



RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

OFFICIAL MINUTES

JULY 9, 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

❖ Vice Chairman Saha called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

• Recreation Commissioners Present

- Jit Saha (Vice Chair)
- Karla Piedrahita
- Cheryl Rand
- Derek Kaighin
- John Norton
- Paul Slavik

• Recreation Commissioners Absent

- Dennis Mitchell (Chair)
- Brad Bowers
- Shuntel Beach

• Staff

- James Drinkard, Assistant City Administrator
- Morgan Rogers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager, 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 Service Division Manager (All Parks excluding Wills Park & Downtown), 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 June 11, 2024

- ❖ Vice Chairman Saha called for a motion.
 - Commissioner Rand offered a motion to approve the minutes, with the modification suggested by Vice Chairman Saha, from June 11, 2024, Recreation Commission meeting.
 - Commissioner Kaighin seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved (6-0).

V. STAFF PRESENTATIONS & WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

a. DIVISIONS

i. Cultural Services Division Monthly Report – July 2024

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

Monthly Highlights

- Cultural Arts Master Plan - Stakeholder Roundtables
- Celebrating Juneteenth presented by AKA at the Alpharetta Arts Center
- Liquid Sunshine had the Grand Opening on the Alpha Loop

Monthly Initiatives

- Summer Camps are in progress with Camp Creative, Fashion Camp, Country Living Arts & Crafts at the Log Cabin, and Art Studio on the Go-Go
- Galleries at the Alpharetta Arts Center and Art Garden
- Outdoor Art On-Loan Exhibit - Arts Alpharetta
- Play Me Again Pianos - Webb Bridge Park New Piano Unveiling
- The Spotlight Community Theater - Update
- Music Match & Park Performance permit - Update

Monthly Happenings

- Arts & Culture Online Calendar
<https://www.alpharetta.ga.us/government/departments/recreation-parks/cultural-services>
- Alpharetta Music City - Live Music Calendar
<https://www.awesomealpharetta.com/calendar/category/alpharetta-music-city-live-music/>
- Take Me Away Gallery Exhibit Reception - Alpharetta Arts Center - Exhibit runs June 12th through August 3rd

- Quilt Guild In-Service Meeting by Chattahoochee Evening Stars Guild - Adult Activity Center - July 1st at 6:00 p.m.
- Eclectic Lawn Concert Series featuring The Illustrated Band - Alpharetta Arts Center Lawn on July 12th at 7:00 p.m., this is a free event

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Liquid Sunshine

Q What will take its place? (Piedrahita)

A We are currently curating a new sculpture. (Manning)

RE: Camps at Preston Ridge Community Center

Q How are the Cultural Arts camps doing at Preston Ridge? (Norton)

A They are doing well. This is the first year doing them there. (Manning)

A Camps are going great. Lego and Babysitter Boot Camp have been a big success. (Young)

ii. Recreation Services Division Monthly Report – July 2024

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

Monthly Highlights

- July 4th Celebration at Wills Park
- Free Fitness on the Town Green, continues one time a month due to demand
- Wire and Wood will be held October 11th and 12th with headliners, Sixpence None the Richer and Neal Francis
- ICan Bike was a big success
- The School Year Guide for 2024-2025 is coming soon

Monthly Happenings

Special Events

- Farmers Market - Saturday, beginning April 6th and ending November 30th from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Food Truck Alley - the 4th Thursday of each month from April 25th through October 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 pm. in Downtown
- CornholeATL Summer Leagues begin on June 5th every Wednesday and Thursday through August 1st from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- Summer Evening in the Park are Saturday, June 22nd, August 24th, and September 28th from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Brooke Street Park
- City Center Concert Series is on Friday, July 19th from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- ACC Music on the Green is on Sunday, July 21st from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Town Green

- Food Truck Alley will be July 25th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Downtown
- Gold Ribbon Strides 5k will be on Saturday, July 27th at Webb Bridge Park
- Art in the Park will be Saturday and Sunday, July 27th and 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Brooke Street Park
- City Center Concert Series will be Friday, August 2nd from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- Home By Dark at Union Hill Park will be on Saturday, August 3rd at 8:00 p.m.
- ACC Back-to-School Scavenger Hunt will be on Sunday, August 4th from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- Home By Dark Concert Series will be on Saturday, August 10th at 7:30 p.m. at Brooke Street Park
- City Center Concert Series will be on Friday, August 16th from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on the Town Green
- Food Truck Alley will be August 22nd from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in Downtown
- Summer Evening in the Park will be Saturday, August 24th from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at Brooke Street Park

Recreation Commission Q & A from the June 11, 2024 meeting:

- Commissioner Norton inquired about the following items:

