



Minutes
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
March 27, 2024
7:00 PM
Frank Eagles Meeting Room Town Hall

PRESENT: Mr. Kevin Mazur, Chair
Mr. Richard Armant, Member
Mr. Aaron Gauger, Member
Ms. Judy Siwy, Member
Commissioner Paul Vilga
June Greene, Parks & Recreation Director
Eddie Henderson, Project & Facilities Coordinator
Nara Stevens, Parks & Recreation Administrative Support Specialist

ABSENT: Dr. Mothanna Al-Hoory, Member Mr. Clay Campbell, Member

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mazur called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

2. **APPROVAL of February 28, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

Moved by Board Member Siwy and Seconded by Board Member Armant. The motion to approve the minutes of February 28, 2024, was carried with a unanimous vote, 4 voted aye, 0 voted nay (4 voted, 2 absent)

3. **OLD BUSINESS**

a. **Staff Reports:**

- i. Athletics – June discussed the basketball tournament in Henderson, NC that several teams participated in. The kids and parents enjoyed the experience of playing in a tournament. In the future, June would like several teams to participate in a SWAC tournament. In addition, June would like to investigate changing basketball rules to align more with SWAC rules. Due to the number of participants in some of the baseball and softball leagues, a few of the teams will be traveling to other counties. However, none of the soccer leagues will have to travel since there were enough participants signed up. Due to various unforeseen and unavoidable circumstances, the Spring Athletic programs have had some hiccups. Several coaches have expressed some concerns about the practice and game schedules. During a coaches' meeting on March 23, 2024, it was explained that most of the staff in Parks & Rec department were new and that running the Spring program has been a learning process that will get better with time.
- ii. Cultural Programming – Held a day camp Monday, March 25, 2024. Tina also took the Seniors to the Triangle Town Center for the day. The Seniors enjoyed a meal and some performing arts. The only complaint the Seniors had was how difficult it was for them to get in and out of the van because of high the door sits. May need to look into public transportation to accommodate those individuals who need more assistance. Tina is preparing for a trip to the casino in Danville, Virginia as well as the NC State Fair.
- iii. Special Events – Blood drive on March 8, 2024, was a success. The Egg Rush event had to be rescheduled due to inclement weather. However, it was also very successful considering it was held on a Monday evening. Will be working on the Juneteenth event coming up.
- iv. Parks & Facilities – Eddie updated the board on the work completed at Redford Place Park. A

water fountain with bottle filler has been installed as well as a bulletin board and both look fantastic. Both scorer stands have been painted and given a new roof. Moving forward with “The Farm” entrance construction project and getting close to putting it out to bid. Eddie is still waiting on final approval from NCDOT before we can start the bid process.

b. **Mission Statement:**

- i. Mission Statement – June incorporated various parts of everyone’s statement and came up with a draft. The board reviewed and discussed the draft June wrote and amended it to come up with a final draft. June will present the final draft to the board for approval.

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Accessibility For Parks Grant** – While in the process of renovating the Mill Bridge Nature Park Amphitheater, the goal is to also make it ADA compliant. Ideally, the funding for the Amphitheater renovations will be received through various grants. The Accessibility for Parks Grant is due on May 1, 2024 and the department would like to apply for it. Staff haven’t applied for a grant in quite some time, so even if we are not awarded the one in May, going through the application process would be great practice for other potential grants.
- b. **Capital Improvement Projects Scoring Sheet** – Back in the January meeting, the board was given a scoring sheet for CIPs and asked to rank the projects based on which projects they deemed to be top priority. Eddie took each board member’s priority list and finalized a score sheet which he reviewed with the board. The board was informed that the earmark grant Congresswomen Ross had endorsed had been passed. The grant was approved for over \$400k and is for renovations and improvements to Main Street Park. The Amphitheater will be the primary focus when applying for grants next.
- c. **REZ-23-05 – Scarboro Apartments** – In the process of reviewing an application for the Scarboro Apartments development which will be located directly across from Main Street Park. It appears the developer is looking to build about 240 multifamily apartment units. The developer has been asked to be more aggressive with the greenway trails. The current residents that live adjacent to the land do not want a greenway behind their homes, but the alternative is a road. Eddie asked the PARAB to make a motion to recommend accepting the greenway on the east side of the new road as shown in the current concept plan. The motion moved by a unanimous vote.
- d. **Trail Art Submissions** – Kristen informed the board about the backstory, concept and process of the program. We received 3 submissions this year, but only 2 submitted an original piece of artwork. The PARAB voted for the artist Tiffany Lingg. The pieces are entitled “Whimsical Mushroom & Friend”, and Kristen will notify Ms. Lingg she was selected by the board.

5. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussed pollinator gardens and Arbor Day Event. This year we will be distributing pollinator plants and not trees. Also discussed the Memorial Mile event and Kristen confirmed there hasn’t been a ton of interest.

6. **ADJOURN**

No further business needing to be discussed, Chair Mazur adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The next meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.