

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
September 21, 2011**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a public & regular meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at City Space. Members present were: Byron Brown, John Foster, John Kammauff, Jennifer McKeever, Ned Michie and Dan Rosensweig. Members absent: Scott Brown, Skylar Hughes-Lyon and Sean McCord.

Staff: Brian Daly, Doug Ehman, Vic Garber, Chris Gensic

Comprehensive Plan Update

- Brian Daly – comprehensive plan goals & highlights
 - Facility renovations that have occurred last 3-4 years; aquatic facilities – Onesty 09, Forest Hills – spring, 2010, Smith – fall, 2010 - met weekly for a year for Smith, 9 months for Onesty
 - Upcoming Carver Center – have started internal planning; considering new lines of business like banquets and expanded rentals
 - Passes will be good @ both facilities – Smith & Carver
 - Successful efforts in land acquisition – have acquired 50 acres through donations, easements and acquisitions
 - Largest – Meadow Creek stream restoration,
 - Meadowcreek Parkway – when completed, land north & south will become parkland.
 - Connectivity - trails, sidewalks, connecting the City
- Goal 1 –
 - Replaced playground equipment @ all elementary schools in City
 - Facility standards – inserted into 2007 comprehensive plan; have driven great deal of efforts over past 5 years
- Goals that require work:
 - Connectivity – ongoing
 - Thinking where are we going in the next 5 years, next set of goals needed; not done as far as facilities are concerned
 - Tonsler Recreation Center – too small, limited offerings
 - Skatepark – where will it be located with parkway; existing facility is lighted; suggestion – lower part of Washington Park
 - Environmental education under met; future – Nature Center
 - Agency accreditation –requires documenting how we do business; internal realignment of positions needs to be undertaken

Eberhard Jehle – 1502 A Hazel Street

- Discussed the Parks & Recreation's City league volleyball program, stated that program has existed for 40 years and that for the past 25 years has been a need for two gyms. Due to not enough playing space, play has decreased from 5 to 3 nights a week over the years. Stated that Goal 1 – F states the use of modern standards, program will go back to Carver Center after the renovations, would like to see regulation volleyball courts made so that the program can be expanded to more days of the week including teens & pre-teens with the regulation courts.
- Volleyball program is year round program consisting of 70 teams – 3 seasons, summer 40 teams, 350 adults playing volleyball, presently uses a 2nd facility @ Cale elementary school
- No present youth programs
- Core group consists of baby boomers

Paul Byer- 100 W South Street

- Asked what are the comprehensive plan priorities? What would NDS, Economic Development, Tourism say are priorities? Felt that the document should be more consolidated with priorities.
- Chris Gensic stated that trails in the trail plan are not all in the comprehensive plan, could look at making them clearer and more concise
- Brian Daly reported that there has been a tremendous amount of communication between NDS and other departments.
- Stated that he felt that there seems to be a lot of overlap between goals and objectives. Would like to see the goals reviewed and start with assets, prioritize, go down rest of list to see what fits

Wes Bellamy – Albemarle County, teacher @ AHS

- Stated that he would like to see goals in comprehensive plan implemented
- When focus is on 1-2 projects, felt it left others out
- Boxing and mentoring program, huge interest from kids in housing sites

Barbara Yeager – Obesity Task force

- Would like to see food increased in summer program
- Make city accessible - conscious of sidewalks in neighborhoods but many are not for walking &, biking, would like walk from neighborhoods to be user friendly
- Talked about the Let's Move program which is an Obama initiative
- Supports increasing activity for youth

Bill Mueller – Executive Director – SOCA

- Stated that SOCA participants are from both the City and County; 15-20% - City of Charlottesville, 1/3 adults – City
- Organization represents 3,600 youth/adults from all jurisdictions
- Stated there was a need for additional fields and that two objectives for additional fields were not completed and asked how can we accomplish what is in the current plan

- Stated that soccer fields can come in all different sizes
- Would like active recreational uses to be along trails and sidewalk systems for access
- Would like to see soccer fields in Pen Park, regional park

Amy Laufer – 110 Warren Lane

- Stated that music programs have been cancelled due to low enrollment, would like to see transportation looked into to possibly bring more kids to classes

Advisory Board & Staff Comments:

- Dan Rosensweig gave a broad overview of the comprehensive plan process:
 - Presently in the middle of a mandatory overview of the comprehensive plan which is reviewed every 5 years
 - Joint planning grant – One Community Grant for both Charlottesville & Albemarle County for comprehensive plan update
 - Goal is to get sense from public of how are we doing and what's left to do. Two municipalities are working together, what can be done to bring both comprehensive plans in alignment
 - Meetings will be held prior to joint meetings
 - Chance to drill down on section facilities section
- Chris Gensic stated that he is pulling information from six different chapters of the Comprehensive Plan and would like to see a Parks & Recreation chapter added to make clearer, stated that Brian Daly had lobbied for this addition in 2007.
- Dan Rosensweig made the following comments:
 - Public housing redevelopment – relocating park facilities into these active areas
 - Prioritizing or at least making coherent goals of tourism and attracting people to Charlottesville
 - Goal 11 – tremendous amount accomplished in recent years, missing outdoor recreational facilities, downscaling some of the outdoor facilities does not have to be on a tremendous footprint
 - Goal 11 – objective D not accomplished, need to push to be done
 - Glaring deficiencies in southern and western parts for regional parks
 - Look at local parks differently, have more multiple uses
 - Land Use – glaring omission from comprehensive plan – relationship of Parks to density; rezoned 2007 – West Main Street, Little High Street
 - Have in comprehensive plan addition of parks, then Planning Commission would have tool when making decisions
- John Kammauff stated he wanted to be careful of some of the comments where one activity would replace another existing activity

