

FROM: Parks and Recreation Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Monthly Meeting

DATE: November 4, 2015

LOCATION: Chapel Hill Library Conference Room

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MEMBERS PRESENT: Neal Bench; Joel Bulkley; Evelyn Daniel; Haywood Rhodes; Betty McDade Khan; Rob Robinson; Daniel Siler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Allan Green (excused); Tori Williams Reid (excused); James Carter (excused); Rachel Massai (excused); John Greeson (excused)

STAFF PRESENT: David Stancil; Lynn Hecht

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- I. Beginning time of meeting: 6:30. Roll was called. It was determined that there is a quorum.
- II. Meeting Summary (10/7) was approved with no comments from the Board.  
Additions or Changes to the Agenda: Bench added that Green had input for the agenda prior to the meeting. Bench noted that the council would wait until the December meeting to tackle primitive camping at Green's request. The Council will discuss the Mountains to Sea Trail (MST) and Primitive Camping topics at the next meeting in December.
- III. Report of the Chair (Bench)
  - a. Membership Status. Appointment for Eno Township. Bench asked that the Council choose between two applicants reviewed during the October meeting. Daniel moved to appoint Michael Dempsey, Bulkley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Dempsey's application will be moved forward to the BOCC.
- IV. New Business
  - a. Orienteering Proposal. Stancil provided a report. As a reminder from last meeting, Derby, Green, and Stancil met with representatives of Triangle Orienteering Klub in the summer, but their orienteering concept was very ambitious and daunting to all. Green's original idea of this was a compass-oriented course, much more kid oriented, educational and less competitive. Stancil, after discussing with staff, proposes to go with Green's idea and have it located at Little River Regional Park (LRRP.) Since this is a joint park, staff will need to gain approval from Durham County and amend the master plan. Bench stated that Green had noted that he would like to be involved in the organizing of this. Bench suggested that Blackwood Farm Park (BFP) also be considered for orienteering. Rhodes moved that the County move ahead with plans to create a small orienteering course at LRRP and Daniel seconded the motion. Bulkley

added that the Board needs to first gain Durham County's approval. Vote was unanimous.

- b. Primitive Camping. The group will table this for next month to include Green.
- c. 2015 Annual Report/Work Plan. Stancil presented the board with the draft annual report and work plan to go forward to the BOCC. Stancil asked the board in particular for thoughts and comments on 2016 Council expectations and emerging issues. Bench suggested adding a look at what facilities can be added at BFP. Daniel asked about the Little Free Library at Cedar Grove with the installation of a new kiosk. Stancil said that relocation might be warranted, and noted that Efland Cheeks Park might be an alternative to look at. Other ideas suggested included coming up with a master plan for the MST in Orange County. Bench proposed some attempt at cooperation/dialogue between Department on Aging and DEAPR on senior centers and parks mutual interests. Daniel, after reviewing the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2030, asked if the Council should work towards some of those goals. The question of emerging issues was posed. Bench asked how the County plans to fund the projects in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2030. The recent decision about the upcoming 2016 County bond did not provide for parks, just affordable housing and education. Artificial turf fields are an issue for further study in the 2030 Master Plan. Should we build a swimming pool is another issue for study, added Bench. Stancil mentioned that he would add these topics and emerging issues to the form, and send it out for final review and comment by the PRC. The Millhouse Road Park project was discussed, without any comments on moving this forward. It was noted that much of this has to do with Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation's involvement or lack thereof.
- d. MST Update. Stancil noted that State Parks was invited this summer to present the MST System Master Plan to the BOCC. This will occur at the November 17 BOCC meeting. Rhodes made a motion to set working on the MST within the County as a higher priority, and send a letter to the BOCC to this end. Daniel seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

V. Old Business

- a. PRC's Disc Golf Recommendation to the BOCC. Stancil pointed out that in October, staff presented its suggested approach for this: 1) look for a joint opportunity with the Town of Hillsborough at Kings Highway Park; 2) to design a disc golf course into Northeast District Park (future park near Schley); and that a local disc golf organization be invited to help develop the design and participate in maintenance. Since that meeting, the Intergovernmental Parks Work Group meeting saw a presentation by Town of Hillsborough staff and a disc golf organization that approached them and the Town is now saying Kings Highway Park is not large enough. The Council discussed the matter and several members noted the desirability of Blackwood Farm Park (BFP) for this. It was noted that parking would be a limitation. Siler made a motion (and McDade Khan seconded) to send correspondence to the BOCC asking for a disc golf course to be developed, and that Blackwood Farm Park be looked at as the best location

for this course. A vote was called and all members voted in favor. Stancil noted he would draft a memo to this effect and work with the chair.

- b. Set Date/Location for Biennial Joint Advisory Board Meeting. Due to time, it was suggested that this wait for the December meeting.
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- VI. Report of the Director (Stancil)
    - a. Fairview Park, Phase II Update: Work for the parking lot design and field memorial sign is under design. Things are going well and on schedule.
    - b. Egg Hunt: There has been a meeting with Chapel Hill and Carrboro Parks & Recreation Departments, and because of overcrowding and geographical attendance issues from surveys, there may be two or even three hunts going forward concurrently instead of one.
    - c. 2015 P&R Master Plan-Report Card: Staff is working on this and it will be presented at the next meeting.
    - d. Central Rec Center Renovations: Area III to be made a programmable area again. Some offices will move next door to Whitted Building, room 210.
    - e. Other Projects and Activities. None.
  
  - VII. Council and Committee Reports
    - a. Intergovernmental Parks Works Group. The groups heard from the local disc golf group. The NC Recreation Resource Service came and addressed funding from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund. Grants have already been announced for 2015. Staff noted that Phase II of the Interactive Parks Locator Map is forthcoming in the next year. Trails and greenways will be added.
    - b. Items from the Council. No comments.
    - c. Friends of Orange County Parks and Recreation (FOPR). No report.

Next meeting is at the EAC conference room in Hillsborough on 12/2/15.

Meeting adjourned at: 8:17pm

Name of Notes Taker Lynn Hecht