

## **RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD**

**JULY 14, 2014**

**Board Members:** Pat Dennehy, Barry Mundt, Bob Pierce, Josh O’Conner, Kim Reed, Ashley Arrington, Todd Dunnuck

**Staff:** Roderick Simmons, Director; Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director; Judith Scott, Administrative Assistant; Al Kopf, Superintendent of Planning and Development; Sandra Travis, Program Supervisor; Laura Rickenbacker, Intern

Josh called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm

### **1. Welcome New RAB Members**

Josh welcomed Kim Reed and Pat Dennehy to the board, and invited them to introduce themselves.

### **2. Approval of June Minutes**

Ashley motioned to approve the June minutes. Barry seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

### **3. RAB Member Recognition**

Josh recognized outgoing board member Wayne Wheeler for his service to the board. Wayne accepted and gave praises to the group and how proud he is of the City and the Parks and Recreation Department facilities.

### **4. North Carolina Recreation & Parks Association (NCRPA) Citizen Board Member (CBM) Forum 2014**

Debbie reported that NCRPA will not host the CBM Forum as it usually does in August of each year in which two to three RAB members typically attend. NCRPA is using this year to evaluate the most effective and efficient way to produce the Forum that engages board members with the Association and with each other. NCRPA is considering dividing the Forum into regions within the state which will make it easier for board members to attend. Debbie will continue to keep RAB members updated on the process.

### **5. RAB Appointment to Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission (AARRC)**

Prior to his leaving RAB, Wayne Wheeler served as liaison to the AARRC which now leaves this position open and needs to be reappointed. Although the liaison does not participate in AARRC decisions, this person attends the monthly meetings and contributes information as it pertains to the Parks and Recreation Department. The AARRC is appointed by City Council and meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm at the Chamber of Commerce. Pat Dennehy offered to serve as liaison. Bob motioned to approve Pat’s appointment. Ashley seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

## **6. RAB Routine Reports and Discussion**

### **Asheville Parks & Greenways Foundation**

Josh reported on the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation fundraising campaign for this year and the emphasis on assisting with recreational events. He highlighted the upcoming event at Highland Brewery and that proceeds from the event will be donated to the APGF.

### **Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission**

No report

Discussion followed regarding the format in which these reports are brought before RAB. It was agreed that rather than the RAB liaisons making a report at the meeting, they will submit the report in writing to Debbie prior to each monthly meeting. The reports will be included the RAB meeting material as information to RAB members, and will not appear as an agenda item beginning with the August 2014 meeting.

## **7. RAB's Role in Filling a Vacant Seat on RAB**

Ashley asked if RAB members could find out who is applying for vacant seats in an effort to take on more responsibility with the goals and member roles. Debbie responded this is provided to RAB whenever a vacancy occurs, and that RAB recently took action to stop making recommendations to City Council regarding RAB appointments. Before the applications move to the City Council Boards and Commissions Committee; it is RAB's role to recruit applicants. Bob stated that anyone can apply and that since applications are kept by the City Clerk for a year that we should try to recruit applicants from those already on file. Josh stated that we have exhausted the current pool of applicants. Debbie clarified how each vacancy is posted. Josh added that this could be an opportunity to work with Council for the board's recommendation. Josh asked if staff could hold off on advertising the vacant position to allow time to recruit applicant, and to add it to the August meeting agenda.

Josh asked Debbie to provide the board application to give the possible recruits.

## **8. RAB 2014 Goals Implementation Plan**

Josh open discussion on RAB members need to look at who's going to be responsible for the unfilled roles, the reporting format, and implementation.

He reported with Wayne Wheeler leaving RAB, it opens up the goal regarding community outreach and public engagement. He asked Debbie to give an overview of this goal area. Josh asked for a RAB member to volunteer to lead this goal. Kim Reed and Ashley Arrington will work together on this goal.

Barry reported on his goal regarding relationship with City Council. He has several ideas in mind which he hasn't yet confirmed with Council Liaison Chris Pelly but plans to do so soon. Barry would like to host a social get together of RAB members at his home.

Josh asked Debbie to add the goal report process as a standing agenda item, and place it early in the agenda following approval of minutes.

Debbie will provide RAB members with the goal organizational forms Barry developed as part of the RAB retreat process.

## **9. Director's Report**

**Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation:** The Asheville Parks and Greenway Foundation discussed the Parks and Recreation Department projects they have committed to at its recent annual meeting, and presented a \$7,000 contribution for improvements at Carrier Park. APGF is working with Highland Brewery to hold more events. Chris and Josh participated in the event which is helping to raise money. The next event at Highland Brewery will be Ale Share on July 26, 1 to 6 pm. Josh will send the event information to RAB members.

**Summer Camp Program:** Camp programs are taking place with 430 campers across 20 locations for youth ages 5 to 15.

**Community Issues:** There is a petition circulating against the use of Roundup for weed control in parks. Public Works also uses the product for weed control on sidewalks and staff is working together to find an alternative product for weed control on all city properties.

**East Asheville Center:** The community center leased to LEAF, fire department and library is all housed in this East Asheville complex. Buncombe County is discussing plans to enlarge the library as a result of citizen requests. The project is currently delayed due to funding issues. There will be a retreat in January to discuss the project and identify funding opportunities. A survey led by a community organization will be conducted for feedback on the possibility of replacing the basketball court in the park with a parking lot.

**Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center:** City staff is looking at how we are doing as an organization with redevelopment of the community and will be looking at the community plan to see if we are meeting the needs of the community. There have been issues with the Walton Street Pool and staff will be trying to identify grant sources to help fund the splash pad.

## **10. Other Business**

Josh stated the Greenway Committee of the Multimodal Transportation Commission recently appointed its member Forrest Merithew to attend RAB meetings as a means to establish a relationship between the two groups. Forrest was not in attendance at the July meeting but look forward to meeting him at the August meeting.

Bob stated that the Friends of the Nature Center confirmed at its last meeting there will be discussion at a July City Council meeting about a possible privat/public partnership between the Friends and the City regarding operation of the Nature Center.

#### **11. Adjournment**

Josh called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bob motioned to adjourn. Pat seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

Adjourned at 1:18 pm.