- John Foster stated that creating a Parks & Recreation chapter was a good idea and liked the idea of prioritizing
- Ned Michie told the citizens that he appreciated all the comments that were made. And made the following comments:
 - Have multi use trails
 - Safe place to ride bikes
 - Chris Gensic replied that there are great plans in the works
- Byron Brown also thanked citizens for their comments
- Jennifer McKeever made the following comments:
 - Stated that she didn't think that programming will be a part of the comprehensive plan but did look forward to discussions on programming in coming year for both indoor and outdoor activities.
 - Goal 11 – SOCA fields not met including athletic fields development
 - Playgrounds were updated and not created new; recommends having constant dialogue with neighborhoods on what they want when updating facilities
 - Have good plan for land acquisition
- Vic Garber stated that Needs Assessment studies establish programs first which drives the facility
- Close public session

Minutes:

- ❖ Motion:
John Kammauff made to motion to approve minutes, Ned Michie second, motion was unanimously approved

Meadow Creek Stream Valley Master Planning Process - Resolution

- Chris Gensic stated the following:
 - New parkland acquired in last two years
 - Stream restoration project – would like to be a public process on what would like to see on land
 - Asking board if this piece of land should kick off master planning process to start maybe in November.
 - Staff recommends that the Advisory Board adopt the resolution recommending that City Council authorize staff to begin the Master Planning Process for the Meadow Creek Stream Valley, including Greenbrier Park
 - New park – ask public what would like
 - Will be conservation easements on property, allowed to build trails, invasive species management,

- Meadowcreek Gardens – sewer line has gone through it, include in process

Motion

- Dan Rosensweig made a motion to recommend to City Council the resolution for the Meadowcreek Stream Valley Master Planning Process as listed below:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia; that the Advisory Board recommends to City Council that the Council authorize the City Manager and the Parks and Recreation Department to begin the Park Master Planning Process for the Meadow Creek Stream Valley, which includes newly acquired park lands along this riparian corridor, and to include Greenbrier Park. The planning area is shown below in Figure 1. The Master Plan shall be conducted pursuant to the Park Master Planning Process adopted by City Council on March 16, 2009.

- Ned Michie second, motion was unanimously approved

CIP

- CIP – submissions submitted this week, will be brought to Advisory Board next month. Tonsler Park project will be included in 2013-14
- CIP funding requests cannot be submitted without a Master Plan

Directors Matters

- Brian Daly reported the following:
 - McIntire Park – upcoming Master Plan meetings
 - Announcements have been mailed to every city address
 - Charlottesville.org/Mcintire park website has been set up; mcintirepark@charlottesville.org – public able to leave comments
 - Monday night meeting will be populated on website
 - Streaming video on website
 - No public comment at Monday's meeting, will be at future meetings
 - VRPS Annual Conference
 - Parks & Recreation won two awards @ the VRPS annual conference:
 - Best New Park Renovation/Addition – Forest Hills Park
 - Best New Special Event – VSA Music Recital
- Chris Gensic showed Advisory Board members the new GIS mapping and how it can be used including: Street mowing, trail easement status, golf course, etc.

Board Matters

- John Foster thanked Doug Ehman for his e-mails on Clark School
- Doug Ehman reported that they met with school board staff and put \$75,000 in CIP, 3 years out for new playground. Funded to replace playgrounds – \$350,000 make schools whole in replacement playgrounds.
- Ned Michie asked to have information for what should happen @ McIntire golf course, what the needs were for First Tee, etc.
- Lights @ CHS not working – Doug Ehman replied that it was the timer and that Parks & Recreation does not have access and that Facilities Management would handle
- Byron Brown reported that the public meetings that were held @ Tonsler Park were well organized and produced lots of community input, would like to get going on Master Plan as soon as possible
 - Playground replacement – have had two meetings and there was some tension with citizens. Heard citizens want it to be a destination, want it to be different, will be another meeting to bring back renderings.
 - Would like to see boards placed @ Tonsler for youth to vote on playground equipment
- John Kammauff reported the following:
 - McIntire Little League committed \$75,000 for lights @ athletic fields.
 - Turf field @ CHS is coming along
 - McIntire golf course reopened, but that two holes are closed

Motion:

- Dan Rosensweig made a motion to adjourn meeting, Ned Michie second, motion was unanimously approved
- Meeting adjourned @ 7:10 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly
Secretary to the Advisory Board