

October 14, 2013

**Recreation Advisory Board**

Wayne Wheeler, Chair

Hutch Kerns, Vice-Chair

Todd Dunnuck

Josh O'Conner

Barry Mundt

Jordan Veale

Mildred Nance-Carson

**Council Present**

Cecil Bothwell

**Staff**

Roderick Simmons, Director

Judy Scott, Administrative Assistant

Sandra Travis, Program Supervisor

Al Kopf, Planning and Development Superintendent

Seth Hendler-Voss, Parks Planning and Operations Manager

Wayne called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

**1 Approval of August minutes**

Josh motioned to approve the August minutes. Todd 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.

**2. RAB Board Member Vacancy**

Wayne shared that there is still an existing vacancy and asked all members to help recruit new board members.

**3. RAB Retreat and Role**

Hutch and Wayne met with Roderick and Debbie last week to discuss a board retreat that will be led by a facilitator. Barry suggested a doodle poll to gather days and times for the retreat and Hutch agreed. The goal of this retreat is to help coordinate the voice of the RAB and to communicate a unified message to the Mayor and Council. Roderick added that the retreat should be used to identify what goals the board will be working towards next year, what areas will be tracked, and to help advocate these goals to the members of Council and the new Mayor. Once goals are identified that these areas that will need to be tracked. Cecil agreed that this is an important board, and should have more influence than it has had in the past.

Josh suggested holding the retreat after the holidays, possibly in January.

#### **4. Deferred Maintenance Projects**

Seth Hendler-Voss, Parks Planning and Operations Manager, presented the deferred maintenance needs from last and current fiscal years.

Projects initiated during FY 2012-2013:

- New sign at the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center – complete by November
- Aston Park clay court reconstruction, new fencing, retaining wall, new sidewalk
- John B. Lewis Soccer Field Complex flood clean-up
- Montford Recreation Center gymnasium floor –first recreation center in the region to have ceiling LED lights which are more expensive, however they have a payback period of five years, and last much longer.
- Carrier Park velodrome borings and design services
- Carrier Park restroom design services
- Accessibility Audit to meet Department of Justice Federal requirements – the consultant will make a presentation to the RAB in early 2014

Barry asked how often an accessibility audit needs to be conducted. Seth stated that the audit will remain current until the Federal laws are changed. It is the responsibility of the City to self-monitor and ensure that any new structures or buildings would have accessibility components included in the design.

The total spent on deferred maintenance projects last year was approximately \$330,000. Roderick added that the department is allocated \$400,000 each year.

Projects that carried forward and newly during the FY 2013-2014:

- Montford Recreation Center gymnasium paint and floor replacement
- Montford Recreation Center Complex Master Plan and playground design
- Carrier Park restroom construction drawings
- Azalea Park fishing pier at pond
- Velodrome renovation bid documents
- New park signage standards
- Riverside Cemetery stone repair

Wayne asked AI for an update on the Thomas Wolfe cabin. AI responded that he has not heard back from Jack Thomson of the Historic Preservation Society.

#### **5. Director's Report**

North Asheville Dog Park Proposal

Roderick reported that the proposed North Asheville dog park project is a citizen driven process that has support from the City. The next step is to develop a land agreement with the current land owner. Cecil added that there has been a lot of citizen push back about the North Asheville dog park.

#### Grove Park Sunset Mountain Neighborhood Association

Cecil shared that the Sunset Community has taken over the responsibility of plantings in the Grove Park area. Roderick clarified that this community group has always provided a level of maintenance in the park because it is more than our staff could provide. Al shared that we have the original plans and plant key from the Landscape Architect who designed the park and that the intention of the park was to have a large open space for use. Roderick added that the community group has been conducting a lot of outreach, and staff will help make sure that everyone is aware of what is going on.

#### Department Structure

Roderick stated there have been some staff changes and these will be shared next month.

### **6. Reports**

#### Bele Chere

Todd shared the final Bele Chere wrap-up meeting was held several weeks ago and the festival came in under budget.

#### Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission

Wayne shared that the group is focused on the area around Clingman Avenue, and the recent meeting discussed a large seven building complex and a parking garage. There will be about 50 parking spaces and some additional spaces for art galleries with the second floor for condo owners. Council seems to like the proposed plan and the project will also include sidewalks. They are still asking people in the River Arts District what they would like to see.

### **7. Other business**

Josh shared that the Asheville Parks and Greenways Foundation will host a clean-up day in conjunction with the Mountain Oasis Music Festival on October 26<sup>th</sup> from 10 am-12 pm.

Josh motioned to adjourn and Mildred seconded. All approved and Wayne adjourned the meeting at 1:30 pm.