



RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2017

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I. CALL TO ORDER

- Commission Chair Ben Easterling called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

II. ROLL CALL

- Commission members present: Shuntel Beach, Jamie Bendall, Kevin Johnson, Melissa Jurgens, Jarrett Long, Bill Lubsy, Dennis Mitchell and Wendi Schutt
- Commission absent: None
- City staff present: Director of Recreation & Parks Morgan Rodgers, Deputy Director of Recreation & Parks Lisa Gurganus, Parks Manager Eric Milley, Equestrian Center Manager Matt Casey, Special Events Manager Kim Dodson, Recreation and Parks Office Manager Alice Smith
- City Council: Jim Gilvin

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF May 9, 2017

- Motion by Mrs. Schutt to approve the minutes of May 9, 2017 as written. Second by Mr. Long.
- No discussion.
- **All in favor. Motion carried**

V. OLD BUSINESS - None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Matt Wilder, with Pond & Company, discussed the master plan projects for Windward Park and Union Hill Park
- Attendance was good at the public open house held tonight before the meeting;
- There are three working visions for each park; nothing is set in stone and there is currently no funding available for either park
- Would like any feedback to take back to steering committee
- Mr. Easterling commended them on their presentation at the open house
- The main conversations related to Union Hill Park; some are passionate about this facility, but others wanted to see more at the park
- Staff will post concept plans on social media for additional public comment
- Pond + Company will bring final design ideas to the commission in early fall, then present them to City Council

- To help develop concept plans, Pond + Company researches other departments/cities and looks at the trends and desires to make it a great park

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Administration – Mr. Long

- No meeting

B. Parks – Mr. Bendall

- No meeting

C. Recreation – Mrs. Beach

- Discussions regarding NAFL leadership
- President Stephanie Butler plans to resign at the end of the year since she will no longer have a child active in the program
- Since the association does not have someone ready to step into this role, she has offered to continue as president or co-president for an additional season and allow time for her replacement to be groomed
- Mr. Lusby made a motion to allow a special one-time exception to the youth athletic association guideline requiring association executive committee members to have a child active in the program to serve in that capacity which would permit Mrs. Butler to continue in her current role or a co-leadership role for NAFL through the 2018 season. Second by Mr. Long.
- **All in favor. Motion carried.**

D. Cultural Arts – Mrs. Schutt

- May 22 was Arts Awareness Day in Alpharetta; several arts organizations, including Arts Alpharetta had a reception before the council meeting; participants included choral, quilt guild, fine artists, music and ARPD representatives
- Mayor David Belle Isle made a proclamation recognizing the importance of the arts in our community at the City Council meeting; we are hoping for an even bigger deal next year with the possibility of an art show leading up to the event the week prior
- With Arts Awareness and the Art Festival over Memorial Day weekend May was a great month for the arts in the City
- From Arts Supervisor Toby Smallwood
 - Camp is in full swing
 - Staff is finalizing art center renovation plans and cost estimates and hope to award the contract in late July; this may push construction start to early fall
 - We have 3 out of 4 downtown sculpture contracts executed
 - Will begin planning next year's programming for the new Arts Center in the coming weeks

VIII. PARTNER ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A. AYSA – Mr. Bendall

- There has been a couple of travel tournaments held at the park

B. AYBA – Mrs. Jurgens

- A ribbon cutting will be held at 1:30pm this Saturday at Wills Park for the new baseball pavilion

C. NAFL – Mr. Lusby

- NAFL registration numbers are good, except for cheerleaders
- Practices will start in August

D. NMML – Mrs. Beach

- Busy with camps and retreats

E. Ambush – Mr. Mitchell

- Finished try-outs and doing registration this week, about the same number of people and teams

IX. SPECIAL EVENTS REPORT - Kim Dodson

- Finishing up the spring season
- This was the first Taste of Alpharetta that was almost canceled due to the high winds; there was a slight decrease in numbers which they believe is due to the weather
- Alpharetta Arts Streetfest and the Memorial Day Celebration went extremely well
- Continuing to work on the History Room
- The Mayor's Challenge Race location will shift from Park Plaza to the lawn behind City Hall due to the construction; Alpharetta Rotary has made arrangements with the library to use their parking lot
- We have a strong showing for the Farmers Market; there is a wait list for vendors wanting to participate

