

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

June 9, 2014

MEMBERS: Wayne Wheeler, Mildred Nance-Carson, Todd Dunnuck, Bob Pierce, Josh O' Conner, Barry Mundt, Ashley Arrington, Hutch Kearns

COUNCIL LIAISON: Chris Pelly

STAFF: Roderick Simmons, Director; Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director; Judith Scott, Administrative Assistant; Pete Wall, Landscape Architect

Wayne called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

1. Approval of May Minutes

Todd motioned to approve the May minutes. Barry seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

2. Recognition of RAB Members

Wayne acknowledged that two board members were leaving the board today. Wayne presented Mildred with a recognition letter and a gift of appreciation for her six years of service, and highlighted the work Mildred did in getting the Dr. Wesley Grant Sr., Southside Center off the ground.

Wayne recognized Jordan Veale who is also leaving the board but was not present. His letter and gift of appreciation will be sent to him.

3. Election of Officers

Todd nominated Hutch for chair and Josh as vice chair. Barry seconded and the nominations passed with all in favor.

4. RAB 2014 Goals Assignments

Josh asked if the goals not yet assigned would be addressed today, specifically Finance and Budget and some of the action steps. Debbie commented the goals chart in board members' packets shows where the gaps are.

Debbie asked Barry if by signing up for Focus Area: Communications Goal #1 Develop Relationship with City Council that he was taking the three action steps under Communications. He concurred that he did.

Debbie asked Wayne if by signing up for Focus Area: Community Outreach and Public Engagement if he signed up for all the action steps associated with that Focus Area. He concurred that he did.

Partnerships and Finance and Budget need to be assigned to board members.

Hutch asked when we anticipate new board member appointment. Debbie said it is on the June 10 council agenda.

Ashley signed up for the Focus Area: Partnerships, Action Step 1 Host annual volunteer community service work day.

Roderick explained Focus Area: Finance and Budget will be coming to the board as a whole, and may not need a single board member to take this one. This will be consolidated as a staff action under the chair and vice chair.

5. Director's Report

City of Asheville FY 14-15 Budget: Staff is working with City Council on the budget. Next step is the public hearing set for the June 10 City Council meeting.

Summer Programs: Kick off this week with 14 camps and pools will be up and running. Wayne saw something in the paper for money for a pool. Roderick explained it is for Buncombe County pool for \$6.5 million.

Azalea Park Pond: We are working the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to install a fishing pier at the pond followed by the Community Fishing Program in which the Wildlife Resources Commission will stock the pond each year with fish.

6. Reports: Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission

Wayne reported AARRC continues to work on the RADTIP which is a \$10 million project. There was a meeting but he doesn't know the outcome. Mildred explained the speed limit has been posted at 25 MPH through the River Arts District and parking has been added.

7. Other Business

Wayne asked if everyone receive the North Carolina Recreation & Parks Association magazine. There was coverage on the recent Montford Center improvements. We have to submit articles in order to get NCRPA coverage on Asheville projects. If you have an idea, contact Debbie. Debbie said the Azalea Pond pier and fishing program will make a great story. NCRPA issues the magazine three times a year.

Hutch asked about the status of the schedule for the Lake Craig Redevelopment construction. Roderick will get the time line and follow up with RAB members.

Mildred thanked everyone for the six years during her time on RAB. She brought up the current crime in the area of the Grant Southside Center. She asked if gates can be added to the parking lot and additional lighting. It may not prevent crime but might deter it. She asked where we are with the addition of the basketball court. There will be a community meeting tomorrow, and she would like to share information.

Roderick responded we are working on security at many facilities including the Grant Southside Center. Security upgrades throughout all our facilities will include lighting. We will look at the gate and ask the Asheville Police Department to increase their patrol.

Roderick explained the basketball courts and the gym are two separate projects. The basketball courts are included in the current phase with the splash pad and playground. If we receive the grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, this project will start soon. If we do not receive the grant we will consider the basketball court separately and look at the outdoor space around the center.

The gym is part of the next phase for which we are preparing the Request for Qualifications for the design. We don't have money for the construction yet but we have money for the design. We're hoping the TIGER 6 grant will cover some of the construction costs. The biggest thing we need now is to get the community involved. Council promised the community a gym but now that we have a new council they may not remember what was promised.

Mildred said they have not seen anyone from APD. Roderick is going to speak with the chief. Mildred asked if APD has met with Parks & Recreation. Roderick responded that the Buncombe County Sheriff is having a community meeting at the Grant Southside Center on August 7 to address concerns. On the last Thursday in August we will invite children to discuss what programs they would like to see and try to engage and get more community outreach.

The Grant Southside community partners for a food drive once a month.

8. Adjournment

Mildred motioned to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.