

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

March 18, 2009

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at Tonsler Park. Members present were: Scott Brown, John Foster, Sean McCord, John Kammauff, Betsy Roettger, and Juandiego Wade. Members absent: Kenneth Ballard, Carl Brown, Mike Farruggio and Jennifer McKeever.

Staff: Brian Daly, John Mann, Brian Ray, Will Bassett

Presentation:

- Parks landscape staff John Mann and Brian Ray gave an overview of the City's spring landscaping plan and shared the scope of the work they perform to the Advisory Board and stated the following:
 - Having a high level of landscape in the City influences businesses and homeowners to do their own landscaping, sets Charlottesville apart from other cities and has a positive influence in people's lives.
 - Parks Division responsibilities included 26 parks, 9 schools, 30 athletic fields, 2 cemeteries, Downtown Mall, city office & facilities and medians & right of ways. Staff included - landscape team horticulture crew – 5 staff; turf crew – 8 staff, seasonals – 4 staff; tree crew – 3; and a volunteer coordinator which is currently vacant.
 - Varied environments – waste areas, wetland environments, median strip deserts, lush gardens.
 - Problem solving – screen unattractive views, soften urban atmosphere, beautify; pitfalls – harsh conditions, Downtown Mall – hottest & coldest location; trash, vehicle damage and vandalism.
 - Horticultural techniques – renovate old plantings, weed suppression, right plant, right place, switch to native plants and erosion control.
 - Environmental projects – park locations are the pilot for the City including – Washington Park – Bog Garden, Riverview Park – flood plain; Greenbrier School – Rain Garden and Greenleaf Park – Rain Garden.
 - Annual displays locations: 10th & Preston, 5th & Bailey, 5th & Cherry neighborhood entry ways, Lee Park, Downtown Mall pots, Craw garden and the Rives Park sign,
- Projects - Spring 09
 - Onesty Pool – rain gardens, native plants, more cost efficient
 - JPA – neighborhood grant funds available for a contractor to plant 28 trees; Starr Hill Park – April 18 – planted by volunteers, committed to ongoing maintenance

- John Foster stated that he goes to the park with his children and that he has experienced baking in the sun, felt trees were not surviving weather conditions and asked about shade trees. John Mann replied that the environment was harsh and that man hours have been dwindling but that they are doing their best to have the trees survive, trees are mulched, new trees this year will have gator bags, average life span for trees in medians is 10 years,
- Brian Ray reported to the Advisory Board information on some small projects:
 - Crow Pool/Center – beef up entry, more inviting
 - Circuit court building – formal landscape, handicapped access ramp installed and made adjustments
 - Adopt a Spot – neighborhoods come with beautification projects.
 - Annual displays – 37 areas, fully changed out. Identified ¼ of areas that will be removed or drastically simplified. Change in strategy – focus not on annual plantings that need to be changed twice a year, replacing with perennials, will reduce initial costs by half; long term will reduce maintenance costs by 1/3.
 - Planting additional 150 trees this year by volunteers & staff
- Construction update
 - Brian Daly reported on the following:
 - ❖ Onesty Pool – construction update
 - ❖ Smith Aquatic Center - bids received past Tuesday, evaluating bids, bid by division – example: concrete, masonry, bids were done in conjunction with Boys & Girls Club project.
 - ❖ Forest Hills – decision made to move forward with the project, was advertised couple of days ago, will be bidding entire park –
 - Phase I - stream work, restroom, spray ground, trail
 - Phase 2 – basketball court, finish trail
 - Phase 3 – additional pavilion
 - Construction could begin in 6 weeks
 - Project information has been taken to City Council and they have approved
 - Will not be opening wading pool
 - If project begins now, it is possible that the spray ground area could be open in September but not guaranteed

McIntire Wading Pool - closure

- Brian Daly stated that the December, 2007 – Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety act went into effect, this legislation left the swimming pool industry not prepared from a product prospective to become compliant. Guidelines only came out last summer.
- Mandatory that all pools must be compliant – must have dome type drain cover for Crow to become compliant

- McIntire and Forest Hills wading pool – no realistic and inexpensive way to bring these two pools into compliance, cannot be open unless compliant by law
 - Article on pool closure will be in newspaper in the next couple of days, has been contributing factor to get the Forest Hills project to begin,
 - City Council is aware that McIntire wading pool cannot open
 - Proposal – move forward with Forest Hills, close McIntire and encourage patrons to go to the new Onesty Pool.
- ✓ Meeting officially called to order with a quorum present:

Minutes:

- John Kammauff made a motion to approve minutes, John Foster second, minutes were unanimously approved.

2009 Aquatic Facility Fees

- Price adjustments based for 48" tall, daily admission price increase, annual pass has attractive prices
- Will Bassett passed out to the Advisory Board the proposed pricing structure which included a 2008 fees list for comparison.
- Crow Pool – daily admission will be age based because it does not have the amenities that the outdoor pools have and there is no proposal to change the fees from 2008. Scott Brown suggested raising the non resident fee but not the resident fee for Crow Pool.
- Daily admission – outdoor pools
 - Increase for city & non city, because of amenities, city resident 50% reduction
 - Encourage people to use season passes, will move lines faster into pool, business side – handling less cash. Once customers have a key fob, they will only have to renew in the future
 - Fee pricing for outdoor pools only, new Smith pool will have different fees.
 - New technology will help keep connected to customers, and will help with tracking of customers
 - Summer pool passes will be effective Memorial Day through Labor Day and will be good at all City pools
- Scott Brown stated that he does not want County residents to take advantage of city facilities, and wants to provide all city children with an opportunity to experience new facilities
- Marketing perspective – pushing seasonal pool passes, coupons will be available on Parks & Recreation website and given out in the community. Betsy Roettger asked if guest passes would be available.
- Brian Daly reported that the fee structure was sent to the City Manager about six weeks ago.

- Will Bassett reported that he attended a Revenue & Management School in West Virginia last week. He stated that the pricing module proposals falls in line with what was recommended at conference.

Motion:

- A motion was made by John Foster to double the non resident fees @ Crow Pool for adult & youth, second by John Kammauff, motion was unanimously approved

Motion:

- A motion was made by Sean McCord to approve the amended 2009 aquatic fees, Betsy Roettger second, motion was unanimously approved.

Directors Matters

- Brian Daly reported the following:
 - Parks tradesman, Two Bears, has received playground safety inspector certification.
 - Will Bassett attended Revenue & Management School in West Virginia
 - First Tee – registration is open, first session, April 11
 - Erica Sims, Youth Programmer will be attending next meeting to talk about 2009 Summer Camps
 - Softball field lights – waiver of lighting fixtures for CHS girls field approved 6-1

Motion:

- A motion to adjourn meeting was made by John Kammauff, second by Sean McCord, motion was unanimously approved.
- Meeting adjourned @ 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly
Secretary to the Advisory Board