

City of Charlottesville
Department of Parks and Recreation
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"A World Class City"

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA April 21, 2010

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ADMIN-1 Adoption of Minutes – March 17, 2010 Advisory Board Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

A-1 Azalea Park Master Plan - Adoption
A-2 Land Acquisition Priorities – Adoption

INFORMATION ITEMS

I-1 Smith Aquatic & Fitness Center – Construction Update
I-2 Forest Hills Park Renovations - Construction and Grand Opening
I-3 Athletic Field Allocation Study – Update
I-4 YMCA at McIntire Park – Status Update
I-5 Summer Aquatic Facilities Operating Schedule
I-6 Crow Indoor Pool Operations

DISCUSSION ITEMS

D-1 Policy – Naming of Parks and Park Facilities

CHAIRMAN'S MATTERS

BOARD MATTERS

DIRECTOR'S MATTERS

CLOSED SESSION

Land Acquisition

ADJOURNMENT

City of Charlottesville
Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Agenda Item
April 21, 2010

ADMINISTRATIVE – 1

Adoption of Minutes – March 17, 2010 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

ACTION REQUIRED:

Advisory Board adoption of the minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Minutes of March 17, 2010 meeting

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

March 17, 2010

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 5:00 p.m. at Tonsler Park Recreation Center. Members present were: Byron Brown, Scott Brown, John Kammauff, Jennifer McKeever, Ned Michie, Betsy Roettger and Dan Rosensweig. Members absent: Ken Ballard, John Foster and Sean McCord

Staff: Chris Gensic

Minutes:

- **Motion:**
Scott Brown made a motion to approve minutes from February 17, 2010, second by John Kammauff, motion was unanimously approved

Park Updates:

- **Forest Hills** - to be completed by April 1, but not to open until approximately May 1, 2010
- **Smith Pool** – still on track for September, 2010 completion.
- **Riverview Park** – will have concrete poured for new sidewalks and will be the site of the May Day celebration event and for National Cleanup Trails Day and Clean the Bay Day scheduled for June 5, 2010.
- **Trails update** – entry paths to be bid soon (Meade, Pen, Starr Hill, Riverview, Rives, Water St. and Azalea entry)

Question – Pen park fitness is new.

- **Turf fields** – Byron Brown reported to the board an update from Rick Lilly on turf fields:
 - Initial cost \$600,000. School board is against crumb rubber, which increases price by \$100,000.
 - CHS has \$330,000 in private donations, need \$370,000 more (\$270,000 without crumb rubber).
 - Fund raising activities continue.
 - Note all games so far this year have been cancelled due to wetness
 - Dan Rosensweig stated that the board did not see the letter to City Council indicating our recommendation to donate at least \$100,000 of the Parks & Recreation CIP money from 2011 to help pay for the CHS turf field.

Tree Commission

- Chris Gensic presented a tree update to the board stated that to be a Tree USA city, the City had to spend at least \$2.00 per person. A suggestion was made to have a tree commissioner appointed to the board, whereby citizens could attend advisory board meetings and voice their concerns directly to that person.

Motion:

- A motion was made by Scott Brown to have the City's Urban Forester, Tim Hughes act as Tree Commissioner and make a presentation twice a year to the board to talk about trees and that any concerned citizens could voice concerns at that time. Any concerns of citizens coming through the Advisory Board's website could be directed to attend the meetings that Tim Hughes attended. Motion was second by Betsy Roettger, motion was unanimously approved.

Land Acquisitions

- Chris Gensic presented the process for determining priorities by each board member (high, medium, low) using the dot game and passed out copies of the Needs Assessment to help guide the conversation. There were 40 items and board members could only vote once for each item. Betsy Roettger noted that this document could change over time and Dan Rosensweig discussed the future and present density implications of acquiring park land. Chris Gensic stated that he would bring back the results to the next meeting.
- Announcement on current status of land acquisitions on Moore's Creek, Meadowcreek and at Davis field and \$250K in CIP (draft) for open space.

Azalea Park Update:

- Azalea Park plan review before April
- Cason acquisition

Board Matters:

- John Kammauff made a comment that he would like the Parks and Recreation Department and the City Schools cooperatively to purchase a wrestling mat to be shared by Buford School and the new Smith Pool facility. He stated that the cost would be approximately \$8,000-20,000. Board members felt that this was a subject to be proposed by the School Board, however, Chris Gensic stated that he would run this by Brian Daly and Ned Michie stated that he would run it by the School Board.

