking. The current budget is \$2,500,000 and the redesign costs \$2,300,000.
- Commissioner Piedrahita asked if there were any current parking issues. She also asked if there are any playgrounds near this Greenway entrance. Director Rodgers stated that there are issues, and we have to use parking at nearby businesses and walk or shuttle people to events. He also stated that there were not any parks near this Greenway entrance.
- Commissioner Rand asked if the skate park would stay. She also asked how far the walk is from Starbucks to Union Hill Park. Director Rodgers stated that it would stay. He also stated that the walk is estimated to be about a quarter of a mile.
- Chairman Mitchell asked if the extra parking would resolve the issue of using the business next door for parking. He also asked what events this would not help. Director Rodgers said it would not completely resolve it but it would help. He also stated that Home By Dark would like to be able to open the event up to more people. They are currently at 250 and they would like to be at 400.
- Commissioner Saha stated that no one wanted more parking at the open Community events that discussed the redesign of Union Hill Park. Director Rodgers stated that the playground was not on the top of the list either. The number one item was a skate park and number 2 item was access to the Greenway.

- Chairman Mitchell asked how close Windward Park is to Union Hill Park. He also asked if Union Hill Park was currently open. Director Rodgers estimated about a mile and a half. He also stated that the Park is currently open.
- Commissioner Rand asked how many Home By Dark events take place at Union Hill Park. Director Rodgers stated that the City would like to do more than just the Home By Dark events there.
- Commissioner Saha requested to bring this to the May Recreation Commission Work Session.
- Commissioner Rand stated that City Council is wanting to get this completed.
- Commissioner Piedarhita asked about the budget and cost. Director Rodgers stated that the cost for the current project is \$2,900,000, but we only have \$2,500,000. Something would need to go for us to be able to pay for the project.
- Commissioner Bowers asked who wants the parking more. Director Rodgers stated that Councilman Hipes is who brought this to the Recreation Commission.
- ❖ Commissioner Saha asked to Defer the item for Recreation Commission Work Session.
 - Commissioner Rand 2nd the motion to Defer.
 - The Motion to Defer was voted yes 5-0.
- After the vote, the Commissioners requested the following:
 - Public Meeting Items (Mitchell)
 - Items to value engineer the project (Saha)
 - Cost associated as well as the distance from the parking lots at Ameris Bank Amphitheater and inside the Amphitheater (Rand)
 - Items to be given over by May 23rd (Bowers)

VI. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

c. DIVISIONS

i. Community Services Division Monthly Report – May 2024

- Amanda Musilli, Community Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department was not present, and the Commission has the Staff Report to review.

ii. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – May 2024

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

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Art Garden-Girl Scout Troop Project
- The Visitor Redesigned-Public Art Unveiling at Brooke Street Park
- Alpharetta Music City-Music Match
- Alpharetta Storytelling Festival-Partnership with Friends of the Alpharetta Library

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- The Arts and Culture Calendar can be found at <https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- The Alpharetta Music City-Live Music Calendar can be found at <https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>
- Paint the Town 2024 event dates are May 7th through May 11th with Plein Air Painting presented by the Arts Alpharetta. The Gallery Exhibit will take place from May 11th through June 8th.
- Remote Travel Photography will take place on May 15th at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpharetta Arts Center, and it is a free event.
- Arts and the Athlete presented by Arts Alpharetta will take place on May 18th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Alpharetta Arts Center, and it is a free event.
- Spring Concert presented by The Metropolitan Ballet is on May 25th at 2:00 p.m. at the Alpharetta Arts Center Terrace, and it is a free event.
- An Ode to America presented by the Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra will take place on May 27th at 5:00 p.m. at Brooke Street Park, and it is a free event.
- The Secret Garden presented by ACT 1 Theater will run from June 7th through June 23rd. Tickets are available at <https://act1theater.org/secret-garden>
- Celebrating Juneteenth "An Evening Under the Oaks" presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Phi Phi Omega Chapter will take place on June 14th at 6:30 p.m. at the Alpharetta Arts Center, and it is a free and RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebrating-juneteenth-an-evening-under-the-oaks-tickets-893370213357?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Upcoming Events at the Alpharetta Arts Center
- Cultural Arts Master Plan Kick Off

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Renting of the Arts Center

Q Are you having trouble staffing the Rental Events? (Rand)

A No, not really, we make sure to let the people we are hiring aware that they may have to work a few special events. (Manning)

RE: Paint the Town

Q What are some of the numbers for the Paint the Town event? (Piedrahita)

- A At this time we had 63 artists, we have sold 18 paintings and we had approximately 152 people at the reception. (Manning)

iii. **Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – May 2024**

- Christine Young, Recreation Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.
- Christine Young spoke highly of the Taste of Alpharetta and how wonderful the Staff did to make it the best. Christine presented early stats on the success of the Taste of Alpharetta.
- Christine Young handed out a trifold of the Adult Activities.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Taste of Alpharetta, it was a big success.
- Sharks are in the water starting May 13th.
- Pool Opens May 25th

MONTHLY HAPPENINGS:

