



**Town of Clayton
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
March 14, 2022 @ 6:00pm
Clayton Community Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emily Beddingfield
Rebecca Bradford
Travis Crowder
Karen Phinazee
Jordan Sims
Mark Turnbull

STAFF PRESENT:

Deputy Town Manager Lee Barbee
Matt Lorion
Kelly Young
Sean Quigley
Evan Annese

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Council Member Avery Everett
Gina Garera
Butch Lawter
Mark Morgan
Daniel Santarsiero
Ted Willer

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting began at 6:09pm and was officially called to order at 6:16pm when a quorum was met.

Motion: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield
Second: Board Member Travis Crowder
Vote: Unanimous

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) DRAFT Minutes
- Recreation Advisory Board- 10 January 2022 Regular Meeting

Motion: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield
Second: Board Member Karen Phinazee
Vote: Majority

3 OLD BUSINESS

- a) Recreation Advisory Board Member Binders
Presenter: Kelly Young, Recreation Support Specialist

Kelly Young distributed informational binders for the members of the Advisory Board. The binders include documents such as yearly schedule of meetings,

minutes/agendas, contact info for members, organizational chart, Board by-laws, various plans (Master Plan, Comprehensive Growth Plan), and park ordinances, etc. The binder serves to keep relevant information compiled in one place for reference.

b) COVID-19- March Update

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Matt Lorion briefly reviewed the updated Town policy on COVID protocol. Currently, masks are optional but temperature checks upon entry to the buildings is still required. Staff are still signing in as they arrive to work in the building.

c) Bond Projects Update

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion commented concerning Bond updates that various parts of Municipal construction are being laid with connections to the parts starting to come together. The water line has been laid along McCullers Street with some surfacing done. The paving will be completed toward the end of the project. The groundbreaking at East Clayton went well. We are currently awaiting permits before moving earth in about two weeks. Mr. Lorion further relayed that the Musco Lighting quote for East Clayton has been entered and approved. Construction timelines are still on schedule. A formal opening for Municipal is anticipated for July with a ribbon-cutting in the fall. Weather and supply chain issues may contribute to any future delays.

d) Greenway Closure Updates

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion updated the Board based on information received from Planning concerning Greenway closures. We are still waiting on a schedule from JF Wilkerson. Our design builder that is constructing a new WRF (Waste Water Reclamation Facility), will be constructing new outfall this summer which will not require a full Greenway closure. They will share more info after meeting. It is anticipated that Sam's Branch to the river will be closed potentially from May to July. Suggestions were made for distributing information to the public for alternate routes along the Greenway.

e) All-Star Park Update

Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion shared that we are still working through the details for All-Star Park. No definite timeline has been established. Contacts have been made with the Globetrotters. Resurfacing and new graphics on the asphalt have been put in the budget for next year. A question was raised about repair of a broken planter at All-Star as well as a vehicle charging station. Mr. Lorion offered to investigate these items and report back. Deputy Town Manager Lee Barbee

also commented that car charging stations is on a list to be considered and researched by the Town in the future.

f) **Loop Road Park Updates**

Presenter: Matt Lorian, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Deputy Town Manager Lee Barbee updated the Board about the Loop Road project. He explained that two properties exist at Loop Road- the Dupont and Massey properties, which compile over 100 acres. Beginning initiatives were to plant green grass. One million dollars was allotted for the property. The Town called the State about any mitigation; a consultant was contacted. It was advised not to go below 18" from the surface. Mr. Barbee is working on an area between 8-12 acres to plant green grass. The area is overrun with kudzu; there is some concern about pond and dam. Testing is needed from State as to if pond can remain. Lots of details to work through. The plan is to make temporary changes until permanent solution is decided. Mr. Barbee commented that we are all having growth pains and lots of changes are happening everywhere. Attempts are being made to move all the Capital Improvement Plans (CIP's) to engineering to review how best to serve everyone. An updated Master Plan is a necessity.

