



**MINUTES
WATAUGA PARKS ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBER, 7105 WHITLEY ROAD
THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024
6:00 PM**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Andra Dunn called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

ROLL CALL

Stanley Hill	Place 1
Andra Dunn	Place 2
Kim Irving	Place 3
Tim Bobseine	Place 4
Vacant	Place 5

and

Mark Taylor	Watauga Councilman Place 6
Linda Proskey	City Secretary
Timothy Hamilton	Director of Parks and Recreation
Brian TenEyke	Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Andra Dunn announced to the Community that Place 5 on the Parks Advisory Board remains vacant and the procedures for volunteering to fill the position for anyone interested in applying.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Recognition of outstanding volunteer

Volunteer unable to make it to this meeting.

2. Upcoming Parks and Community Services special events

Timothy Hamilton, Parks and Recreation Director, gave upcoming dates regarding special events starting April 5 through December 14, 2024, for events such as movies in the park, concert in the park, splash pad opening, Watauga Fest, Running Scared5k, Halloween bash, Veteran's celebration, Hometown Christmas, and Breakfast with Santa, September 13-14 is Kids Fishing Derby and Campout. Mr. Hamilton was asked if the city would do anything for the upcoming eclipse event. He stated that this event is taking place in the middle of a school day, and because of that and the lack of adequate city space, the city would not be doing anything. However, nearby communities would be participating in this event.

3. Virgil R. Anthony, Sr. Park update

Timothy Hamilton, Parks and Recreation Director, gave an update regarding park equipment, such as a lighted walkway and shade canopy, as well as when the current playground was built, along with the average lifespan and the potential date for the replacement of equipment. The city installed the current playground in 2012; the potential replacement will be in 2027-2032. Chairperson Dunn asked if additional equipment, such as swings, could be added. Mr. Hamilton said he had approached a playground consultant, and this could be done by restructuring the playground. Stan Hill, Place 1, asked if a Park sign could be installed showing there is a park in this area.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danielle Tucker, 5952 Highcrest Drive, Watauga, stated that she is asking the board members to implement equity in the city's Parks master plan so that the city can keep up with the trends of other neighboring city parks.

Gregory Anthony, 2805 Emerson Lane, Denton, stated that he is the son of Virgil Ray Anthony Sr. The park was named after his father, and he is embarrassed by the way the park looks, the lack of equipment, the lack of trails, and the lack of a park sign to indicate that there is a park in the area.

William Poppy, Jr. (minor), goes to Watauga Elementary School. He says Virgil R. Anthony, Sr. Park is different from what he expects. He expects this park to have slides and playground equipment you can play on and not just climb on.

Chasaty Woolverton, 6104 Melody Lane, stated that Virgil R. Anthony Park is in bad shape. It is dark at night, so it needs lights. There is graffiti, a lack of police presence, vandalism, and no walking or bike trails. She would like her kids to have a safe place to play. She is asking the city to consider these things to improve the park.

Casey Guest (minor) stated she would like the park to have bike trails, a better playground with slides, monkey bars, more color, and water fountains. She would like the park tables repaired.

Gladys Jenner, 6233 Brookside Drive, Watauga, stated she is here to address some of the issues associated with Virgil Anthony Park. She said the park's playground equipment is for a very limited age group. Ms. Jenner said she has grandchildren of various ages,

and she would like the city to consider all ages when installing playground equipment. She is asking that the park restrooms remain unlocked and accessible.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

No request for public testimony received.

REPORT

1. Update on Parks, Recreation, & Senior Services.

Timothy Hamilton, Park and Recreation Director, gave updates on Park and recreation services, classes, events, and successes such as February Family dance attendees and park rentals. Senior Services game nights continue to be very active and successful. Senior Services Food distribution- Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday continues to be accessible to anyone needing it. Mr. Hamilton mentioned that they looked into the medical loaner equipment. Currently, eight services are in the neighboring communities that accommodate this type of service. At this time, the city will not be. Mr. Hamilton has a list of the participating facilities for anyone interested in donating or requesting medical loaner equipment.

Brian TenEyck, Assistant Parks Director, updated parks maintenance services.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider action to approve the Park Advisory Board Minutes from the January 4, 2024 meeting.

Tim Bobseine, Place 4 made motion to approve the item on the Consent Agenda as presented. Kim Irving, Place 3 seconded the motion. Chairperson Andra Dunn called for a vote.

Motion Passed 4-0-0

Ayes.	4 (Dunn, Hill, Irving, Bobseine)
Nayes.	0
Abstain.	0
Absent.	0

ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Chairperson Andra Dunn, Place 2, requested that three items be placed on the future agenda: a discussion on keeping and reforming the Keep Watauga Beautiful program, a discussion to revisit the city's Parks Master Plan and create a long-term vision for updating park spaces and including Virgil R. Anthony Park, and a request for an active shooter training report from park staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Andra Dunn adjourned the meeting at 6:48 pm.

APPROVED: this 7 day of MAY, 2024
SIGNED: this 7 day of MAY, 2024

APPROVED:

A. Dunn /s/

Andra Dunn, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Kim Irving /s/
Secretary