- Rotary Concert “Under the Stars” at Brooke Street Park: Georgia Satellites and Tommy Tutone, Concert benefitting Wacky World 2.0
- Home By Dark at Union Hill on June 1st at 8:00 p.m.
- City Center Concert Series is on May 17th and June 7th from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- Art in the Park is May 18th and 19th at Brooke Street Park
- Food Truck Alley is on May 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Alpharetta Arts Streetfest is Saturday and Sunday, May 25th and 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at The Grove at Wills Park
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- Alpharetta Symphony Orchestra Memorial Day Park Concert is Monday, May 27th from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Brooke Street Park
- Brew Moon (Spring) is Saturday, June 1st from 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Milton Avenue
- CornholeATL Summer Leagues begin on June 5th, they will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays through August 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- Home By Dark Concert Series is Saturday June 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Brooke Street Park
- Peach Kids Triathlon is Sunday, June 9th from 7:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Wills Park

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Taste of Alpharetta

Q Were the past years sales in the \$100,000's or have there been years in the \$200,000's? (Mitchell)

A Last years event was in the low \$200,000's. We did have more Sponsorship money this year. (Young)

RE: Taste of Alpharetta

Q When you purchased tickets through the app, there was a \$1.00 fee, why? (Saha)

A The fee was charged because we have to pay taxes on the ticket sales. (Young)

iv. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part I) – April 2024

- Eric Milley, Park Services Division Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- The Grand Opening of the new dog park at Webb Bridge Park, Eric applauded Nate Hand on all his hard work.
- Staff will be replacing one of the 3 tier crane fountains on the corner of Old Roswell Street and Canton Street by Thrive. The fountain has been ordered and is waiting for install.
- The preparation and the cleanup for the Taste of Alpharetta, Eric stated that his crew did a great job.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Staff is still working on all park lighting
- Staff is working towards the opening of Waters Road Park, which is set for May 16th, at 2:30 p.m.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Taste of Alpharetta

C Downtown Alpharetta looked great on Friday, May 10th at 7:30 a.m. when I was passing through, you couldn't tell there was an event the night before. (Mitchell)

RE: Fountain

Q How big will the crane fountain be? Will it be bigger than the one we already have? (Rand)

A It will be bigger because the one we have was cut down awhile ago. The one being installed will not be cut down. (Milley)

v. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Part II) – May 2024

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

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Spring baseball season is coming to an end. The staff has been focusing on refreshing the common areas with fresh mulch, stone, and pine straw.
- Staff has started on the outdoor playground at the Grove. This will provide a natural playground with plenty of shade for upcoming summer camps. Also, the staff will be replacing and expanding the border surrounding the Kings Ridge playground. This will allow more user access as we replace Wacky World.
- Staff did an excellent job in finalizing details for Mid Broadwell Grand opening. This park will be a great addition for the Western Park District.
- The Equestrian Center has been in full swing this month. There was great attendance at the equine events as well as the Rodeo.
- The Grove classroom area was converted to a play area.

MONTHLY INITIATIVES:

- Staff will be adding mulch to the Recreation Center playground, dog park and The Grove area this month.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Kings Ridge Playground

Q Has anyone gone to Amana Academy to ask for help/support for the Kings Ridge Playground? (Rand)

A We have something in the works. (Casey)

RE: Kings Ridge Playground

Q Is everything from the clean up leaving, i.e. stage? (Rand)

A No, we are going to keep the stage and use some of the items being taken down at Wacky World to clean it up and make it look nice. (Casey)

RE: Mid Broadwell Park

C WOW for Mid Broadwell Park, so rewarding! (Piedrahita)

vi. Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report – May 2024

- Morgan Rodgers spoke on behalf of Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to present the item.

PARK ENHANCEMENTS AND REPAIRS:

- Webb Bridge Park Dog Park has been completed and the Ribbon cutting took place on May 5th.
- North Park Turf 2 Pole Removal and Lighting upgrades have been completed.

- Webb-Zone Playground Replacement has construction scheduled to begin on May 14th.

BOND PROJECTS:

- Mid Broadwell Park is now OPEN! The Ribbon Cutting took place on May 1st.
- Waters Road Park is set to have the Grand Opening on May 16th at 2:30 p.m.
- Wills Park Proper has a construction contract scheduled for consideration at the May 20th City Council meeting.
- Webb Bridge Synthetic Turf installation is currently under review.

d. DIRECTOR

i. Director's Report – May 2024

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to speak.
- Farewell Wacky World-The playground is set to close on Tuesday, May 29th.
- Sewer Project at Webb Bridge Park is underway as well as the Turf project
- There are currently bids out for a Greenhouse at Old Rucker Farm.
- Mansell Road Boardwalk is coming along and should be set to open soon.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q & A:

RE: Alpha Loop

Q Who pays for the Alpha Loop? Is it tax dollars? (Rand)

A Alpha Loop is paid for by several different groups. TSPLOST is one of them, which is tax dollars. Each section has different funding. (Drinkard)

A The Alpha Loop company pays for the bells and whistles. (Rodgers)

VII. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- All the Commissioners requested more information on the Union Hill Park redesign.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Chairman Mitchell called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- ❖ Commissioner Piedrahita made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Rand seconded the motion.
 - The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Chairman Mitchell adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services