

MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING – FEBRUARY 8, 2016
COUNCIL BRIEFING ROOM, CITY HALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leo Bell, Jr. (Vice-Chairperson)
Reginald Hurd
Don Johnson (Chairperson)
Alexander McLachlan
Ed Priest
Eugenia Rodgers

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Roderick Lee

Bart Stevenson, Mr. Stevenson Liaison, Timothy Hamilton, Parks Superintendent, Kamecha Johnston, Park Ranger, Officer Lt. Stan Estell and Recording Secretary, Pam Willis, were city members in attendance.

Guest: Travis Towns

Chairperson Johnson noted that there was a quorum present and began the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Item #1 – Public Discussion Period:

No one was present to speak during the public discussion period.

Item #2 – Discussion and Consider Approval of Minutes:

Chairperson Johnson asked if everyone had read over the January 11, 2016 minutes. A motion for approval was made by Board member Ed Priest; a second was made by Board member Rodgers to approve the January 11, 2016 minutes as written. A vote was taken with 6 For and 0 Against. Board member Lee was not present for the vote. Minutes were approved as written.

Item #3 – Mr. Stevenson Reports:

- A. **Park Ranger Report** – Chairperson Johnson asked Officer Johnston to give her report. She reported that there were 284 directed patrols. Four (4) calls were for suspicious activity; one (1) for arson at Armstrong Park. There were eight (8) traffic stops; however, six (6) were given citations and one (1) welfare concern where an elderly male ran from his vehicle into a ditch at Lakeside. Park Ranger Johnston made a request to Mr. Stevenson and Mr. Hamilton that they look into camera surveillance for Armstrong Park so the Police Department and City could catch and prosecute the arsonists.
- B. **Upcoming Events and Programs** – Mr. Stevenson announced to the Board that the Daddy Daughter Dance in Cinderella style was a huge success. It was estimated that approximately 300 people attended. He attributed the success to Facebook postings. He encouraged the Board to attend the showing of "Selma" on Friday night February 19th and celebrate Black History Month on Saturday the 20th from 2pm to 5pm at the Recreation Center.
- C. **Update on FY16 Capital Projects** – Mr. Stevenson updated the Board that they had approved designs for Harrington Park and that project should get started very soon. Mr. Hamilton expressed to the Board that the Gazebo in Armstrong Park received a new coat of paint and would be great for a small spring/summer wedding. He also reported that the batting cages at Harrington Park were installed and ready to go for the new season.
- D. **Update on July 4th Fireworks** – Mr. Stevenson explained to the Board that the City wants to make it possible for the fireworks to return to July 4th. Overall cost is what the City is considering. The fireworks will go off in Armstrong Park. The park will be fenced off with controlled ingress and egress. The event will require several officers for crowd control. One thought of control and security is having a wristband system. Also, the event will still be free to the public. The Blues and BBQ Festival hosted by the Lions Club in April will be a great judge of how a large event will be accepted.
- E. **Comprehensive Master Plan Process and Town Hall Meeting** – Mr. Stevenson told the Board that he had spoken with Chasidy Allen, City Planner, regarding the comprehensive plan. She told him that the RFQ process was complete and should be prepared to have their first meeting in April. With that being said, Mr. Stevenson that he is looking at early summer to start the Park Master Plan. Both Plans should finish close together and therefore be ready to go to Council for approval at the same time.

Item #4 – Discuss Capital Projects for FY 17 and Beyond:

Mr. Stevenson presented to the Board a draft handout of capital parks projects list for the next fiscal year and beyond. He noted that some projects on the list would be a one-time purchase while others like Kidsville and parking for Harrington Park would more than likely be funded through a Bond Program. He explained that because of the Innovation Fund savings there would possibly be funding for some park projects. Mr. Stevenson commented that an amenity inventory was being taken at every park by staff.

Suggestions that were made for the parks are as follows:

Armstrong:

Rebuild Kidsville, (20+ years old) with possible bond program. See what volunteers could possibly do.

Add a splash pad.

Install outdoor exercising equipment.

Parking lot on Wheatland needs to be restriped.

Take one of the tennis court(s) and turn it into a half court for basketball.

Create more events to have at the park.

Provide a place for rollerblading.

Develop a dog bark. Mr. Stevenson announced that a young lady from the Girl Scouts wanted to do that project as a temporary one at Armstrong.

A comment was made to keep in mind not to overdevelop Armstrong.

Red Bird:

Install a half court for basketball.

Install outdoor exercising equipment.

Rotary Park:

Increase parking.

Lakeside:

Provide a place for skateboarding.

Increase walkability.

Harrington:

Develop new parking plan – possible bond program.

Mr. Stevenson announced that Copa ESPN Deportes is planning to move a big youth soccer tournament to Harrington.

Develop a dog park. Good location to put in a fenced area.

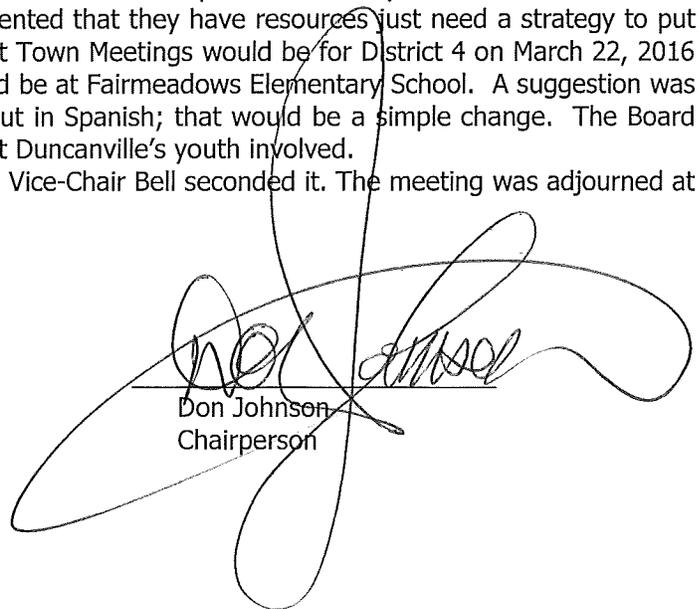
Item #5 – Discuss Strategies to Enhance Community Engagement:

The Board conveyed to staff that they wanted to reach out to the Hispanic community of Duncanville as well as the African/American community. The Board commented that they have resources just need a strategy to put in place. Staff announced to the Board that the next Town Meetings would be for District 4 on March 22, 2016 at the Duncanville Fieldhouse and for District 5 would be at Fairmeadows Elementary School. A suggestion was made that the Parks & Recreation publications be put in Spanish; that would be a simple change. The Board also suggested creating a Youth Action Council to get Duncanville's youth involved.

Board member Priest made the motion for dismissal; Vice-Chair Bell seconded it. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. unanimously.



Pam Willis
Recording Secretary



Don Johnson
Chairperson