

Henderson County Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 14th, 2020, 12pm, AAC

In attendance: Jeff Donaldson, Terry Maybin, Ralph King, Katie Breckheimer, Corum Smith, Hunter Marks, Phillip Ellis, Scott Rhodes, Bob Smith, Tricia King, and Stephanie Cantwell.

Staff in attendance: Carleen Dixon, Casey Conner, Jason Kilgore, Zach High, and Erin Hendrix

Speakers in attendance: None

Call to Order: 12:04pm

Approval of Minutes: A motion to approve November minutes made by Terry, seconded by Phillip, unanimously approved.

Public Input: None

New Business:

New Board Members – Welcome

Jeff briefly welcomes the two new board members, Stephanie Cantwell and Bob Smith. Stephanie was present at the November meeting and introduced. Bob shares his history and says hello to the board.

Nominations Vice Chair – Currently Vacant

Carleen lets the board know that Jennifer Hensley has officially stepped down due to her elected position on Hendersonville City Counsel. Her position of Vice Chair is now open. Carleen reminds the board that there were two other nominations for Vice Chair during the June election of Officers, Terry and Hunter, and asks if either of them would like to step into the vacancy. Terry declines the offer, citing her numerous years previously serving in that position and recommends Hunter. Hunter agrees to accept the nomination. Jeff, as the chair, calls for a vote and Hunter is unanimously elected to serve as the Vice Chair for the Recreation Advisory Board.

Soccer Update – Zach High

Zach provides the board with an overview of the Fall 2019 Soccer season and references the surveys and results gathered by staff. Overall there were 428 players and 37 teams for the season. The Soccer Sprouts program for ages 3-5 was added for this season and had over 50 participants. This program is expected to help grow the older age groups in the future and provide basic fundamentals and exposure to the younger age groups. Survey results indicated areas where the program is strong and

areas for improvement, though even those were on an upward trajectory from the previous season. Staff will use these number to continue to improve the program and monitor program effectiveness. Katie asks if there was a section of the survey for open questions or comments. Zach replies that there was and that all issues that could be addressed had been rectified as much as possible. Tricia asks if teams and talent were evenly distributed for the Sprouts program. Zach replies that the program does not delegate teams but rather encourages group play and games to teach basic skills.

Staffing Changes – Carleen Dixon

Carleen announces to the board that one of our programmers, Brittany Williams, has taken a job elsewhere. Erin Hendrix has applied for and been hired into the programmer position for the department and will be stepping down as the Administrative Assistant as soon as her position can be filled.

Registration System Changes – Carleen Dixon

As the department has continued to grow, so has our need for a new computer software to handle reservations and registrations. We have officially outgrown RecDesk and have been researching other system options. The System that seems to fit our needs best has been Community Pass and we will be converting our operating systems from RecDesk to Community Pass hopefully by the Beginning of March. The transition will include some migration of data, including keeping active user profiles, and custom creation of program and rental arrangements. Be looking for these changes in the near future.

Fiscal Year 21 Budget – Carleen Dixon

Carleen presents the Board with copies of fiscal year 2021 budget requests that will be presented to the Commissioners. This year's requests include a new section that details if the item is being requested for ADA Compliance standards, safety concerns, or both. If it is marked as an ADA Compliance issue, then it is an area where we have clearly identified as a place where we are not meeting federal and state ADA Compliance Standards. This section was added after the Board reviewed fiscal year 2020's budget and expressed concern over whether the Commissioners would be able to prioritize requests. This section is unique to the Parks & Recreation Department and we are excited to be able to present a clearer picture of needs with our requests moving forward. Katie states that these distinctions should help to boost their budget scores and increase the chances of receiving funding. Carleen draws attention to the staffing requests in the budget and explains the needs for each position. Carleen also talks about the need for more event space and parking as well as a staff member to manage scheduling for large events, tournaments, and

Jeff asks a question about funding for greenway repairs, if they were included in the budget and if that number included the repair work for the Jackson Park Restoration. Carleen points out where the funds were located in the document. Carleen noted that this amount plus the funds that have already been contributed from the City to the

County would cover the amount that the consultant provided as an estimate. Katie asks if the feasibility study included the amount of Greenway that would pass through Jackson Park. Carleen and Phillip assure her that it did.

A discussion continued between Board members about how to let the Board of Commissioners know that Jackson Park Greenway Restoration was a priority. Katie mentioned that going to a Board of Commissioners meeting and speaking during public comment seemed to be effective. Carleen also noted that if they could not attend a meeting they could always send an email to convey their sentiments. Phillip recommends that staff not disincentivize the public from interacting with the problem of the Greenway flooding. The board discusses the safety concerns, safety regulations, when the Greenway gate gets closed, and what the public access should be. Several strategies are discussed but no resolution could be found other than complying with safety guidelines as much as possible.

Unfinished Business: None

Staff Updates:

Parks Update – Jason Kilgore

Jason let the board know that, while fields are not being used for sports, they are being laser graded and filled in preparation for the upcoming season. Soccer, baseball, and softball start in early spring and this is the time of year where we have the opportunity to ready the fields for play. We also have the opportunity to work on projects and non-routine maintenance during the winter, so staff have been busy installing new grills at parks, pouring concrete, and catching up on work that tends to get neglected during busy, warmer months.

Recreation Update – Casey Conner

Casey overviews the New Year's Eve event and reports that attendance was so high that the hot chocolate and cider that had been planned for use at both the early and the later events was gone by the end of the first event. The Youth Basketball season has started across the county and we are excited to make use of the new Edneyville Gymnasium. Adult Basketball registration is on-going and we are hoping to have a full league this season for the first time in a couple years. The Daddy Daughter Dance registration has started and the theme this year is Aladdin. This event sells out each year and we expect each of the three sessions to do the same this year. Spring Soccer signups started last week. Soccer Sprouts will also happen this season and should have a good amount of registrations.

Member Comments:

Katie would like to thank staff for the update and for being the boots on the ground for the Board. It provides good insight into the day to day activities and complications staff handle. Tricia reports that the city's section of the Greenway has phones and call boxes that are inoperable. Jason says that the city has been made aware but that he does not know their plan to repair them. Tricia also expresses concern over the loss of Boyd Park (a City of Hendersonville Park) and the Board discusses the need for additional park space that is pedestrian-accessible and close to downtown.

Motions:

Motion to accept November minutes made by Terry, seconded by Phillip, unanimously approved.

All members of the Board Unanimously approve the election of Hunter Marks as Vice Chair to the Recreation Advisory Board.

Call to Adjourn: 1:10pm