1. NAFL registration for Fall 2023 (current season registration is not yet finalized)

NAFL FY24	Alpharetta	JC	Milton	Roswell	OC	TOTAL	% RES FY24	% RES FY23
Fall 23								
Tackle	81	8	180	11	22	302	27	27
Flag	89	3	241	11	47	391	23	22
Cheer	34	3	108	4	9	158	22	25
TOTAL FY24	204	14	529	26	78	851		

2. Pool attendance numbers for Summer 2024

Family Pool Passes - 566 members/140 Primary (Summer 23: 563 members/143 Primary)

Individual Pool Passes – 21 – (Summer 23: 33 individual)

Entry May 13th - 2023: Comparison	June 30th, 2024	Entry May 15th- June 30th,
Resident	4116	3470
General Admission- NR	8929	6413

Senior Resident	685	493
Senior NR	757	542

- Commissioner Rand requested dates for the annual presentations by the Youth Athletic Associations and other partnered organizations.
 - To date, the following are scheduled:
 - AYBA - Tuesday, September 10th
 - AYSA - Wednesday, September 25th
 - Ambush - Tuesday, October 8th
 - NAFL - Tuesday, November 12th

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Resident Fees for camps

Q Is Milton considered a resident for the camps? (Rand)

A No, they are not. (Young)

RE: Wire & Wood

Q For Wire & Wood, would it be possible to have a stage dedicated to local artists? (Saha)

A We currently have Music Match throughout the City but would need to discuss with Hilary about having a stage dedicated for local talent. (Young)

RE: MOU's with other Cities

Q Do we have MOU's in place with Milton and Johns Creek? (Norton)

A Yes, we do for football and softball. (Young)

RE: Partnered Organizations

C I would not mind seeing any organization. I would love to thank them. (Rand)

iii. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Excluding Wills Park) – July 2024

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

Monthly Highlights

- At all parks we have been watering sod, trees and repairing irrigation leaks.
- We are all getting ready for the fiscal budget availability, as we all have project and equipment needs.
- We have also taken down some declining trees at all parks and getting quotes on others.

Monthly Initiatives

- Developing new maintenance plans/practices for the Alpha Loop to include water plans.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Planters in Downtown

C The planters in Downtown are stunning, they take my breath away, love them. (Piedrahita)

RE: Planting

Q Has there been a lot of planting? (Rand)

A Yes, we are maintaining what was planted and watering like crazy. (Milley)

iv. Park Services Division Monthly Report (Wills Park & Equestrian Center) – July 2024

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

Monthly Highlights

- Staff has added mulch, straw, and pruned trees in common areas leading up to the 4th
- Staff is in summer operations mode with weekly events happening.
- The equestrian center has been busy with its summer horseshoe series.

Monthly Initiatives

- We continue to keep fields and landscaped areas watered.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Horse Stalls

Q What is the plan with the stalls? (Piedrahita)

A Currently in the design phase with Barge. (Casey)

Q Are there issues with the stalls being too close to the creek? (Norton)

A Barge is currently working on that.

RE: Equestrian Center Design

Q Will the redesign be using Bond and Match money? (Piedrahita)

A Yes, it will. (Casey)

v. Senior Operations Manager Monthly Report – June 2024

- 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 Sewer Connections: Expected to be complete by the end of July
- Waters Road park: Boundary fencing completed on June 27th

BOND PROJECTS:

- Webb Bridge Synthetic Turf: Turf installation contract is schedule for Council consideration on July 29, 2024

UPCOMING IN FY25:

BUCKLE UP!!!

- Miracle League Field installation and area enhancements
- Trail repaving in North Park and Wills Park
- Athletic Field fencing repairs and replacement at North Park and Innovation Academy
- North Main Street Park improvements – Paver replacement
- Webb-Zone improvements – Turf installation at lawn area
- North Park Athletic Pole replacement/enhancement with LWCF grant assistance
- Webb Bridge Park turf installation on Upper Fields
- Shade fabric replacement at Wills Park tennis courts
- Park cameras phase I – Webb Bridge Park, Union Hill Park, Innovation Academy, Wills Park
- AEDs at every park and facility
- Beginning the design process for the replacement of North Park Field 1-4 concession/restroom
- Old Rucker Road Park construction beginning
- Union Hill Park construction beginning
- Adult Activity Center lobby repairs
- Wills Park enhancements
- More Public Art

AND THAT'S JUST SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Webb Bridge Park Turf

Q Turf project, sewer, then what? (Piedrahita)

A They are planning to start after the Ambush Soccer season is over. Construction will take place during the winter months. (Kirby)

RE: Greenway

Q I know E-Bikes are not allowed on the Greenway, what about motorized scooters? (Piedrahita)

A Motorized scooters are not E-Bikes, so it cannot be enforced. (Kirby)

RE: Webb Bridge Park

Q Are benches planned for Webb Zone? (Kaighin)

A The Phase has enhancements to Webb Zone including turf where the sandy area currently is located, increase the condition and placement of the picnic tables. (Kirby)

Q Could the new donated plaque benches be installed? (Kaighin)

