



## **RECREATION BOARD MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
Monday, July 13, 2015**

**Board Members in Attendance:** : Chair Hutch Kerns, Vice Chair Josh O'Connor, Forrest Merithew, Barry Mundt, Chris Pelly, Bob Pierce, Kim Reed, City Council Liaison Chris Pelly

**Staff in Attendance:** Christy Bass, Debbie Ivester, Al Kopf, Polly McDaniel, Sandra Travis, Lauren Wheeler, Roderick Simmons

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Hutch Kerns asked if there was a proposal to approve the May meeting Minutes. Josh O'Connor moved to approve the Minutes as written and Forrest Merithew seconded the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

### **2. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**a.** There are currently four vacant positions on the Recreation Advisory Board. Debbie Ivester noted that the positions will be available for online applicants through September 3<sup>rd</sup> and encouraged board members to recruit in order to have a good pool to select from at the next meeting. Barry Mundt asked Debbie Ivester to go over the current applicants who include: Dean Pistor, Helen Hyatt, and Laura Carlson. Board members received these three applications in their meeting materials.

**b. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be leaving the Board and as such there will need to be new officer appointments.** The Chairman stated he had already spoken to some of the board but suggested tabling the discussion until he has had a chance to have one-on-one conversations with everyone. He asked if the Board was okay with his action. All agreed.

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

**a.** Debbie Ivester presented the draft of the new Board and Commissions Manual that was shared during a recent Board and Commission Staff Liaison meeting. The manual is designed to be more generic in order to address all City Council appointed boards. The manual provides templates for the agenda, minutes, and website. The goal is to make sure we are all doing business the same way. If the minutes are not as detailed as the Board likes, it can always be addressed moving forward. The bylaws are being reformatted but the content should not change. Debbie will keep the Board informed of any other updates. There are changes being made to the current Recreation Board web page on the city's website. All documents can be accessed and Debbie encouraged all members to familiarize themselves with the new layout. Hutch confirmed with Debbie that this information will be distributed to the new board members once the manual has been adopted by Council.

- b. Roderick Simmons reported on the new 2016 fiscal year Capital Improvement and Deferred Maintenance plans. Roderick stated that City Council has approved a separate allotment for improvements to include a swimming pool analysis, Carrier Park improvements, turf replacement at the soccer fields, improved lighting for the Food Lion Skate Park, and Velodrome improvements. The swimming pool analysis will help the Department determine what level of investment is needed to bring Walton Street, Recreation Park, and Malvern Hills pools up to code. He reported that City Council has allotted \$2 million dollars over the next three years for these improvements.

The first turf to be addressed will be at Memorial Stadium due to its high usage. Staff will also look at other items that need attention such as the stadium and bleachers and evaluate the possibility of adding a new walking track since Asheville Middle School lost theirs and the only other track is at UNC-Asheville. Additionally, the Asheville Buncombe Soccer Association is trying to raise money to assist with the costs for turf replacement at the soccer complex at Azalea Park.

Staff will also look at smaller deferred maintenance projects such as ball field replacements and fence improvements.

Barry Mundt asked if Board members will receive the budget. Roderick responded that the Board will get a copy of the proposed budget once approved by City Council. Josh O'Conner asked if the funds for the velodrome will carry over and if there is hope of getting to the project sooner. Roderick stated that we have about three to four years of use left in the current track, however there are big cracks that need to be addressed and if a major accident occurs it may have to close sooner. Roderick stated that staff is currently prioritizing the projects as well as working on a Tourism Development Product Fund (TDPF) grant that, if awarded, could adjust estimated completion dates.

Hutch asked if the \$750,000 allotted to pools also included construction or just analysis. Roderick replied that \$250,000 is slated for the study of all three pools and once completed they will know where to apply the rest of the funds. Roderick commented that Walton Street pool will need significant improvements, so this effort is to make sure it can be covered at least until the analysis is done. The analysis should provide staff with what infrastructure improvements are needed so the appropriate next steps can be determined.

Bob Pierce asked about the status of the TDPF grant application by the Friends of the Nature Center for the Nature Center. Debbie informed him that they have made it through the pre-application process and have been invited to submit a full application, which the Friends are working on now.

#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Deborah Garardi from the Sky Park Condominiums spoke on behalf of six families regarding the progression of the Beaucatcher Greenway. The home owners attended the Grilling for the Greenways event at Carrier Park and after seeing the plans would like to discuss their suggestions, and how/if this would be possible. She also inquired about the status of the bids for the project. Roderick Simmons informed her the project has not been put out to bid as there are documents that still need to be finalized before it can get to that point. The process to submit suggestions is to put them in writing and submit them to the Parks and Recreation Department. After consideration of the suggestions the appropriate person will respond. Hutch called for any further comment to which there was no reply.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Debbie informed the board that future agendas will need to include discussing new officers and deferred maintenance projects. Barry Mundt asked if there was a way to stagger the terms for new board members. Debbie told him that terms do not often come up at the same time and the current number of vacancies is a result of members resigning early, so she would not recommend an official process change. Debbie shared that she will send out information regarding an upcoming meeting at the Shiloh Recreation Center, and encouraged Board members to attend.

**6. ADJOURN**

Chair Hutch Kerns adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.