

**PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES
October 19, 2011**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board held a regular meeting on Wednesday, October 19, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at City Space. Members present were: Ruth Barnett, Byron Brown, Skylar Hughes-Lyon, John Kammauff, Jennifer McKeever, Ned Michie and Dan Rosensweig. Members absent: Scott Brown, John Foster and Sean McCord.

Staff: Will Bassett, Doug Ehman, Vic Garber, Philip Seay and Mildred Spicer

Guest: Brian Vanyo

Minutes:

❖ Motion:

Dan Rosensweig made to motion to approve minutes from September 21, 2011, Skylar Hughes-Lyon second, motion was unanimously approved

Tonsler Park Master Planning Process

- ❖ Vic Garber stated that the first step for the Tonsler Park Master Planning Process was to have the Advisory Board to adopt the Master Plan process, if endorsed, will start the process in late January.
- ❖ The third Tonsler Park community meeting was held last night, City Manager was present, and community input was sought for replacement of playground equipment.
- ❖ Dan Rosensweig asked about outreach efforts and felt that every effort should be made to make sure to be very careful to include neighbors that use the park. Vic Garber replied that a member of the Fifeville neighborhood association was present at the meeting.
- ❖ Jennifer McKeever asked to what extent are we using local architects and designers for the master plan process. Doug Ehman replied that we do not use architects and designers in the master plan process, have staff to do it which is more economic, but will use for the technical part of the project.
- ❖ Dan Rosensweig asked about adjacent properties being available.

- Motion was made by Ned Michie, second by Byron Brown to approve the below resolution:

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 Tonsler Park. The Master Plan shall be conducted pursuant to the Park Master Planning Process adopted by City Council on March 16, 2009.
- Motion was unanimously approved.

Therapeutics Program

- ❖ Mildred Spicer, Therapeutic Recreation Supervisor gave a power point presentation of the history of the Therapeutic program:
- ❖ Mildred Spicer stated that she and the City's Therapeutic Program started 33 years ago. She explained that there was a Task Force consisting of teachers, community, professionals who collected information and figured out the way to get a Therapeutics Program initiated, and then proceeded to approach City Council and convince them to initiate the program
- ❖ Therapeutic Recreation Goals:
 - Improve self-esteem of all involved
 - Improve/Teach social and recreation skills
 - Improve or maintain physical health
 - Increase public awareness/understanding of disabilities
 - Provide equal recreation opportunities.
- Core programs:
 - Summer therapeutic playground & specialty camps
 - VSA Arts
 - Trips – 25/year
 - Supper club/lunch programs in community – most popular, waiting list
 - Poetry readings – held next Tuesday @ Performance Arts Center
 - Special events – dances & holiday parties
 - Sports – wheelchair basketball, softball, swimming, yoga, exercise and golf clinics
 - Agency outreach/exercises
 - Senior services – special events & trips, senior day programs, & nursing homes outreach, arthritis water & land classes
- Mildred Spicer stated that partnerships are very important. The following groups partner as follows:
 - Albemarle County Parks & Recreation – financially help sponsor
 - Arc of Piedmont
 - Performance Arts center – VSA programs, music recital
 - Piedmont Council of Arts
 - Region Ten
- Accomplishments
 - Individual Recruitment
 - Large group activities increased
 - VSA Artist Led Workshop Program

Future

- ❖ Mildred Spicer talked about the future of the therapeutic program and reported that the Kluge Center was closing and that the City's therapeutic program will probably see more requests in the city programs particularly in water exercise in the future.
- ❖ Three possible areas to expand with additional staff are: VSA Arts, Supper Club and senior programming.
- ❖ Populations with the most needs are severely impaired individuals and mental illness population.

Introduction of New Board Member:

- ❖ Jennifer McKeever introduced Ruth Barnett as the new Advisory Board member.

