

Parks and Recreation Board Minutes

March 23, 2021

6:00pm

Present: Lori Cordell, Jimmy Anderson, Stuart Huffman, Dan Sheppard, Jarrod Curcio

Absent: Mike Kelly, Glen Garrett

Staff Present: Tim Ellis, Sarah Jennings, Jack Presley, Jennifer Spillers, Denise Skaggs

Tim Ellis began with a Covid Statement on virtual meetings.

Lori Cordell called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes: After review of the minutes from the November meeting, a motion was made to approve the minutes by Jimmy Anderson, second by Dan Sheppard.

Reports from Staff:

- a. Superintendent of parks: Splash pad update, problem with losing water, Vortex sent out gentleman from Aqua Dynamics who found that everything ran fine, water loss was through expansion joints in the concrete. Caulked and is now working fine. March 11th-13th hosted offence/defense event at MWP soccer complex and football field. TN Environmental council passed out tress at MWP. Brooks park and North Creek park now have a connector path, which is an old wagon trail. It's ready to be a greenway at any time. Cumberland River compact planted 40 trees in site of streambank stabilization. Upcoming events: Rec soccer starting this weekend, baseball starting preseason Tournament. Rain left ton of debris on soccer field, clean up happening to clear it off. Splash pad will be opening Memorial Day weekend.
- b. Superintendent of recreation: Hosted virtual MLK day program online, Eddie K virtual concert for seniors had 800 views, senior drive-thru, easter bunny drive through for children. At community center walking track is open, Zumba classes being held Monday/Wednesday nights. Refit with swagger is on Tuesday/Thursday nights. Senior adult call check program averaging 200 calls per week. Over 30 baseball teams, 14 softball teams. Men's church softball set to begin April 5th. Tball registration to begin mid-April. Upcoming programs include GOODDog Easter Egg hunt, Spring SpEGGtacular egg hunt, senior adult drive thru in April. Marketing on Facebook included an easter egg counting contest, feeling Lucky shamrock contest, and recognized Employee Appreciation Day.

Agenda Items:

Old Business:

- a. LPRF Grant- Applied and still waiting for response, Rachel's Garden would be included in this grant.
- b. Blue Cross Blue Shield Grant- Grant was denied. Recipients of the grant were in high traffic, high visibility from interstate areas. We wanted to use grant at Brooks park, which is a pocket park, and doesn't meet the specifications that it appears like BCBS was looking for. Community feedback was that many neighbors of Brooks would like to see the park improved.
- c. Benchmarking- Has been put on pause because of Covid. Looking to ramp back up. Will need to develop policies and procedures in order to gain the benchmark status.

New Business:

- a. Connector Trail at North Creek Park- The trail is cut, already seen use on it. Would like to pave, hope to see growth in both Brooks and Northcreek park as a result of the new path.
- b. Tree Board- Commission voted to make the tree board their own entity. Looking to have their first meeting soon.
- c. Summer Aquatics- Fixed leak at splash pad. Pool is seeking lifeguards, need 10 lifeguards to open. If pool opens it will be at half capacity. Will need to be strategic with daycare groups. Pool makes a lot of money from them, but want to be sure citizens get a fair amount of time at the pool too. Swim team instructor feels confident she can provide covid safe lessons for swimmers.

Comments from Board Members and Staff: Dan commented that Sumner County master gardeners are active and working on monarch waystation with TN native wildflower plants.

Tim Commented that the offence/defense event at Moss Wright park was the first time in over 12 months that city hotel occupancy was over 60 percent.

Lori commended staff for keeping the department together and moving through such a difficult year.

Adjournment: Dan Sheppard made a motion to adjourn, second by Stuart Huffman

Next meeting- May 25 (Most likely in person)

Sarah Jennings, Recording Secretary

Mike Kelly, Chair