



**MINUTES
WATAUGA PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021
2:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Andra Dunn called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Jim McDonald	Place 1
Andra Dunn	Place 2
Natasha Havrda	Place 3 (Absent without notice)
Tim Bobseine	Place 4
Lindy Riggall	Place 5

and

Jan Hill	Council Member Place 7/Parks Advisory Board Liaison
Mark Taylor	Council Member Place 6/Alt. Parks Advisory Board Liaison
Linda Proskey	City Secretary
Samantha Ortega	Records Clerk
Chad Stephens	Interim Director Parks

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Swear-in new Board members.

Linda Proskey administered the Oath of Office to the following:

- Place 5, Lindy Riggall

PUBLIC COMMENT

Requests for public comment were not received.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS

Requests for public testimony were not received.

REPORTS

1. **Receive update on Parks, Recreation, and Senior Services:**

Chad Stephens presented this item to the board and explained ongoing and upcoming events at the Hector Garcia Recreation Center and City Parks that included:

- Grounds Maintenance contract started 01 October
- Capp Smith WEIR permanent repair completed
- Additional Trees have been purchased for planting
- Shade structure repair at Capp Smith playground is completed. Note:
Relocation of swing set is required and being tracked as part of this repair.

Alternate City Council Board Liaison Mr. Mark Taylor requested clarification from Mr. Stephens on the Capp Smith playground status following the shade structure repair for the public. Mr. Stephens explained that the re-opening was effective the previous day with no limitations and that Social media for the city required update to reflect the current status as "open" for the Public.

- Wildflower bed expansion project completed at Capp Smith
- Veteran's Day observation at the Capp Smith Memorial at 9:00 a.m. On 11 November.
- Christmas Tree lighting ceremony 01 Dec

Chad Stephens also provided current usage (check-in numbers) for the Recreation Center. Community Programs active at the Center include Bingo, Board games, Pickle Ball league, flying club, quilting, Meals on Wheels, community food distribution, Tarrant County Food Bank monthly distribution and Pet Food distribution.

Board member Lindy Riggall inquired about food quantities for distribution to the public. Mr. Stephens has no indication of any shortfalls with what is being distributed to the Public.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consider action to approve the Parks Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for July 7, 2021 and September 1, 2021.**

Member Tim Bobseine made motion, member Jim McDonald second the motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Chairperson Dunn Called for a vote. 4-0-0-1

Ayes: McDonald, Andra Dunn, Tim Bobseine, Lindy Riggall

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Natasha Havrda

2. **Discuss and adopt the Fall and Winter Holiday decorating contests and Yard-of-the-Month program.**

- Chad Stephens provided templates to the Board of previous competitions. Due timing, board discussion was mainly concentrated on the upcoming Holiday decoration competition. Member Riggall requested a formal scoring rubric be associated with the competition. Chad Stephens will provide a formal score criteria sheet to board

members for the Holiday decorating competition. Community submissions for consideration will be due two weeks prior to Christmas. A list of submitted homes/yards will be provided to board members the first working day after the submission deadline. Board members will individually tour and score competition yard and home decorations the following week and submit scoring to Mr. Stephens who will tally Board member scores to determine winning submissions. Winners will be announced on Watauga social media with formal recognition at the regular January City Council meeting. Yard of the Month Competition specifics to be further discussed at a regular board meeting closer to competition start. Mr. Stephens provided a template for this competition also.

Member Jim McDonald made motion, member Tim Bobseine second the motion to accept the item as amended. Chairperson Dunn Called for a vote. 4-0-0-1

Ayes: McDonald, Andra Dunn, Tim Bobseine, Lindy Riggall

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Natasha Havrda

3. Discuss and provide direction on creating a volunteer program.

It is desired to provide the community more information on what types of volunteer opportunities are available. For sensitive Volunteer assignments that require a background check such as direct involvement with Youth that the criteria could be met before hand so that there is a qualified list of volunteers to call on as opportunities come up. Periodic Volunteer clean up opportunities at City parks, vacant lots or City owned property (streets and roads) on weekends is desired.

The consensus of the group was to move forward with a robust community volunteer program.

4. Discussion on cleaning up/beautification and usage of BISD Park on Chapman, along with possibly having a park beautification/field day at other parks.

Mr. Stephens explained that BISD Park has several tangible factors that limit its use, these include:

- The park is leased to the city of Watauga so improvements are not the sole discretion of the City of Watauga.
- There are no restroom facilities or drinking water available at this park.
- Parking is Limited for support of large events.

Member Andra Dunn suggested a bounce House event open to the community at this park due its flat and open landscape.

Member Jim McDonald suggested a weekly or monthly Food truck event at this location for the community to enjoy.

Both suggestions would require rental of portable sanitation facilities to support events such as these.

The consensus of the group is that this park should be utilized on a trial basis for events with maybe a combination of the two listed suggestions to see if it offers additional value for the community at large.

5. **Discussion of Watauga Fest.**

Mr. Stephens provided an overview of cost associated with Wataugafest and the success it was becoming for our community prior to the arrival of SARS COVID. Wataugafest was cancelled last year due to the pandemic.

The consensus of the group was there is community excitement with Wataugafest returning this year. There is a desire to contract local vendors for the festival if/when possible. Stage entertainment of one or two evenings during the festival to be determined based on cost compared to past festival benefits realized.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Andra Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

APPROVED: this 5th day of Jan, 2021. ^{2 or}

SIGNED: this 5th day of Jan, 2021. ^{2 or}

APPROVED: A. Dunn /s/
Andra Dunn, Chairperson

ATTEST: T. Bobseine /s/
Tim Bobseine, Secretary

NOTE: Original Audio and Video Recording of this meeting is preserved and maintained by the City Secretary's Office