Information Technology Connectivity at Recreation Centers

- ❖ Will Bassett stated that the goal is to have internet access at all recreation centers, and distributed a spreadsheet that listed major Parks & Recreation facilities showing which facilities presently have access and what type. He noted that Carver Center would have it installed during the renovation process.
 - Will Bassett stated that fiber was the fastest and the goal is to get as many of our facilities on fiber as soon as it is possible? He stated that fiber is solely owned by the City and that they deal with Ntelos, it would require paying for service up front and no after recurring fee which in the long run will save money.
 - T1 lines are presently at the outdoor pools which is a step down from fiber
 - Broadband cards are presently being used at the wading pools
 - CIP requests do include \$75,000 funding in FY 13 & FY 14 for Information Technology Infrastructure to connect Parks & Recreation facilities to the City's fiber optic network.
 - Dan Rosensweig stated that he would like to see internet access to happen in centers, etc.
 - Ned Michie stated that the City schools has a IT departments and would like to see IT departments get together
 - Jennifer McKeever asked Will Bassett to talk to the City schools IT department regarding the board's recommendations,
 - Carry on agenda next month

FY 13 CIP program

- ❖ Doug Ehman gave an overview of the FY 13-17 Proposed Capital Improvement Program
 - Dan Rosensweig stated that he was concerned that he did not see any funds submitted in CIP for active recreation where the goals were not met in last comprehensive plan.
 - Doug Ehman stated that next July/August, staff would come to the Advisory Board with proposed CIP submissions for next year

Smith AFC Attendance & Revenue Summary

- ❖ Will Bassett stated that the Smith Aquatic Center has been open for almost one year. Revenue for the facility will be approximately \$400,000, projection was \$417,000, will be a little shy of goal; will work on improving in the next year.
- ❖ Reported that the City schools want to add Smith Aquatic Center as a defined wellness for their employees and has been approved on the school side, waiting for City Manager side for city employees. This will bring in extra participants and their families.
- ❖ Vic Garber stated that Advisory Board members can advocate to community about amenities @ Smith
- ❖ Jennifer McKeever asked about the concessions located @ pools, Will Bassett replied that there is a three year contract.
- ❖ Will Bassett stated that there a survey was done at the end of the season about their experiences at the pool sites, will be sifting through information this winter. Survey results will be presented to Advisory Board when completed.

Scholarship Program

- ❖ Will Bassett stated that the change to the scholarship program policy has helped citizens with opportunities to access Parks and Recreation programs and facilities.

Chairman's Matters

- ❖ Asked about extra space @ Carver recreation center for the volleyball request that Eberhard Jehle had made at the last meeting. Doug Ehman replied that there were physical limitations with the building.
- ❖ Stated that Greenleaf Park was overrun with people, trash, multiple parties and asked if the Pavilion was rented? Doug Ehman replied that renting will not resolve usage; Jennifer McKeever disagreed because she felt it will impact tension.
- ❖ Congrats on honor for Smith Aquatic Center for their Lead platinum award, Vic Garber showed the Advisory Board the award from the Athletic Business Brian, City Manager will be going to Orlando for award

Smith Aquatic issue

- ❖ Brian Vanyo addressed the Advisory Board concerning the situation of his wife teaching lessons @ Smith Aquatic Center and how they felt that she was being mistreated by pool staff. He explained that he had been to City Council regarding the situation and that they directed him to address it to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and that staff was asked to clarify a policy on business activities at Parks & Recreation facilities.
- ❖ Brian Vanyo stated that he thought a license may be acceptable but felt the issue of harassment by staff should be addressed. He asked how does pool staff know when to approach someone, stating that it could be lessons to a family member
- ❖ Vic Garber distributed to the Advisory Board members a draft policy on Business Activities in Parks and Recreational Facilities. He stated that Smith Recreation Center was a revenue oriented facility, and there is a conflict of interest to allow individuals access to the facility to do business without some fee, he also said that

- the Director of Parks & Recreation would be developing a fair process for using the city's assets for private gain. Liability is also a major concern.
- ❖ Skylar Hughes-Lyon suggested that if the City already offers this service the private vendor should not be allowed to compete.
 - ❖ Ruth Barnett stated that legal aspects need to be explored
 - ❖ Ned Michie stated that he was open to issuing a license/permit
 - ❖ Jennifer McKeever stated that she is looking for a policy from staff to review
 - ❖ Ned Michie would like to ask City Council for more time to review this issue and discuss at next meeting, draft will be sent to Advisory Board early for review.

Motion:

- ❖ Byron Brown made a motion to adjourn meeting, Ned Michie second, motion was unanimously approved
- ❖ Meeting adjourned @ 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Daly
Secretary to the Advisory Board