



**Town of Clayton
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM
York Room**

Board Members Present:

Mark Turnbull
Emily Beddingfield
Mark S. Morgan
Travis Crowder
Daniel Santarsiero
Carol Houston

Board Members Absent:

Butch Lawter
Rebecca Bradford
Jordan Sims
Karen Phinazee
Natasha Ellis-Smith

Staff Present:

Avery Everett, Town Council Member
Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent
Kelly Young, Board Clerk

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting was called to order at 6:09pm.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) DRAFT Minutes
• February 13, 2023 Regular Meeting

Adoption of February 13, 2023 Minutes

RESULT: CARRIED
MOVER: Daniel Santarsiero
SECONDER: Mark Turnbull

3 OLD BUSINESS

- a) Bond Projects Update
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Matt Lorion shared that we are in the final stages of our third bond project. Changes for Clayton Community Park are going into final review and adjustments to the infrastructure are being discussed. Overall, the footprint will not change. There have been budget cuts Town-wide and the shade structure at Municipal is under consideration. Mr. Lorion further mentioned that East Clayton Park may potentially open this weekend. A temporary handrail is being installed to meet ADA compliance. A question was raised about the accessibility of the fields for public use. Mr. Lorion answered that the fields would operate like the others throughout Town- public use is available when not used for programming or specified rentals.

b) Community Park Update

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion reiterated that plans for reconstruction of Community Park are moving forward. He hopes to see the final rendering soon. Most of what is being discussed at this point is utility related and does not include changes in amenities.

c) Greenway Updates

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion shared that a Grand Re-Opening of the Neuse Riverwalk will be held on May 1. There may be a soft opening in the next few weeks. The ceremony will take place near Bridge 5 and a shuttle will run from Riverwood to transport those who'd like to attend and are unable to walk the distance.

d) Legend Park

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion commented that there are no new updates for Legend Park at this time. There has been a new Town engineer assigned to the project who will be pushing it along as he has worked with the various agencies involved previously. In this regard, we accept this as positive progress in moving the project forward. The likelihood of the Greenway remaining open during the ongoing project is strong, however, not guaranteed. A short discussion was had concerning the proposed Nature Playground near this area of the Greenway but will likely be tabled until project completion. Further discussion mentioned possible cameras in the trailhead parking areas to help curtail incidences of vandalism that have recently become more prevalent.

e) Johnston County Skate Park

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

The Johnston County Skate Park efforts have made little headway in recent months. A skate camp is scheduled for the end of the month and several future events in the next year are planned to gauge public interest.

f) Facility and Greenway Online Maps

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion relayed that Mr. Barnard has signed off on one of the last of the possible Greenway maps that is being developed. This design should be available in the next 30-45 days. Mr. Lorion plans to bring mock-ups to the next Advisory Board meeting in May.

- g) **Arbor Day**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

An Arbor Day celebration is planned for April 28, 2023. There will be food trucks, tree giveaways, live music and a movie on the event field at Municipal Park.

- h) **Loop Road Master Plan**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion shared that several discussion meetings with Town staff and the public have been held on the topic of the Loop Road Master Plan. There has been much feedback and future meetings are to come. A QR code/link has been published on the Town's website and various other places to survey citizens as well.

- i) **Run the Branch 5K**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Our Run the Branch 5K registration has opened. A new timing company will be handling this component. Currently, the numbers are low, but the Runner's Club will be making a push for the event. Advertisements will be posted at the Greenway trailheads as well as local gyms. There will be no Tot Trot this year, but we are looking into it for the future. A brief discussion was had about a cross country trail system.

4 NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Parks and Recreation Master Plan Schedule**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion relayed that Town Manager Rich Cappola has received the final contract for our Parks and Recreation Master Plan for sign off and Sage Design has been awarded the contract. There will be multiple Plans running concurrently in Town which is a positive. Developing the Master Plan is a 12-month process after which the grant cycle can begin, which is leaning toward 2025. As with the Loop Road Master Plan, multiple opportunities for citizen input will be available including informational booths at several future events.

- b) **Square to Square**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

The Square-to-Square event is an event led by the Town and supported by Parks and Recreation. It will be held on May 20 and is a vendor fair similar to our fall Harvest Festival.

- c) **Fireworks**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Administration and Programs Superintendent

Our fireworks display will be held this year on July 1, after a few years on hiatus. This year's venue is the Clayton High School football field.

5 STAFF REPORTS

- a) Mr. Lorion shared that Athletics held its first Pickleball Tournament recently which was a big success. Nine teams competed. They are hoping to host another in the fall. Our

annual Easter Egg Hunt was also a huge success despite having to change plans at the last minute due to inclement weather. It was held in the Clayton High School gymnasium and had over 600 participants. Mr. Lorion noted that Summer Camp is filling up, with two locations being utilized, the Community Center as well as Clayton Middle School. A rental van has already been reserved to transport kids to the Splash Pad several weeks during the summer as well as being used for a few Senior trips. Several Specialty Camps have also gone live including those with whom we partner such as Mad Science and Little Medical School of the Triangle. Our Adult softball program did not have enough registrations to warrant enough teams and thus was cancelled.

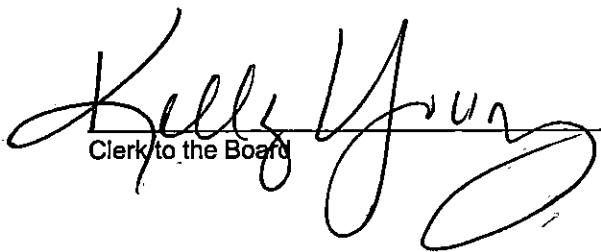
6 ADJOURN

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 7:23pm.

RESULT:	CARRIED
MOVER:	Emily Beddingfield
SECONDER:	Mark Turnbull

Duly adopted this the 12th day of June, 2023 while in regular session.


Board Chair


Clerk to the Board