

LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

COMMISSION MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2014

MINUTES

The Lee County Parks and Recreation Commission met Monday, November 24, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. in the Commissioner's Room at the Lee County Government Center.

Members present were Eric Davidson, Chad Spivey, Liz Kovasckitz, Commissioner Ricky Frazier and Bill Oberkirsch

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

Absent members were Edgar Underwood, James Emerson, Nicole Ingram, Mark Kline and Harry Stryffeler

Guests were Billy Kelly, intern with Parks & Recreation, Dana Atkins with Lee Co. Tennis Association and Jay Hardison, District Director for Dixie Youth

I. CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:30 p.m. and motion made for approval of last month's minutes by Ricky Frazier.

Seconded by Bill Oberkirsch and approved by all.

II. ADDITIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion for approval of agenda by Ricky Frazier, with the addition of Dana Atkins as brought in for public comment speaking.

Seconded by Bill Oberkirsch.

Unanimous approval by all.

III. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS (public comment)

Dana Atkins, with Lee Co. Tennis Association, signed in to speak concerning soccer players on the O.T. Sloan tennis courts. She said the nets are being torn up and trash cans emptied, and the men say they were told they could play there anytime they wanted to. The police department will not run them off because of conflicting reports, saying they would rather them be there playing than on the streets doing drugs. Dana said the parents and youth, including herself, feel intimidated by the approximately forty young men sitting around waiting for tennis lessons to finish. The lights are being left on until after 2 a.m., as they can be turned on from the outside and used whenever wanted. Dana said she and Mary Tatum have tried turning off the breaker inside of the concession house to discourage them from using the place, but do not feel safe when they do this.

John said he would be speaking with Major Thomas with the police department. Ricky Frazier said the dawn to dusk policy needs to be implemented and signage removed there and at Horton Park that says otherwise.

People are also roller blading, roller skating, riding bikes and tricycles on the court.

Mr. Payne congratulated Ms. Atkins on the great job the Tennis Association did this fall with tennis enrollment and Play Day.

Mrs. Kovasckitz wants to address the lighting issue at the next budgeting session.

Introduce Billy Kelly, recreation intern

John introduced Billy Kelly to members. Billy is going to UNC in Wilmington and is doing his internship of 480 hours with the Parks & Recreation Department for about 2 months. Billy spoke to members saying he worked as a camp counselor, did carpentry, and managed a 2 Ball competition at the Armory while with us. He said he has enjoyed the experience of working with Lee Co. and hopes it will help him get a good job in the future.

Commissioner Frazier left for another meeting at 5:48.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A1. Discussion of Youth baseball/Softball Sanction Affiliation

After discussion, this section was moved to Old Business, as it was not discussed last month.

John Payne gave the board a quick history on the background of Parks & Recreation sanctioning with Tar Heel League, and wanted members to learn of a different option he is looking at partnering with. He said Dixie Youth works with adjoining counties so we could possibly play with one that may not have a league.

Jay Hardison, district director with Dixie Youth that Lee Co. would be placed in, introduced himself and spoke with members concerning the sanctioned sport. He discussed the different districts and different levels of play for baseball and softball, along with fees.

A2. Update O.T. Sloan Park Project

John said there was nothing new to report concerning Sloan other than the Friends of the Park foundation, a 501c3 organization, is still bringing in some funds for the dog park. He said the mayor has expressed a huge interest in the new sports complex, also to be located at Sloan Park.

B. Update Horton Park Project

Laura Spivey sent off the grant application Friday, November 14th, which should be returned the first week or two in December.

John Payne also spoke with Stan Hales, a forestry consultant, concerning the cost of cutting trees at Horton. Mr. Hales will be working with Brick

Capital Community Development's bid for cutting trees across from the park and will see if the removal of trees at Horton can be incorporated into the Brick Capital project.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion of 2015 Weekend baseball/softball tournaments

Tramway Road Park fields have been leased to USSSA the last three years for baseball and softball tournaments. It has also been leased for soccer tournaments. USSSA had some organizational issues this past year and did not get to play as much as they usually do. John said he has received many calls to rent the fields, but they were booked by USSSA and could not be rented out, so that created a revenue loss. This was about \$1200 for four fields and \$800 for less than four per weekend that they had the fields reserved but did not use them.

John has met with Top Gun Sports concerning softball and their organization's play and rental methods, and is to meet with them concerning baseball at a later date.

He said the fields could be rented out the entire year, but the big field would not hold up. Southern Lee High School sent him their baseball schedule for this year, but not their softball schedule. He does not book a tournament on the weekends that the high school uses the fields, as it is too much usage and does not give the fields a chance to recover.

John spoke with members concerning research he has done on surrounding counties' tournament rental rules and the way they are run during them. He would like to get feedback from members at the January meeting.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

This was put off until January meeting as Mark Kline and Harry Stryffeler were absent. They were putting together committees for the parks.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

John got in touch with architect, Tim Sherman, concerning the Bob Hales Center's storage bays. There are 8 bays with about 1600 square feet that could be restored as flex space. Mr. Sherman's estimate would be less than \$164,000 to brick up four of the bays, put in doors and storefront glass in the others, and restrooms.

He has spoken with city councilman Byron Buckles, who is trying to start up a program for young adult males to keep them off the streets and give them something positive to do. John told members we would use it on weekends for rentals such as family gatherings and birthday parties and the young adults use it through the week. He said he would like to keep things on a basic level with the space so any number of things could be done in there.

John told members that the Parks & Recreation Commission does not usually meet in December the date usually falls the week of Christmas and many members are with their families traveling.

John explained to members that Nicole Ingram had her baby and will be recovering from some health issues, and Mark Kline is a professor at Methodist now and will be out until the end of February with added duties.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm by Bill Oberkirsch

Seconded by Chad Spivey

All were in favor

Elizabeth Korosick, Acting Chair
Lee County Parks & Recreation Commission

Debbie Carroll
Debbie Carroll, Secretary