

Recreation Advisory Board

July 8, 2013

Members Present:

Wayne Wheeler, Chair

Hutch Kerns, Vice-Chair

Jordan Veale

Barry Mundt

Ashley Arrington

Josh O'Conner

Todd Dunnuck

Mildred Nance-Carson

Staff Present:

Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director

Mark Halstead, Athletics Program Supervisor

Al Kopf, Planning & Development Superintendent

Sandra Travis, Program Supervisor

Amy Rickman, Recreation Superintendent

Christy Bass, Interim Business Services Superintendent

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

1. Approval of June Minutes

Barry made corrections to the June minutes. Josh motioned to approve minutes as corrected. Hutch 2nd the motion and all were in favor.

2. Budget Update

Debbie reported City Council adopted the 2013-2014 operating budget. She highlighted several of items that affect the PRCA department.

Cultural Art Division

The 2013 Bele Chere festival will be the last produced by the City. The three Festivals positions are budgeted through September 30.

The Cultural Arts Superintendent position is deleted. The Cultural Art Division will be transitioned with the Office of Economic Development. The staff that produces Bele Chere also produces the July 4th event and Memorial Day. The intent is to still produce these events via the Office of Economic Development.

Plans for the Public Art Program is still in development, but the maintenance and repair of the public art collection will likely remain the responsibility of the PRCA department, and new art acquisition will be handled through the Office of Economic Development office. Cultural programs such as the Mobil Art Lab Easel Rider will remain under the PRCA department, and operated through a lease agreement with LEAF (Lake Eden Arts Festival).

The budget includes \$40,000 for the Public Art program, \$47,000 for new artwork.

Capital Improvement Budget

The priority greenways are Town Branch Greenway, Clingman Greenway, and Beaucatcher Greenway, with \$350,000 allocated for greenway development, acquisition, design, and construction.

\$450,000 for priority improvements at the Asheville Municipal Golf Course as part of the lease agreement with Pope Golf. Both parties contribute toward CIP projects, which will include the irrigation on the back nine as well as clubhouse improvements.

\$400,000 allocated for deferred maintenance projects, with this being the third year of allocation.

\$100,000 for McCormick field for improvements to the clubhouse, which is part of the lease agreement with the Asheville Tourists.

The Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr., Southside Center had \$350,000 allocated for the next phase of design, but this funding has been pushed out to the 2017-2018. Staff is still working on raising funds for the splash pad.

Wayne asked if the Office of Economic Development will have any representative to work with the Recreation Advisory Board. Debbie responded staff is meeting next week to continue working out the details, however there will be some level of crossover moving forward. Wayne asked Al what the money for the Beaucatcher Greenway will be used for. Al replied that the \$1.3 million will go toward the design and engineering drawings with the balance to cover construction. It is not known yet how much money will be needed to complete the trails and trail heads.

Cultural & Recreation Authority (CRA)

The CRA had been in the Senate sub-committee where it passed the second full reading, and then it was pulled from the Senate calendar. As of now, it is on the Senate calendar for tomorrow. The current draft no longer includes the language referencing other municipalities, but does use the term local units. Staff is not sure what local units mean, however it may refer to local units of government. Josh asked Debbie if she knew why the bill was sent to the Clerk's office. Debbie responded no. Ashley asked if there was any concern about who will now sit on this board, and Debbie said there is no concern. She reported the PRCA Department is budgeted through the FY14 fiscal year.

3. North Carolina Recreation & Parks Association, Citizen Board Member State Forum

Debbie reported the annual NCRPA State Forum will be held August 1-3. Any board members interested in attending should contact her by the end of this week.

4. Director's Report

Deferred Maintenance: Debbie overviewed the FY13 \$400,000 deferred maintenance budgeted. A full report of accomplishments and next year's plan will be at the September or October meeting.

Annual Report: The 2012-2013 PRCA annual report will be available at the August meeting.

North Asheville Dog Park: At the June meeting, Debbie reported on a citizen group proposal for a dog park in north Asheville. The Friends of the North Asheville Dog Park will host a public meeting on July 18 at 6:30 pm at the Jones Elementary School. Debbie and other staff will provide technical assistance and will attend the meeting.

Bylaws: At the last meeting Josh inquired about the procedures to nominate officers, and if a nominating committee is required. Debbie reported the bylaws do not specify the process in which to nominate officers and the board may determine its process.

Board Member Roster: Debbie provided a revised board member roster of current members and contact information.

5. Reports

Bele Chere Board: Todd reported that Bele Chere 2013 is here and things are moving along. The Bele Chere kickoff party was held at the Capital Club.

Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission: No report.

6. Other Business

Jordan asked about the repairs to the soccer fields back in May and if any of the previous work had been done to prevent any future damage. Al responded fields two and four had only a small corner hit by water from the river. The Swannanoa River broke its bank onto field one, and there was only some pooling of water on the fields which will require modest repairs. Al stated that both the French Broad River Park and Carrier Park were flooded.

Hutch asked if anyone has come forward to run Bele Chere after this year. Debbie replied that early on it was thought there might be a proposal to operate Bele Chere. Sandra added there were discussions in the community about taking it on, but for a not-for-profit organization to run Bele Chere would require an admissions charge, which probably wouldn't work. She added for a local community organization there is too much cost and required services to make it feasible. Sandra said there are currently four revenue streams that pay for the programming of the festival but these streams would not provide enough of a profit margin for a non-profit organization.

Ashley asked about the stage canopy Pack Square Park. Debbie stated that the goal is to have the canopy installed in time for the Labor Day celebration. The Asheville Downtown Association is still working on the timeline, installation, and engineering of the canopy. She added it is necessary for the permits and sign-off from the City with work anticipated to start around the week of July 28th and two weeks for installation of the canopy.

7. Meeting Adjourned

Josh motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mildred seconded the motion, and all were in favor.