X. EQUESTRIAN REPORT – Matt Casey

- Northern Ridge Cub Scout camp concluded last Friday; camp was well managed with 450 cub scouts attending
- Two horseshows followed camp as well as an International Rotary event held yesterday (Monday); 300 Rotarians from around the world attended this event in the covered arena
- Will have two large hunter/jumper horse shows to finish out the month and get us into our summer season
- A charity horse rescue event was held this past Sunday; close to \$9000 was raised
- Facility maintenance has consisted of grading arenas and roads from heavy rains; tree removal from storm damage around the park as well as walking trail

XI. PARK SERVICE'S REPORT – Eric Milley

- **General**
 - Conducting interviews for a full time vacant position
- **Wills Park**
 - Several work days around the park and admin office; removing bushes, underbrush and putting out pine straw
 - Prepping common areas for July 4th
 - Opening ceremony for the batting pavilion at Wills Park, June 17th
- **Rock Mill Park**
 - There were several work days at the park; projects included adding pine straw, removing bushes and underbrush
- **Webb Bridge Park**
 - On schedule with the field that was turf planed; we are six weeks in and have six more weeks to go

- Playground has had some major work and several posts have been replaced
- Working on removing and replacing some declining trees around the ball fields
- Scheduling temporary batting cages to be moved from Wills Park to Webb Bridge Park
- **North Park**
- Staff has been busy setting up and recovering from several weekend tournaments
- **City Center**
- Replacing shrubs and removing dead trees

XII. **RECREATION SERVICE'S REPORT – Lisa Gurganus**

- Summer programs are going well
- Staff continues working with vendors on various projects; see project update spreadsheet; have been working with Finance Dept on the RFP for turf replacement at Webb Bridge Park if funding is approved; the field is primarily used for soccer
- The Commission will be invited on a program tour; date/time: July 10 12pm-3pm; meet at the pool, have lunch and then take a tour; Mayor, City Council and Department Heads will also be invited; Mr. Rodgers will send an invitation with more details and RSVP plan
- Fall/winter recreation guides are ready and will be available to the public in late June
- We are seeking to fill the vacant Facility Technician position at the Adult Activity Center
- July 4th – Tuesday at Wills Park; VIP parking passes were distributed

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

- Handed out photos of the new seating area at Webb Bridge soccer field, the new baseball pavilion at Wills Park, and the 2 areas where sculptures will be placed
- With the help of Public Works, the entrance to the pool was pruned and looks nice
- Mr. Rodgers will bring slides to the commission meetings to show them work that was done
- Discussion at June 12th Council meeting to amend the alcohol ordinance for downtown parks; proposes to allow limited consumption in downtown parks; second reading is June 19th
- Reviewed the memorandum of understanding between Alpharetta and Milton concerning the property on Mayfield Road; this passive park jointly owned and maintained by two cities; very exciting times to have cities work together this way
- Invited the Commissioners to view the video on the city's website that was submitted as part of the National Gold Medal Finalist
- Hometown Passion <http://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks>
- Update on the cameras in the park; cameras at the Community Center, Adult Activity Center, Crabapple Government Center and Wills Park; 3 different systems; police department are coming up with a plan and will present to the commission
- Old Soldier's Day Race, that is held annually in August, has seen a drop in participation numbers over the past 6-7 years; last year's participation (@ 175) is less than the minimum amount the City requires for an outside event to close a road; more races are held now than when this event started; staff will report on participation in August; if participation does not improve, we will recommend discontinuing the race beginning in 2018
- Additional funds for the Wills Park Pool Renovation project have been identified; contract award will be presented to Council June 19th; groundbreaking is still set for August 1st

XIV. **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS – None**

XV. **ADJOURNMENT**

- Motion to adjourn by Mrs. Jurgens. Second by Mrs. Beach.
- All in favor. Motion carried
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm
- Next meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2017