

Recreation Advisory Board Minutes November 12, 2012



Members Present

Wayne Wheeler, Chair
Hutch Kerns, Co-Chair
Barry Mundt
John Parrish
Todd Dunnuck
Josh O'Conner
Ashley Arrington

Staff Present

Abigail Riley, Special Projects Coordinator
Amy Rickman, Superintendent of Recreation
Debbie Ivester, Assistant Director
Sandra Travis, Festivals Supervisor
Frank McGowan, Business Services Superintendent
Al Kopf, Parks, Planning & Development Superintendent

Guests Present

Kevin Hamlin, Folk Heritage Committee
Kate Justice, Folk Heritage Committee
Melinda Young, Blue Ridge National Heritage Area
Guillo Rodriguez

Wayne called the meeting to order at 12:30pm

1. Approval of September & October Minutes

Josh moved to approve the September minutes. It was seconded by Ashley. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

Josh moved to approve the October minutes. It was seconded by Todd. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. Bele Chere Board Chair 2013

Wayne said that this issue was presented at the last meeting, but due to a lack of quorum, it needed to be voted on during this meeting.

Sandra presented Guillermo Rodriguez as the staff recommendation for the Bele Chere Board Chair. He served on different boards around the state and locally. He served on the Bele Chere Board for several years as the merchandise committee chair.

Todd moved to approve Guillermo Rodriguez as the Bele Chere Board Chair for the 2013 festival. It was seconded by Josh. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Interpretive Sign in Pack Square Park

Kate Justice assists with marketing and project management for the Folk Heritage Committee that produces *Mountain Dance and Folk Festival* and *Shindig on the Green*, which was awarded a grant to produce an interpretive sign for the event.

Kevin Hamlin, 2013 Chair of the Folk Heritage Committee, presented the projects the committee is working on including the interpretative signs and a video documentary on the past performances at *Shindig on the Green*.

Melinda Young is the Signage Coordinator for the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area. It is the mission of the organization to preserve, promote, protect, and interpret the heritage treasures of the nationally-designated, 25-county heritage district. The heritage themes of the organization include music, craft, agriculture, natural, and Cherokee.

The organization received a Federal Administration Highway Grant to place 80 interpretative signs throughout the 25 mountain counties. They will be placing four signs throughout Buncombe County, with two being in Asheville. *Shindig on the Green* and the Thomas Wolfe Cabin are the two places in Asheville where the signs will be placed. *Shindig on the Green* was chosen because it has promoted the music heritage of the area and involved children in this promotion.

The sign will be a piece in Pack Square Park with photos and text that has event information and connects it to the area during the months the event is not running. Melinda presented a design of the sign. It is a two feet by three feet standard panel, and the Folk Heritage Committee will design the content. It will have a quality, classic look that will invite people to read and learn about the event.

The signs will be placed into the ground by late summer. The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area worked with staff to identify the best location for the sign. It will be placed along the College Street corridor of the park. The Folk Heritage Committee will be the owners of the sign, and a marketing program will be implemented along with the signage program that will point visitors to the sign. The sign will remain standing for five years. At the end of five years, it becomes the responsibility of the City to decide what to do with it.

Wayne asked if the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area will maintain the sign. Melinda said the maintenance will be up to the Folk Heritage Committee. Kevin added that he met with Seth Hendler-Voss. Seth expressed that he would prefer the City to maintain the ground around the sign and the Folk Heritage Committee maintain the sign. In five years, the Heritage Folk Committee will commence maintenance of the sign.

Todd asked for clarification of its location. Melinda said that it will be placed between the light pole and the bench near the Veteran's Memorial. This is a prime location because it needs to be wheelchair accessible and needs to be installed on the sidewalk. The design will be aesthetically-pleasing and integrated into the design of the park.

Hutch thanked the organizations for coordinating specifics with staff. His main concern is that the sign fits into the overall look of the park. He asked staff if there is room for further growth of this type in the park. Debbie was unsure if there would be similar requests in the future. These requests do not happen often, but staff always ensures that such requests are

conducive, matching, and fitting of the area. Debbie thought this park might attract a higher number of such requests, and staff will manage it appropriately.

Hutch asked if this sign would set a standard. Debbie said that it would be designed to fit the standard that is already in place for the Department, which has adopted the national standard due to its attractiveness and affordability.

Kevin thanked the Board for its time and consideration of the request.

Hutch moved to approve the design and location as stated by the staff report. It was seconded by Ashley. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Board Applicant Recommendation

Each board member chose their top three candidates to recommend to City Council to fill the vacancy left by Lonnie Gilliam.

Josh clarified that board members needed to live within the City limits, but candidate Mike Lovoy lives in the county. Thus, he can not be considered for the Recreation Advisory Board.

Ashley asked if there is a conflict of interest for Guillermo Rodriguez being a part of the Board in conjunction with his being Bele Chere Board Chair. Debbie said there was no conflict of interest.

Debbie said that City Council will make their decision on whom to interview at the next night's council meeting. This recommendation from the Board allows Council to know who the Board members desire to be a part of the Board.

John chose Jordan Veale, Guillermo Rodriguez, and Robert Pierce.

Todd chose Jordan Veale, Guillermo Rodriguez, and Robert Pierce.

Ashley chose Jordan Veale, Guillermo Rodriguez, and Robert Pierce.

Josh chose Robert Pierce, Guillermo Rodriguez, and Jordan Veale.

Barry chose Jordan Veale, Robert Pierce, and Guillermo Rodriguez.

Wayne chose Jordan Veale, Robert Pierce, and Guillermo Rodriguez.

Hutch chose Guillermo Rodriguez, Jordan Veale, and Robert Pierce.

