

Meeting Summary – Parks and Recreation Council February 1, 2023

Animal Services Center Conference Room, Eubanks Road, Chapel Hill NC

Members Present: Mikki Fleming (Vice-Chair), Xilong Zhao, Natalie Ziemba, Andrea Zimmerman, Greg Hughes, Bob Smith, Chris Colvin, Sophia Fratta

Members Absent: Gina Reyman (Chair), Rod Jones, Jessie Birkhead, Becca Truluck, Tim Tippin

Staff: David Stancil, Ardra Webster

Vice-Chair Mikki Fleming called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. She asked members to introduce themselves and welcomed the new youth delegate member Sophia Fratta.

Review of Meeting Summary/Additions to Agenda:

- a. One change was noted to meeting summary. Tim Tippin was present at the December 3rd meeting. That change will be added to the previous meeting notes.

Report of the Chair:

- a. Membership (Bingham, At-Larger slots effective 4/1/23) Fleming discussed the membership vacancies that would occur after March 31st. When Bob Smith and Tippin roll of the Council, two positions will be open to fill. Jessie Birkhead has agreed to move to the Little River Township position thus freeing up an At-Large position, along with the Bingham position vacated by Tippin. The Council reviewed applications at a glance and David Stancil said that staff will send out applicant information to review prior to the March meeting.

New Business:

- a. **P&R Master Plan 2030- Brainstorming Issues for Further Study, Initial Discussion- PRC's Plan Update Report-** Stancil led the discussion of the P&R Master Plan, Recommendation #9 #3- *Examine the Role of Community Centers in Providing Public Recreation Opportunities, Issues for Further Study* and the goal of these discussions. He mentioned the changes that have occurred since the initial Master Plan such as the COVID pandemic, new views on equity and inclusion, and technology. He spoke on Recommendation #9 and how the BOCC wanted the community centers to be operated by members and organizations within the community. Chris Colvin asked what the maximum funding is allocated for the community center and the amount the community center raise themselves. Stancil explained the funding method through which the community centers receive County funding. Greg Hughes raised the question as to why these three community centers were selected and did location play a factor into that decision. Stancil answered that the County encouraged community involvement and that these locations already had centers or planned centers. In terms of Issues for Further Study in the master plan, he gave an overview of the underling question of what level of service should Orange County provides in terms of parks and recreation. He compared

the park and recreation system of Orange County to jurisdictions that are close by such as Chapel Hill, City of Durham and also Cabarrus County as examples of the variety of approaches taken by different locales. Stancil also discussed briefly the subdivision land dedication and payment in lieu system in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Lastly, Stancil discussed artificial surface playing fields as another issue for further study in the plan. He explained the pros and cons of this concept such as potential concerns about health issues related to synthetic turf versus the playability and revenue generation from these fields. Stancil ended his discussion by asking for feedback from the Council. Colvin provided that more accessibility be included for those who have disabilities. The Council will have an opportunity to review their collective comments and ideas on the mid-plan review in April and May

Old Business:

- a. **Approval of 2022 Annual Report / Work Plan (Attachment 1)** The Council reviewed the 2022 Annual Report/Work Plan draft document and approved the final annual report and work plan.

Report of the Director-

- a. **Updates-** (Blackwood, Perry Hills, Recreation Programs) Stancil gave a review of the status of Blackwood Farm Park and potential soft opening date. He talked about the reasons for the delay such as electrical, septic issues and NC DOT requirements. He stated that the next Perry Hills Mini Park meeting will be in March. He reviewed that the Recreation Division recently held their annual program review retreat at Central Recreation, and discussed the plans to move forward with engaging on social medial platforms more in this year.
- b. **March Meeting Plans** (Outside Agencies)- Stancil discussed the outside agencies that PRC will review and recommend. Application information and scorecards will be sent by staff after the meeting and prior to the March 1 meeting where the scoring will occur.

Council and Committee Reports:

- a. **Intergovernmental Parks Work Group** (next mtg April 12) Greg Hughes volunteered to be the new liaison.
- b. **Items from the Council /Sharing of Volunteer Opportunities- none**

Adjournment: Fleming adjourned meeting at 7:49 pm.

Next Meeting: March 1, 6:30pm Bonnie B. Davis EAC.