A We are not opposed to that style of bench. (Kirby)

Q Webb Zone is awesome, only thing that is strange is that all the playground equipment has places for cell phones, why? (Piedrahita)

A We probably did not notice that when we purchased the equipment. (Kirby)

Q You are going to City Council for the turf, do you currently have a bid? (Rand)

A Yes, we do. (Kirby)

Q Wayfinders are great, what about exiting signage? (Saha)

A I will need to follow up with the company on that signage. (Kirby)

RE: Cameras

Q Cameras in the parks, when? (Rand)

A Yes, we are currently working with Public Safety to get this going. (Kirby)

b. DIRECTOR

i. Director's Report – July 2024

- Morgan Rogers, Director for Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services Department came forward to speak.
 - Union Hill Park Update – City Council tabled the discussion of the Parking Redesign at the June 24, 2024 meeting. There was no indication from the City that a playground was to be installed prior to the bond.
 - Wacky World Update – Is not moving forward at this time, the City is looking to hire a construction manager to encompass all the Wills Park projects. The Community Build is not going to happen in October.
 - Review the highlights for the Fiscal Year 2024 for the Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services, Director Rodgers presented the Commission with a slide show of all the great things that happened in Fiscal Year 2024.

Update on Union Hill Park:

- Vice Chairman Saha brought six questions from a local resident.
 - Target event size with this proposed additional parking spots? Director Rogers answered approximately 400 people.
 - How many additional rental anticipated? Do you plan to increase the rental rate? Director Rogers stated that he did not know for sure but the City is hopeful for 20-25 additional events, including camps. The City is planning

to increase the rental rate once construction is completed regardless of what is decided with the park.

- When does the parks bond money need to be spent or encumbered by? 2026? Assistant City Administrator Drinkard that we have a 3-5 year window, the Feds do not want you to stock pile the money to earn interest. The goal is to have it encumbered by 2026. The City is trying to avoid not spending it.
- Have you considered going to the Windward Park businesses to seeing about a grant? Director Rodgers stated that the City has not considered that but it is an option.
- Looking at the design, in my opinion, the most costly thing was moving the skate park. Is there a better value design that does not have a costly move? Director Rodgers stated that we have not because Mayor and Council has not given the green light to move forward with any of the designs.
- Director Rodgers stated that the skate park is too loud and needs to be moved further from the covered venue. Redesign would have to happen and the concrete would still need to be moved.
- Commissioner Piedrahita stated that the verbiage around the upgrade of Union Hill Park is vague. She also asked if ample parking really an upgrade? Monetizing the space? Can renters keep the profit? Who is doing that today? Director Rodgers stated that Home By Dark, Grillfest, and Shamrockin' for the Cure have all done that in the past. Commissioner Piedrahita continued to ask are there ticketed events at other parks? Director Rodgers stated that currently no one is doing that, the Rotary Club raises money for non-profits. Manager Casey stated that the Rodeo does that and Commissioner Slavik stated that the Farmers Market keeps their profits.

Wacky World Update:

- Commissioner Piedrahita asked if the Construction Manager plans to work with the Community Build? Director Rodgers stated the plan is to do the Community Build with them. Commissioner Piedrahita proceeded to ask how the construction was going to work, will the park be under construction all at once? Director Rodgers stated that everything is not going to happen all at once, they will not be making Wills Park a construction zone.
- Commissioner Rand asked if Director Rodgers was being vague about Wacky World? Director Rodgers stated that he was not, there are a lot of moving parts and a lot of unknowns at this time. Assistant City Administrator Drinkard stated that the City is looking to approach this different than anything they have done before. By doing it all under one project, there are advantages. We cannot speak confidently at this time regarding the build. The City does not have a plan to alter Wacky World at all, the only change is the change in timeline. The current City Hall building is the closest thing the City has done to this. Commissioner Rand proceeded to ask if the Equestrian Foundation was on board with all of this? Director Rodgers stated there have been conversations with them and we do not have all the information at this time.

VI. RECREATION COMMISSIONER REPORTS

- Commissioner Piedrahita thanked Morgan for his leadership. Super grateful for him.
- Commissioner Piedrahita wanted to know the capacity of The Grove pavilion. Director Rogers stated approximately 40-50 people.
- Commissioner Rand wanted to know where Amanda was tonight. Director Rogers stated on vacation.
- Commissioner Saha stated that he would love to see the City have the capability to have a calendar that could download onto a personal calendar. Christine Young stated that we would need to look into that item. Assistant City Administrator Drinkard stated that he would bring that up with the build of the new City website and calendar.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

- None.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- ❖ Vice Chairman Saha called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.
 - Commissioner Rand made a motion to adjourn.
 - Commissioner Slavik seconded the motion.
- ❖ The motion was approved unanimously (6-0).
- ❖ With there being no further business to consider or discuss, Vice Chairman Saha adjourned the meeting at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services