

December 9, 2013

Recreation Advisory Board

Wayne Wheeler	Hutch Kerns
Barry Mundt	Todd Dunnuck
Ashley Arrington	Bob Pierce
Josh Conner	Mildred Nance-Carson

Council Present

Cecil Bothwell

Staff

Roderick Simmons, Director
Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director
Mark Halstead, Program Supervisor
Sandra Travis, Program Supervisor
Judith Scott, Administrative Assistant
Al Kopf, Superintendent of Planning and Development
Christy Bass, Interim Superintendent of Business Services

Wayne called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm.

1. Welcome new RAB member

Wayne welcomed new RAB member Bob Pierce to the board. Bob introduced himself and he serves on the Friends of the Nature Center and the Haw Creek Community Association Board.

2. Approval of October Minutes

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

Approval of November Minutes

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

3. Downtown Asheville Residential Neighbors (DARN) Proposal to Name Pritchard Park Fountain

Kim MacQueen, President of DARN, Mary Ann West and Susan Roderick proposed naming the fountain at Pritchard Park after Trina Mullen, the creator of DARN. Kim shared that DARN adopted Pritchard Park and that Trina and Mary Ann spent many hours helping to take care of the area, especially when the fountain stopped working two years ago. Trina raised \$12,000 to fund the fountain repair while battling a terminal illness. Trina passed away recently and DARN is requesting to have the fountain named after Trina Mullen in her memory. Kim shared that Trina's brother has offered to establish a perpetual fund through the Community Foundation to help keep Pritchard Park clean and welcoming.

Wayne asked Kim what she envisions as a way to honor Trina's efforts. Kim responded that she would like to have a plaque on the fountain and would work with the city to develop it. Wayne asked if there have been conversations with other foundations for funding. Kim responded no because this has happened so quickly. Roderick added that it would be a one on one transaction between DARN and the city and that no other organizations are necessary for the funding.

Barry motioned to approve to name the fountain at Pritchard Park in honor of Trina Mullen. Hutch seconded and the motion passed with all in favor.

4. RAB Retreat Update

Debbie discussed the results of the recent Doodle Poll for scheduling the RAB retreat. The date most members agreed upon for the upcoming retreat is January 31, 2014 from 12:30pm to 4:30pm. She will work with Wayne and Hutch to create the agenda and the meeting will be facilitated by City of Asheville staff David Carr. Debbie discussed the new Parks and Recreation 2014-2016 business plan, which comes from the existing department Master Plan. The items in the plan are those that staff will be working on, tracking and reporting in the quarterly and annual reports. Roderick added staff selected these goals and will be working on the action steps needed to achieve them.

5. Upcoming RAB Agenda Preview

Facility Accessibility Report Public Comment

In October Seth Hendler-Voss presented the deferred maintenance program, which included the facility accessibility report to determine the handicap accessibility of parks and facilities. The consultant, Recreation Accessibility Consultants, is wrapping up the report and John McGovern will attend the January RAB meeting to present the findings. The process requires public comment. RAB will host the public comment period for the report at its meeting in January. A press release will go out in early January stating that the meeting will be open for public comment.

RAB Annual Report

All City Council appointed boards submit a written annual report to city council. The RAB annual report is due to Maggie Bureson, City Clerk by January 30, 2014. Debbie will work with Wayne and Hutch to prepare the report which will be presented to the full board for action at the January meeting.

FY14-15 Fee Adjustment

Staff is currently working on FY 14-15 fees and charges adjustments and those recommendations will be shared at the January or February meeting. The fees and charges adjustments will be reviewed by the Finance Department and then presented to the City Council's Finance Committee.

5. Director's Report

Aston Park Tennis Center Request for Proposal: The RFP to contract out tennis center operations went out last week and proposals are due within 30-60 days. Staff will follow the same process that was used during the Municipal Golf Course RFP process.

Grant Applications: At City Council meeting on December 10, staff will share the intent to apply for a grant for the construction of the splash pad, playground, and to modify the trail and basketball court at the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center. Staff also plans to apply for a grant for construction of Beaucatcher Greenway.

Montford Recreation Center Gym: The renovation of the gym at the Montford Recreation Center will be complete as of this year and the gym at Stephens-Lee or the Shiloh Recreation Center will be renovated next year.

US Cellular Center Court Floor: The court floor that was recently removed from the US Cellular Center is available to replace a floor in a recreation center gym. Staff will evaluate the flooring and center location most appropriate to install the floor which will be determined by the capacity and weight the facility can handle.

Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center: The Advisory Board of the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center recently conducted a retreat and discussed the gaps in services at the center. Staff will continue to work together to arrive at the action steps.

Breakfast with Santa: The new event, Breakfast with Santa, will be held on Saturday, December 14 at the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center.

6. Reports: Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission

Hutch attended the last Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission meeting and the main topic was the formalization of the River Arts District, which will be on the December 10 City Council agenda. Roderick also attended and gave a presentation on all the park related projects that touch the riverfront area. There should be more on the River Arts District master plan development in the next few months.

7. Other Business

Wayne mentioned that for the past three RAB meetings a quorum has not been present and asked members to communicate to either him, Hutch, or Debbie if they will not be in attendance.

Wayne shared the City's Planning Department received a grant from the State Historic Preservation Office to match the \$27,000 to bring in a consultant from Pennsylvania who will look at the city to enhance historic preservation and maybe parks could be included. There will be a public meeting in January, with a draft ready in March/April, with the goal of June/July for the final version.

Wayne shared that the Chamber of Commerce has invited RAB members to attend a seminar it will host from noon to 4 pm this Wednesday, box lunch provided, to talk about how we can enhance the city, parks, access for vehicles, historic preservation to help tourism and ease of transportation around the city.

Cecil Bothwell is rotating out of the Recreation Advisory Board. Chris Pelly will be the liaison and will be at the January meeting and retreat.

8. Adjournment

Todd motioned to adjourn. Ashley seconded the motion and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned 1:10 pm.