Josh moved to approve Jordan Veale as the Board's first choice, Guillermo Rodriguez as the Board's second choice, and Robert Pierce at the Board's third choice. It was seconded by Todd. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Director's Report

Debbie gave the report as Roderick is attending the North Carolina Recreation and Parks Annual Conference.

Capital Improvement Program

There are two significant projects going to contract: design contract for Beaucatcher Greenway and construction contract for the WNC Nature Center's main entrance. The contracts will go to Council on November 27th for approval. If approved, work will begin 30 to 45 days after approval. Both are significant projects within the Capital Improvement Program.

Deferred Maintenance

There has been movement on all pieces of the Deferred Maintenance plan. The facility accessibility audit to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines completed the Request For Qualifications process, and Recreation Accessibility Consultant was selected. This firm specializes in this type of work and has a history of working with municipalities. The firm completed previous audits similar to Asheville's in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. A contract of this size does not require approval from City Council.

The sign for the Irby Brinson Sports Complex has been installed. The signs for the George Washington Carver Edible Garden and the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center are currently being fabricated and will be installed when completed.

The Carrier Park Velodrome needs to be resurfaced, and the borings and study to analyse the need has been completed. Staff will use the report to determine the scope of work needed to plan for the budget and complete that project in the future.

Asheville Municipal Golf Course

The first 45 days in the contract with Pope Golf, LLC are complete. The process went smoothly, and they have been a pleasure to work with. Dave Columbello was the Transition Manager. He is finished with that position, and Pope Golf hired a permanent general manager, Scott Womble. Debbie will invite him to speak at a Board meeting to update members on their activities at the end of the first quarter of management.

Holiday Schedule

Notices will be in the newspaper regarding the schedules of City services and facilities. Department facility schedules will be listed among those schedules. All parks are open. Recreation centers have specific hours. Specialized facilities are typically closed the day of the holiday.

Department Vacancies

There are a few staff vacancies within the Department. The Landscape Architect position is a full time, permanent position. It is significant to the operations of the Department as it relates to greenway priority, deferred maintenance, and capital improvement plans. The Superintendent of Cultural Arts position has not posted. Debbie hopes to hear from the Finance Department regarding the review of the position in the near future.

Wayne asked if the Department is continuing to consider contracting out the management of the WNC Nature Center. Debbie said that staff continues to look at reducing City subsidy and operating costs at the WNC Nature Center as requested by Council. Wayne asked why money was being spent on improvements to the main entrance if management will be contracted out in the future. Debbie said that regardless of management, it will remain a City asset and the Department will invest funds in its infrastructure.

6. Reports

Bele Chere Board

Todd said they are still wrapping up last year's festival and will begin meeting in January.

Asheville Parks & Greenways Foundation

Debbie looked into the Foundation's bylaws regarding Recreation Advisory Board representation on their board. They no longer require a representative of this board to sit on their board. There is no requirement to make an appointment from this board. Mildred is on the Foundation's board, and she can update both boards. Debbie said this will be taken off the agenda going forward.

Asheville Area Riverfront Redevelopment Commission

Wayne had nothing to report.

7. Other Business

Veteran's Day Meeting Cancellation

Wayne said that Josh asked him to speak about moving the Recreation Advisory Board meetings when there is a Federal holiday. Debbie said the Board can choose to change the date or cancel a meeting. In the event of a snow day, the current standard is the board will not meet if Asheville City School is cancelled. If it is a Federal holiday and the City is open for business, Boards hold regular meeting times.

Todd asked if the City was open for business on Veteran's Day. Debbie said that it is.

Josh said there is confusion due to Veteran's Day falling on a Sunday and with Federal, county, and state agencies being closed on Monday.

Debbie added that the Board would need to vote on changing the date of the meeting when it conflicts with Veteran's Day.

Todd said that if the City is open for business, the meeting should be held as scheduled.

Josh asked if it could be tabled to another meeting. He will work with the Mayor's Committee on Veteran's Affairs for further input.

Debbie said, as an example, the Public Art & Cultural Commission adjusts their meetings for holidays. They make those decisions closer to the time the holiday occurs. She asked

members to think about addressing the issue at the October meeting each year as a standing item.

Asheville-Buncombe Historic Society

Wayne said he joined the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County. He said the group is interested in the Thomas Wolfe Cabin. He inquired on the status of the Thomas Wolfe Cabin. Al reports the Society recently completed a restoration feasibility study on the cabin, but he had not seen the results. Jack Thomson was to report the findings to Al. With that information, staff will move forward with the project.

Asheville Municipal Golf Course

John said that he spoke to a citizen who is happy with the Pope Golf transition. He asked where to find the self-guided facility tour. Abigail will provide the link to the tour on the city's website.

Public Meeting

Ashley went to the public meeting for the spray ground, playground, and trail for the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center. She inquired about the outcome and turnout for the meeting. Frank said this information session was a requirement for the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant. This is a formal step to get public input. Information about the meeting was disseminated via press release, city website, and social media. There were approximately ten adults. In addition to the adults, there were many children involved as the Department wanted to get their input on what they wanted to see as part of the spray ground and playground. The information has been given to other organizations and Departments to present the information at their public meetings. When public meetings on the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center occur in the future, staff will partner with the East of the Riverway coordinator to help promote meetings.

Wayne asked what the capacity is for the Dr. Wesley Grant, Sr. Southside Center auditorium and the price for renting it. Debbie said that it holds approximately 200 people and suggested contacting the center director for the cost.

8. Adjournment

Josh moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Barry. All approved, and the motion passed unanimously.

Wayne adjourned the meeting at 1:13pm.