

**LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION**

**COMMISSION MEETING**

**MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2015**

**MINUTES**

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday, August 24, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Room at the Government Center, 106 Hillcrest Dr., Sanford, NC 27330.

Members present were Chad Spivey, Greg Crowson, Ed Underwood, LeVerne Kinney, Liz Kovasckitz, James Emerson, Commissioner Ricky Frazier, and Harry Stryffeler, Chair.

Also present were John Payne, Director and Debbie Carroll, secretary.

Absent members were Bill Oberkirsch and Eric Davidson.

**I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Meeting called to order at 5:34 pm by Harry Stryffeler. Motion for approval of minutes was made by Ricky Frazier. Ed Underwood seconded the motion and all approved.

Call was made for any changes to minutes, with no changes from members.

**II. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Call was made for any changes to agenda.

Motion for approval of agenda made by Ricky Frazier.

Seconded by Ed Underwood.

Approved by all.

**III. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (public comment)**

None.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. San-Lee Nature Center Project**

Mr. Payne met with Environmental Health at San-Lee and got approval to use the existing septic system. A tank will be put in at the top level of the park for solids and liquids will go to the bottom, to utilize the existing septic drain field.

John met with a Geotech firm at the site and they did two borings, the first of which reached 11 ½ feet and the second reached 14 feet 3 inches before hitting rock.

Mike Cain is working on a site survey. He will forward the CAD drawings to the architect.

#### B. O.T. Sloan Park Feasibility Study

Sloan was not chosen as the site for the multisport complex, as 80-100 acres is needed for it. The adjoining land has been selected as the #1 spot for another State Employees' Credit Union site. The county is still hoping to purchase enough land elsewhere at a reasonable price or have land donated to be able to build the complex.

Members talked about a 10 acre usage plan for the possibility of building a larger building on site at Sloan.

Bids came in for the fencing, gates and concrete pad last week on the dog park, which will still be built at Sloan Park. Of the seven bidders, the lowest bid was for \$14,000 and ranged up to \$41,000.

#### C. Bob E. Hales Center Renovations

John met with architect, Tim Sherman, concerning the renovations for the Armory. Four of the 8 roll-up bay doors will be bricked up and four will be made into store frontage with a main entryway from one of them. The reconstruction will create about 1600 square feet of extra space for meetings, parties, etc., with some extra footage for storage space and restrooms. Other usages of the extra space were talked about among the members.

Members talked about parking spaces to be used after the renovations. The Buggy Factory, which will house multiple government offices, will share parking at the gym with Parks & Recreation during the work week.

#### D. Horton Park Renovations

Purchase orders have been written for roof replacement, and the outside of the shelter will be painted.

The water fountain has been upgraded and a spigot attached to the building for customer usage.

The electrical will be done in house with General Services. Materials estimate is about \$1500.

John has done a purchase order for 15 loads of stone to upgrade Horton's parking lot and other parks, such as San-Lee.

As soon as specs have been received, John will do an RFP for fencing around the basketball court. The fence will be 10 feet tall, costing about \$8,000.

Members talked about safety concerns of the public walking on the roadway to cross the railroad tracks from the apartment complex next to the park. Commissioner Frazier would like to have the extra area cleared as a pathway for children to come through without having to come near the road. After discussion, the decision was made to have Kerry Self, county attorney, or Marilyn McKinney, with Risk Management, to look into liability and risk issues of accessibility to the park. Members continued talking about ideas to incorporate a pathway with previous plans for Horton's upgrades, wheelchair accessibility, park accessibility during different construction phases and the material quotes from the support document sheet.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Kiwanis Children's Park Place**

Mr. Payne talked with members about adding color with flowers to the Children's Park. The Kiwanis Club has volunteers for plantings, along with Scouts and church groups.

John said a NCRPA grant application has been submitted for Play Prints, characters like Hop Scotch or other shapes, which is sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC. It is for painted games that will be put down at Kiwanis Family Park to engage kids in more physical activity.

**VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

**VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Payne passed out his work plan with the exit phase for Kathy McLeod-Edwards, with Gymnastics, Ranger Steve Godfrey, Park Operations Manager at San-Lee Park, and himself, Director over Parks & Recreation.

Some programs, such as Art and Dance, have had to add extra classes because of the demand for them from the public.

John said athletics has changed quite a lot, with regular league numbers declining and more special events, such as outside help hosting basketball camps, etc. with shorter time frames, more in demand. He said in the 1970s and 1980s, Sanford used to host large softball tournaments, but they began going to larger towns, saying that Sanford didn't have enough room for them.

The building lease for gymnastics runs out in April, 2016. John feels sure that the landlord will increase the rent on the building. He is trying to find a new space of about 7700 square feet. We are currently paying \$36,000 per year to lease the Moore Office space.

John will be going on vacation during the September meeting dates and Lora will fill in during his absence, if the commission decides they need to meet.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 6:17 pm by Ed Underwood

Motion seconded by Greg Crowson, and all were in favor.

  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
Lee County Parks & Recreation Commission

  
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Debbie Carroll, Secretary