- Board members asked the following questions:
 - When do spray grounds open?
 - What is Crow Pool's status, given Smith's opening in September?
 - Smith/Buford field - will field be open this year?
 - Chris Gensic responded that he would check with Brian Daly and board members would get a response on these questions.

Motion:

- Motion was made by Betsy Roettger to adjourn meeting, second by Ned Michie, motion was unanimously approved.
- Meeting adjourned @ 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly
Secretary to the Advisory Board

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ACTION – 1

Adoption of Park Master Plan for Azalea Park

ACTION REQUIRED:

Advisory Board adoption of the Azalea Park Master Plan, per adopted Park Master Planning Process. Upon adoption, the Master Plan will be presented to the Planning Commission for review and adoption. Staff will make a short presentation prior to Advisory Board consideration and action.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Azalea Park Master Plan Rendering
Azalea Park Master Plan Narrative



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ACTION – 2

Adoption of Park Land Acquisition Priorities

ACTION REQUIRED:

Advisory Board adoption of the proposed Land Acquisition Priority matrix. Staff will schedule a work session with City Council on this topic later in the year.

Staff recommends that language be included in a document transmitting these priorities to City Council stating that the establishment of these priorities should not preclude pursuance of acquisition opportunities across the priority spectrum.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Land Acquisition Priority Matrix

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Board
Land Acquisition Priority Matrix**

Highest Priorities

Relation to density
Within target area (Needs)
Rectangular field acquisition or development
Ability to light fields
Multi-use/commuter trail
City Market
Demographics
Playgrounds
Open Space
Diamond field acquisition or development
Maintenance costs
Picnic Area
Price per acre

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Medium Priorities

Cost to develop
Adult or youth field
Views
Forest Cover
Sprayground
Hard surface court
Access to Water
Riverfront
Entry corridor
Urban Scale
Adjacency to Meadow and Moore's Creeks
Adjacent to park/school\
Within .5 miles of target area

Lowest Priorities

Community Gardens
Includes city utilities
Named creek
Acreage factor
Slope
Wildlife habitat
Dog Park
Cultural value
Educational use/SOLs
Special Natural Features (cliffs, wetland)
Unnamed creek
Benches
1 mile or more from target area

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INFORMATION – 1

Smith Aquatic and Fitness Center – Construction Update

The Smith Aquatic and Fitness Center remains under construction, with substantial completion scheduled for mid-July, 2010. Scaffolding has been erected in the natatorium to finish mechanical, electrical and HVAC equipment in the ceiling of the building. Masonry work is close to complete, and wall and floor finishes in the first floor bathrooms, locker rooms and wet classroom will begin within the next two weeks. Several photos are below.

Opening to the public scheduled for September, 2010

North Natatorium Wall



East Elevation and Main Entrance



Natatorium from spectator seating area w/ scaffolding erected



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INFORMATION – 2

Forest Hills Park Renovations – Construction Completion and Grand Opening

Construction is nearing completion at Forest Hills. Landscape planting will occur by the end of April; and biofilter construction will also complete by the end of April. Grand Opening Celebration will be held Saturday, May 15 at 2pm. Spray ground will also be open May 15.

School-Age Playground in foreground



INFORMATION – 3

Athletic Field Allocation Study – Status Update

The City and County Parks and Recreation Departments have finalized the data collection and analysis of comments from local athletic organizations regarding a policy governing allocation of athletic fields. By and large, the athletic community is satisfied with the methods by which both jurisdictions allocate athletic fields, but agree that priorities for allocation should be established.

Additionally, staff will be proposing the final allocation policy for approval before the end of the Fiscal Year, with the policy to be in effect for the fall 2010 season and beyond.

Several guiding principles have been agreed upon:

- Honor historic community investments in allocation decisions.
- Priority should be given to youth sports before adult sports.
- Usage of athletic field lighting for practice should be allowed (this is particularly critical for youth football in the fall).
- Specific season opening and closing dates for fields should be established.
- Specific dates should be established for acceptance and approval of allocation requests.
- A process should be established to accommodate new and emerging athletic groups – all attempts will be made to provide allocation for requests submitted during the application period from new groups. However, historical usage will be honored where a conflict may occur.
- Rectangular field sports should be allowed to practice on diamond field outfields, until such time that the rectangular field needs identified in the Needs Assessments of both jurisdictions are met.
- Diamond field tournaments shall be held on weekends and holidays only. 1 weekend a month will be reserved for youth tournaments.
- For-Profit entities shall receive last priority for field allocation.
- City and County staff will meet in November of each year to review the previous year and recommend any adjustments to the policy.

