



**RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Monday, September 12th, 2016**

Board Members in Attendance: Vice-Chair Todd Dunnuck, Helen Hyatt, Sheneika Smith

Staff in Attendance: Alex Carmichael, Jaimie Mathews, Christy Bass, Sandra Travis, Dee Black, Pete Wahl, Debbie Ivester, Roderick Simmons, John Gavin

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Todd Dunnuck called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm

2. WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Todd welcome two new board members ZaKiya Bell-Rogers and Zachary Eden, neither of whom are here today so will welcome again at the next board meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Due to lack of a quorum, no action was taken on the minutes of the August 11, 2016 RAB meeting. Minutes will be moved to the next RAB agenda.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Report: Haywood Street Community Visioning Advisory Team – Dean Pistor

Report will be moved to the next RAB agenda.

b. Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee – Helen Hyatt

The group has not met since the last RAB meeting. The committee was sent preliminary information regarding stakeholders, residents, and employees, which Helen forwarded to the Board. The next meeting will be for public outreach on September 27th at the Collider, located in the Wells Fargo Bank building on Haywood Street and Patton on the 4th floor. Todd encouraged the Board to complete the online surveys.

c. Bond Referendum 2016

Todd noted there is a lot of useful information on the City website and Board members should encourage people to go there for more information on the Bond. Todd informed the Board that the Mayor is planning to speak at a community meeting about the Bond at Groce United Methodist Church on September 19th at 7pm. The Mayor is planning to do multiple community events with the goal of hosting events in each part of the City. The Board should look for the information in the coming weeks.

Debbie Ivester confirmed she will be communicating that information to the Board, alert them to other meetings, and any further information as it is released. She stated it is confirmed the Chamber of Commerce is serving as the Bond advocacy committee. Kit Kramer is the point person at the Chamber. Jaimie Mathews with the City Manager's office is the contact person for any events scheduled by the

City. Roderick invited Jaimie to speak to the Board to give them a concept of what the Mayor is trying to do.

Jaimie reported the City is working on a Communication Plan with the Advocacy Team. She attended the Chamber's most recent meeting and RAB member Dean Pistor was present who is representing RAB on the Advocacy Team. The team plans to release some mapping and updated tools tomorrow. It will allow people to see where projects are located and how they will overlap with both Capital Improvement projects and the proposed projects included in the Bond. The Advocacy Team will attempt to visit all the Boards and Commissions to discuss their role as a Board, their advocacy role, and City Council's new strategic priority goals that Council approved at its last meeting. Debbie stated RAB has committed to a monthly meeting schedule through the election so the October meeting would be the ideal time for that to be on the agenda. Todd thanked Jaimie for her input and efforts with the Bond. He mentioned that the Board had discussed having a meeting some time during October 11-13, and asked the members present if that would work with their schedule. Members agreed upon October 11th at 12:30 pm. Debbie recommended polling those not present to make sure that date works for the rest of the Board. Debbie will send out the poll this week.

Todd informed the Board he had been contacted by the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation to attend their next meeting in order to discuss the Bond, and he will report back to the Board.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. RAB Member Service Recognition – Barry Mundt

Todd informed the Board that Barry Mundt has resigned from the Board. Debbie stated that his Service Recognition Letter and gift will be mailed to him. Barry served midway through his second term.

b. Swimming Pool Facilities Assessment Draft Report – Consultants: Mathews Architecture & Aquatics H2O.

Roderick Simmons introduced the report by stating when City Council allocated 17 million for Capital Improvements, \$2.25 million was included for swimming pools. Today's presentation is to give you the summary report of the swimming pool assessment of what needs to be improved and where we should be investing that money. Tammy Ellis from Aquatics H2O and Jane Mathews from Mathews Architecture presented their findings on their assessment of the swimming pools and facilities.

Walton Street Park Pool

Tammy Ellis presented the findings of the swimming pool.

- The pool is 70 plus years old and has reached the end of its useful life. Any further maintenance would be a Band-Aid on a pool that needs to be replaced.
- The pump recently completely failed and needs to be replaced.
- A typical lifespan of a pool with stainless steel gutters is 50 years. Walton has concrete gutters which does not last as long.

Jane Mathews presented the findings of the swimming pool facilities.

- Facilities at Walton include restrooms/changing rooms, pump house and parking. Each was reviewed for general conditions, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and pool standards compliance set by the Health Department and North Carolina building code.
- Several ADA deficiencies exist including the floor plan in restrooms by reconfiguring the systems, ramps and handicap parking.
- Pump house is not insulated and needs a new roof.
- A variety of cosmetic improvements are needed such floors, windows and doors.

Recommendation

- Replace the pool and facilities. The opinion of probable cost to renovate the pool and facilities is \$1,359,483. The cost to replace the entire facility is \$1,513,575.

Malvern Hills Park Pool

Tammy Ellis presented the findings of the swimming pool.

