



**MINUTES
WATAUGA PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5TH, 2022
2:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Andra Dunn called the meeting to order at 2:21 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

And

Jan Hill	Primary Council Liaison
Linda Proskey	City Secretary
Chad Stephens	Interim Parks and Recreation Director

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Swear-in new Board members.

City Secretary, Linda Proskey administered the Oath of Office to the following:

- Place 3, Natasha Havrda

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:**

Interim Director 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:

- Success of the 01 Dec holiday tree lighting ceremony
- Success of the Watauga Holiday decorating competition
- Wataugafest celebration dates have been formalized to occur 19-22 May 2022
- Irrigation expansion design for additional trees at city parks is ongoing
- The swing set repair adjacent to the new Capp Smith Park splash pad requires additional modification (lowering) by the contractor for increased safety. The swings currently sit too high due to a frame height miscalculation by the contractor and will be corrected in the near future. Mr. Stephens confirmed that the swings are safe to use in their present condition.
- Facility rentals at city parks have increased significantly.

2. Update on Volunteer Program for the Recreation Center

- Interim Director Stephens provided an overview of Volunteer opportunities and enrollment procedures on the city's web page for the various city departments. The next major event currently scheduled requiring volunteers for the city is Wataugafest in May.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Consider action to approve the Parks Advisory Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2021.**

Member Tim Bobseine made motion, member Natasha Havrda second the motion to accept the Minutes as presented. Chairperson Dunn Called for a vote.

Ayes: 3

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 2

2. **Discussion on clean-up and usage of Virgil R. Anthony, Sr. Park**

- The possibility of utilizing a portion of this park as a dedicated dog park was discussed. This function has many obstacles including the parks remote location, potential as an animal abandonment location and lack of lighting.

- Member Havrda recounted using the park on occasion for her children's ball practice in organized sports. Consensus was that this utilization was appropriate to further utilize the park. It was recommended that discussions with surrounding communities and youth sports organizations to offer this facility for this purpose should be undertaken.
- The park requires repair to its' landscaping from last year's winter storm damage. Chairperson Dunn suggested using this landscaping project as an opportunity to expand our city's volunteer opportunities. Member Bobseine mentioned this as a potential project for local businesses to volunteer and undertake for increased community exposure and involvement.
- Chairperson Dunn brought up adding QR Codes at our park signs so that visitors can login and provide feedback as to how parks are being utilized or report Issues that park patrons experience and need to be addressed.

3. Discuss implementation of a hometown hero program.

- Member Bobseine discussed the Hometown Hero program honoring local Watauga Veteran's and Active-Duty Service members with banners as an augmentation to our Veteran Memorial located at Capp Smith Park. Interim Director Stephens gave an overview of the program as implemented in surrounding communities. Chairperson Dunn recommended gathering pricing and advertising the program for possible dedications during Veterans Day in 2022. The consensus was to gather cost information and start with limited dedications at the light poles adjacent to and in vicinity of the Veteran memorial to gauge popularity and possible program expansion with the public on a trial/limited basis.

4. Discussion and update on Wataugafest

Interim Director Stephens reiterated that Wataugafest dates are set for Thursday through Sunday 19-22 May 2022. The carnival and stage to support Wataugafest are available and reserved for those dates. Festival Planning committee meetings will begin mid-January with all City departments involved with coordination of a successful Wataugafest.

5. **Discussion on a partnership with a nearby city for swimming pool access for Watauga citizens.**

The discussion focused on non-resident annual rates at area pools as an option for local citizens. City Council liaison Ms. Jan Hill recounted a pool pass she used prior to the pandemic at North Richland Hills with limited visits for a set price. Member Bobseine recommended a discussion to see if area pools would be willing to offer such a program to Watauga vice an annual non-resident rate as a work around. Chairperson Dunn recommended offering these passes at our own Recreation Center if surrounding pools are willing to accommodate such an arrangement. The consensus is that surrounding pools should be asked if they will accommodate a limited visit pool pass for a set price to Watauga citizens outside of their current non-resident annual rates. That arrangement would generate revenue for participating facilities that they otherwise would not receive and provide Watauga citizens flexible pool access at a reasonable price without an annual (large) non-resident financial commitment.

6. **Discussion on Participation in the North Central Texas Council of Governments Trash Free Waters Project and setting up a trash cleanup initiative.**

The understood intent of this program is to identify Storm Drain run-off areas within Watauga for adoption by groups of volunteers for periodic clean-up. Possible areas to be further discussed at future board meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Andra Dunn adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

APPROVED: this 23rd day of March, 2021.2

SIGNED: this 23rd day of March, 2021.2

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