Proposed dates for allocation process:

Spring Season (field opening through July 31)

- Applications for field space will be accepted beginning the 2nd Monday in January
- Allocations for field space will be issued no later than January 31.

Fall Season (August 1 through field closing)

- Applications for field space will be accepted beginning the 2nd Monday in July
- Allocations for field space will be issued no later than July 31.

INFORMATION – 4

YMCA at McIntire Park – Status Update

VMDO architects have reported that the construction drawings for the new YMCA in McIntire Park are almost 100% complete. VMDO is scheduled to go out for bid on the project at the end of April, 2010; subject to authorization to proceed from the YMCA.

INFORMATION – 5

Summer Aquatic Facilities Operating Schedule

The 2010 summer aquatic season is fast approaching. Below are relevant dates for season openings, operating hours and other special events.

Summer Pool Pass Sales and Renewals Begin (see below)	May 1
Spray Grounds Open (Belmont, Greenleaf, Forest Hills)	May 15
Onesty Family Aquatic Center Opens	May 29
Washington Park Pool Opens	tentative May 29
McIntire Wading Pool Opens	June 12

Note that Onesty and Washington Park pools will be closed during the week while Charlottesville City schools are still in session. Pools will then be open every day beginning June 12.

Movies in the Park Dates

Forest Hills Park	May 22
Washington Park	June 12
Onesty Family Aquatic Center	August 7

INFORMATION – 6

Crow Indoor Pool Operations

As the Advisory Board is aware, the City's plan since the decision in 2007 to consolidate indoor pool operations to one location at the new Smith Aquatic and Fitness Center called for the closing of Crow Pool upon the opening of Smith. The FY2011 budget was prepared with this scenario in mind, and noted specifically during the City Manager's presentations to City Council on the FY2011 budget.

Recently, staff has been approached by the Piedmont Family YMCA's swim team (CYAC); requesting consideration of keeping Crow open for the 2010-2011 fall/winter/spring season for usage by CYAC.

After consideration and discussion during City Council work sessions on the FY2011 budget, it was agreed to attempt to work with the YMCA to keep Crow open for lane rental purposes, but do so on a purely cost-neutral basis. Effectively, those desirous of lane rental time would be required to cover 100% of the operating and staff costs of keeping the facility open.

The YMCA has presented Parks and Recreation staff with a proposal that meets these requirements. Staff are currently finalizing the details and scheduling with the YMCA, and will draft a contract to be signed by both the YMCA and the City.

In addition, it should be noted that the City Schools are very interested in the long-term adaptive reuse of the Crow building for School purposes. Further details regarding the Schools' level of interest will be dependent upon the School Board's decisions regarding possible school consolidation.

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DISCUSSION – 1

Policy - Naming of Parks and Park Facilities

As the City's park land acquisition efforts continue, and with requests of the Department to name certain facilities within Parks for members of the community; it is necessary to establish a framework whereby parks and facilities are named.

The attached Draft Policy is an attempt to create such a framework and a guiding policy. The Draft Policy is for Advisory Board discussion.

ENCLOSED DOCUMENTS:

Draft Policy – Naming of Parks and Park Facilities

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DRAFT – APRIL, 2010

Policy - Naming of Parks and Park Facilities

As a general policy, parks shall be named in accordance with geographical, historical or ecological features indigenous to the park site or to the immediate vicinity of the site. Parks may be named for an individual under the following conditions:

1. Where the individual has made a significant gift of land for park purposes to the City, or
2. In memoriam for an individual who has made a significant contribution to the park system of the City of Charlottesville.

Recreational facilities or resource management areas within a park may be named for an individual, living or deceased, who:

1. Has made a significant contribution to the protection of natural, cultural, or horticultural resources of the City's park system; OR
2. Has substantially contributed to the advancement of commensurate types of recreational facilities and opportunities within the City's park system; OR
3. Has made a significant contribution to the betterment of a specific park, consistent with the established criteria and standards for the designated park classification as identified in the Comprehensive Plan.

In support of this policy, nominations for naming parks, recreational facilities or resource management areas shall be evaluated on the basis of the above criteria and upon appropriate documentation.

Final action on naming of parks and facilities shall be made in open session by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.