



RECREATION COMMISSION
WORK SESSION
OFFICIAL MINUTES
JULY 24, 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
- Karla Piedrahita

• **Recreation Commissioners Absent**

- Brad Bowers
- Shuntel Beach

• **Staff**

- Morgan Rodgers, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Kurt Kirby, Senior Operations Manager, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services
- Sarah Bausano, Administrative Office Coordinator, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services

III. WORK SESSION ITEMS

a. Union Hill Park Design

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department introduced the item.
- Director Rodgers presented the Commission with a slide show of design phases of Union Hill Park. The first slide contained the original plan with the skate park, a play area, covered venue, and updated parking lot. The second slide contained the Updated plan with the play area gone and a larger parking lot. The third slide

contained a Value Engineered plan with a playground added. Director Rodgers stated the Value Engineered plan contained a traditional generic playground to show what a \$100,000.00 budget would look like. He stated that this is what fits into the budget, and this is all in with mulch and concrete. After he presented, he allowed for questions from the Commission.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Union Hill Park

Q Is this the current plan for the current parking lot? (Piedrahita)

A This is turned. (Rodgers)

Q How many spaces? (Piedrahita)

A 11 parking spaces added. (Rodgers)

Q Do we have MOU's with the adjacent offices for additional parking? (Slavik)

A Yes, we have an agreement with a company for Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday. Other events have made arrangements with other businesses. (Rodgers)

Q Why is the adjacent building parking left off the mockup? (Piedrahita)

A We would add it, but we would have to notify the company and get their permission to add it to our design plans. (Rodgers)

Q What is the cancellation policy with the MOU in place? (Slavik)

A The MOU in place has a 30-day notice to terminate. It is a one-year agreement that is renewable. (Rodgers)

Q What is their benefit to for allowing the additional parking? (Kaighin)

A They are receiving no benefit, they want the park to be successful, they are planning to stay. (Rodgers)

Q Why can we not ask them to be on our design plans? (Kaighin)

A We can. (Rodgers)

Q Can this be part of your narrative at Council on Monday? (Piedrahita)

A It is in the Staff Report, we do not have time to have it added before Monday. (Rodgers)

Q What is the level of the equipment at the Apartment Complex across the street? (Slavik)

Q Are you talking about taking your child to an Apartment Complex to play? (Piedrahita)

C This is the only venue that can be something nice and unique. Newtown Park has this, and it is great. (Slavik)

Q The new skate park is smaller, why? (Saha)

A The pop-up skate park is a quick fix, there was not a design on that one. The new one is a designed skate park. (Rodgers)

- Q What is the cost of the playground? (Saha)
- A Approximately \$100,000.00, not sure how to break it down because we asked for a \$100,000.00 design. (Rodgers)
- Q Above ground? (Saha)
- A This is dig down and build up. (Rodgers)
- Q Is the vote for this playground or the original? (Kaighin)
- A A Value Engineered playground. (Kirby)
- Q If it goes to park route, 15 years down the road, can it be removed? (Slavik)
- A Yes. (Kirby)
- Q We are doing refreshes, we do this, would it be worth doing this? (Kaighin)
- A Webb zone cost \$400,000.00 just taking old out and putting new in. (Rodgers)
- Q When this went to City Council, Staff made a recommendation for a Parking Lot. Is that happening on Monday? (Piedrahita)
- A We are not making a recommendation on Monday. (Rodgers)
- Q Was the recommendation written for the parking lot? (Slavik)
- A Yes, Staff recommended it. Not to say that the parking lot is more important. It was because of the Venue being so unique. I think that the facility could be useful. I am staying out of it; it is in City Councils hands. We did not tell anyone we were putting a playground in legally.
- Q Legally, was park space allowed? (Saha)
- C Skate Park makes it a park space. (Mitchell)
- A The Resolution is clear. (Rodgers)
- Discussion continued with Commissioner Norton stating that Windward Community Park is right down the street and the City should wait for the money to be available to build a park. Chairman Mitchell asked if there were any questions regarding Union Hill Park and reminded everyone that we are not voting on anything tonight, this is in City Councils hands now. Commissioner Saha asked for a Ninja playground video to be played to show what a \$150,000.00 playground could look like and stated that this would be a good teen playground. He continued with that he would think green space would be better than a parking spaces, a youth and teen space, would you consider that? Director Rodgers stated that it is not up to him to consider. Commissioner Saha he would have liked to have been given options for playgrounds within budget, not just one. Chairman Mitchell asked if he would like to have viewed three generic options. Commissioner Saha stated that he would have liked more than one. Further discussion took place on where everything goes from here and Director Rodgers stated that he is presenting it to the City Council on Monday, July 29th and they will decide if the resolution is adopted, he does not make that decision. He stated that if it becomes a parking lot, they start working on that, if it becomes a playground then they start working on it that. The vote is based on a Value Engineered playground to stay within budget. If the vote goes that way, then we are back to the drawing board.

b. Trail Counters on the Greenway

- Morgan Rodgers, Director for the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Services Department introduced the item.
- Director Rodgers presented to the Commission slides of the new Greenway counters. He stated that they had this in Roswell, and they bought the same equipment. They were installed back in December, and they have been gathering the data. We are going to be providing this monthly. There are some impressive numbers.

RECREATION COMMISSION Q&A:

RE: Trail Counters on the Greenway

Q Where are all the people going at Union Hill Park? (Rand)

A Most likely Forsyth County. (Rodgers)

Q Can we do this at our parks? (Kaighin)

A We can, we want them to be hidden. We are going to try to do it in other locations. Trails at the parks. Alpha Loop would be next. (Rodgers)

Q Intent for this information? (Kaighin)

A Not any, just for us and Council. We need to keep the funding. (Rodgers)

A We can also use this for cameras on the Greenway, it is useful data for some future initiatives. (Kirby)

IV. ITEMS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Commissioner Piedrahita wanted to express her amazement about the summer camp staff and the can-do attitude. Great!
- Commissioner Kaighin seconded Commissioner Piedrahita's comments and asked how we could expand for future growth? Director Rodgers stated that we do not have enough indoor facilities to add more programs.

V. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Bausano

Sarah Bausano
Administrative Office Coordinator
Recreation, Parks & Cultural Services