g) **Clayton Recreational Foundation**

Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

Emily Beddingfield shared that the Recreational Foundation and the Recreation Advisory Board met on February 22 to discuss ideas as they relate to new projects in which the Foundation could become involved and help support. Some of the projects noted were improvements at Cooper Academy, a skate park, a Town pool, soccer fields, bike facilities, and downtown pop-up recreation, etc. The floor was opened for additional ideas. Much discussion was had about the skate park and a need to expand non-traditional activities.

h) **Pedestrian Plan Update**

Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

Mrs. Beddingfield stated that a draft is forthcoming in early April from the consultants for the Pedestrian Plan. It will be available for public view and will outline how to safely get around downtown, getting to parks, etc. Two big issues discussed by the Pedestrian committee include exiting Legend Park and crossing the track at Municipal.

4 NEW BUSINESS

a) **Johnston County's Walk and Talk About Trails Event**

Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

Mrs. Beddingfield commented on the Walk and Talk about Trails event that was organized by the Friends of Johnston County Parks. There was fantastic turnout and folks were able to see the need for safer routes to get to certain downtown destinations.

- b) **Town Website Updates/Parks & Facilities Maps**
Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

Mrs. Beddingfield mentioned there is no updated map of our Greenway system on our Town website. The one that is available is difficult to access. Mr. Lorion agreed that the need is there to have updated maps of all our parks/facilities and Greenway and is going to reach out to Lauren, our Marketing coordinator, to see how we can work through it. Ideas were discussed about how to go forth. Mr. Lorion commented that he would be more comfortable pursuing this updated mapping once Municipal is completed. This information is important for our potential residents and consumers.

- c) **Nature Playground Update**
Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

Mrs. Beddingfield met with the President and another member of the Junior Woman's Club to look at an area off the Greenway near Legend Park for a possible nature playground. Some light clearing is needed by the Town, but the Junior Woman's Club would lead the charge and handle funding for the project. Mr. Barbee expressed concern over evaluation of whether the site was Town property or easements. More research is needed to clarify this information.

- d) **Upcoming Budget Cycle**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion reviewed a copy of the budget cycle that is included in the Advisory binders. He asked that the Board peruse and ask any questions. He pointed out a few details like new positions requested, bigger costs in maintenance such as with chemicals, and other items being combined to help save the Town costs. Mr. Barbee concurred with the mention of a few specific details like the possible addition of Fleet vehicles. The budget is currently preliminary. He also added that he was excited about the new Data Analysis position that was recently hired to help in these areas.

- e) **July 4th Event**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion discussed the Square-to-Square event that is being planned just as last year. The July 3rd event is now a Town event, not just Parks and Recreation. Mr. Barbee added information about the fireworks situation and partnering with Archer Lodge. He also offered suggestions for new opportunities. This year's event will be held on July 2nd as this is the Saturday before the 4th.

- f) **Recreation Advisory Board By-laws**
Presenter: Matt Lorion, Parks and Recreation Administration and Programs Superintendent

Mr. Lorion noted that a copy of the Advisory Board by-laws is located in the binders. He asked that members read and review these to be discussed at the next meeting.

5 STAFF REPORTS

- a) Mr. Lorion introduced our two new programmers, Sean Quigley and Evan Annese. He also relayed that currently our Senior Games has 158 participants. Summer Camp registration will open on March 21 for residents and April 4 for non-residents. Camp will be scaled back this year since it will be housed solely at the Community Center. The summer program guide is scheduled to be released next week and will offer fewer programs, allowing our new programmers to get creative. An Easter Egg hunt will be held on Good Friday at Community Park with hopes of being moved to Municipal next year. The Road Race will return this year. No details at this time except that it will probably be a fall event. Finally, Mr. Lorion commented that pottery changes are coming. They are brainstorming ways to try and make better use of space. Some discussion was had about an alternate location for elements of pottery. A few questions were posed about the joint use agreement with the high school as it concerns public usage as well as the bridges at Lionsgate and on the trails.

6 ADJOURN

- a) The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:40pm.

Motion: Member Rebecca Bradford
Second: Chair Emily Beddingfield
Vote: Unanimous

Duly adopted this the 11th day of April, 2022 while in regular session.

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board