- Pool was built in the 1920s and for the most part has reached the end of its useful life.

Jane Mathews presented the findings of the swimming pool facilities.

- The building that serves as the main entrance, restrooms/changing rooms has good structural integrity and is an important landmark to the west Asheville neighborhood.
- The building has a lot of ADA compliance issues, difficult entrance, new interior layout, plumbing, exhaust, electrical, lighting, ceilings, etc.
- The pump house is in good condition but needs a new roof, electrical and general maintenance.

Recommendation

- Replace the swimming pool and renovate the buildings and site. Opinion of probable cost \$2,362,873.

Recreation Park Pool

Tammy Ellis presented the findings of the swimming pool

- The pool is in good condition that includes an upgraded filtration system. Structurally the pool is sound and needs mostly cosmetic improvements.
- Recommend a lift in the pool for ADA compliance

Jane Mathews presented the findings of the swimming pool facilities.

- Overall the buildings are in good shape.
- Recommend adding fixtures and ADA compliance up to code. Other improvements are primarily cosmetic.
- Reconfigure access to pump house to remove ramp to create more lawn area.

Recommendation

- Renovate the swimming pool and buildings. Opinion of probable cost \$469,515.

Tammy gave an overview of innovations in pools. There has been a big metamorphose from the big pools we grew up to zero entry pools with splash zone features and lap swimming to incorporate all demographics into one pool. If the City decides to renovate or build new pools, I recommend these types of facilities. We see diving boards replaced with slides so pools don't have to be as deep and helps with City's insurance costs. It allows for more use of the pools since there is no space designate as diving areas. L-shape pools with the length from 0-4 feet and L-shape for 5-feet lap depth is popular. Todd asked if she has seen a movement toward splash pads. The trend is to add splash pads in the pools because the water movement helps them stay cleaner and doesn't require additional maintenance. Todd asked if the life use the same as bigger pools. There are additional pumps with splash pads, so there is some extra maintenance but it is about the same structural requirements. Sheneika commented that Tammy mentioned adding a lift at Recreation Park Pool but what about the other pools. Tammy responded that since the recommendation is to replace the other two pools you would build those in. Currently the other two pools have lifts.

Roderick asked the consultants to review Walton Street Pool again for Sheneika as she came in after the report. Tammy gave the review again. Sheneika asked if the pool would have to be rebuilt at the same size. There are different options such as L-shape with a slide which provides more room for users. Different ideas can be discussed if the City decides to move forward. Helen asked how we can turn the

\$2 million allotted for pool improvements into the recommended \$5 million. Roderick responded we would budget and work with City Council to have those community discussions and what they would like to see. Council has made a commitment to the pools beyond just the bond funds. Todd pointed out he likes the idea of including the splash pads. He then thanked all the consultants for the presentation.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Walton Street Park: The Walton Street Park discussion continues with the next public meeting on September 17th at the Asheville Housing Authority Board to discuss what outreach is needed so everyone has a voice. After that the Board is asking the community to give suggestions on use and what they would like to see for programming. With or without the bond there will be a service plan for Walton Street.

Pritchard Park: Pritchard Park has issues with the presence of rats. This is not a new issue but it emerges at times. The park is exterminated for rodents on a regular basis. There are several restaurants surrounding the park and trash disposal attracts the rats in the downtown area including the park. The City and County is working with restaurants to combat the issue. Helen asked what methods are used. Roderick explained the city hires a consultant that uses a variety of methods such as chemicals and traps. Shenieka asked if property owners are complaining. Roderick said no, it is the general public who see rats in the downtown area including the park. The problem is a holistic approach. By treating one place pushes the rats to move to another nearby location that hasn't been treated so the need is to get everyone involved. Helen asked about the pigeons on city hall and how we deter them. Debbie said there is netting in the bell tower but no other areas of city hall. Roderick said that its just keeping pace with the fact downtown has grown from around 15 to 80 restaurants in the last few years. Helen asked if there is a newsletter we could use to communicate with the restaurants. Roderick said not at this time but could talk to Marsha Stickford about an educational campaign to get people together on a solution.

Programming: After school programs have started and fall program guide is out. Helen asked about the pools and how we prioritize what gets done, and then do we wait for more money to get allocated. Roderick said yes, and if the bond passes that will free up more money to move forward at a faster pace. Council has made promises to move forward with pools despite the bond. Priorities in funding include public safety is a prime factor, service and efficiency, and demand.

Nature Center: Todd asked about the bid for construction of the Nature Center front entrance. Roderick reported three bids were received and the bid opening is today.

Carrier Park: Lawn Bowling, part of the Carrier Park Improvements, is also on schedule. Todd commented that the renovations at Carrier are looking good.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. City Council Strategic Priorities for Fiscal Year 2016-2017
- b. Mayor bond referendum presentation

9. ADJOURN

Vice Chair Todd Dunnuck adjourned the meeting at 1:35 p.m.