

Recreation Advisory Board 2009 Annual Report

The Recreation Advisory Board met the second Monday of each month at 12:30 in the first floor conference room of City Hall.

Mission: Advisory to City of Asheville in matters affecting recreation policies, programs, finances and land acquisition related to total community recreation programs.

Key Accomplishments

- The Recreation Advisory Board Executive Committee included board members Scott Barnwell, Sara Manual and Winn Monika in the first half of the year, followed by Scott Barnwell, Sara Manual, Mildred Nance-Carson and Lonnie Gilliam in the second half of the year.

The Executive Committee revised the board bylaws that were first approved by City Council in 1964 with various updates since then, however the documents had not been merged into one document and clearly defined as bylaws. The Board adopted the revised bylaws as proposed by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee participated in designing the overall board orientation and development program, and added the New Board Member Mentoring program.

- The Capital Improvement Sub-Committee including Scott Barnwell, Mildred Nance-Carson, Sara Manual and Lonnie Burton began working with staff to prioritize capital improvement recommendations as part of the budget process beginning FY 2010-2011.
- Supported designating the State of North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Grassroots Science Museums Collaborative grant for FY 2009-2010 to the City of Asheville in the amount of \$100,000 to directly support capital improvement priorities at the WNC Nature Center as requested by the Friends of the Nature Center.
- Approved the revision to the Recreation Division snow day and inclement operation policy to consolidate operations to be more cost efficient, effective in responding to customer needs, and considerate to the safety of staff and participants during potentially hazardous weather conditions.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the proposed layout of the 2009 Bele Chere festival boundaries.
- Approved the revisions to the facility rental fee adjustment policy so staff and the Recreation Advisory Board have clear guidelines when responding to such request from outside organizations.
- Approved and recommended to City Council the proposed rental fees for the first phase of Pack Square Park scheduled to open in spring 2009.
- Supported the prioritization of the unfunded features at Memorial Stadium with the understanding that no funds are currently available to support the features but will be funded in priority order as funds become available.

- Supported the unfunded, non-prioritized features of the Veterans Memorial enhancements given that the monies are raised outside of city funds and that Dr. Carl Mumpower continues his fundraising leadership.
- Recommended to City Council the fee schedule adjustment for the Asheville Municipal Golf Course beginning FY 2010-2011 that will include a range in fees. The adjustment provides the opportunity to deal with seasonality and weather issues that occur at the golf course, and to position the course to remain competitive with other golf courses in the area.
- Recommended to City Council to proceed with the land exchange between the City and Festiva Resorts in which the City will trade land it owns containing an abandoned water reservoir that will benefit the Festiva development for land Festiva owns that will benefit the future development of Beaucather Overlook Park.
- Recommended to City Council the creation of the proposed Riverfront Redevelopment Commission to be charged with upholding the sustainability and continued development of Asheville's riverfront.
- Recommended to City Council to prohibit smoking in all City of Asheville parks and greenways in response to the North Carolina General Assembly enactment of a law giving local governments increased authority to regulate smoking, and signed by Governor Bev Perdue. The new law goes into effect January 2, 2010.
- Recommended to City Council to accept the conveyance of three North Carolina Department of Transportation remnant properties for no monetary consideration for the purpose of implementing Phase II of the Reed Creek Greenway.
- Approved to temporarily name the Reid Center as the Recreation Center at Livingston Street Park in preparation for contracting for the construction of the new center to be located at Livingston Street Park and will be formally named at a later date.
- Enhanced the partnership with the WNC Disc Golf Club by recommending the addition of an 18-hole disc golf course at Richmond Hill Park with no fiscal impact to the City.

Goals

- Board development
- Involvement in the budget process
- Relationship building
- Advocacy
- Develop and maintain partnerships with Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation, Friends of Nature Center, Buncombe County Parks and Recreation, and Pack Square Conservancy

Members

Scott Barnwell, Chair	Wanda Hawthorne
Sara Manuel, Vice-Chair	Wayne Wheeler
Geoff Ferland	Mary Ann West
Lonnie Gilliam	Hutch Kerns
Mildred Nance-Carson	