



**Town of Clayton
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
January 10, 2022 @ 6:00pm
Virtual**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emily Beddingfield
Travis Crowder
Gina Garera
Mark Morgan
Karen Phinazee
Dan Santarsiero
Jordan Sims
Mark Turnbull
Ted Willer

STAFF PRESENT:

Council Member Avery Everett
Scott Barnard
Kelly Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Rebecca Bradford
Butch Lawter

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

Motion: Vice Chair Ted Willer
Second: Board Member Gina Garera
Vote: Unanimous

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) DRAFT Minutes
- Recreation Advisory Board- 08 November 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion: Vice Chair Ted Willer
Second: Board Member Gina Garera
Vote: Unanimous

3 OLD BUSINESS

- a) COVID-19- January Update
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard began by sharing that the Town has adopted new COVID protocol based upon new CDC guidelines. Those guidelines include a five day out of

work policy as well as an extension of benefits voted on by the Town Council. Masks are still required in open, public spaces but may be removed for rigorous activity or if alone in an office.

b) Bond Projects Update

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Emily Beddingfield prefaced the Bond update with a general overview for the new Board members, noting that it was voted on in 2019. Mr. Barnard continued that we are now seeing progress as Municipal is the first portion of the overhaul. The sedimentary pond has been installed and is functioning. Final selections have been made; materials have been sourced and we are on track for a summer opening. We plan to have a celebration around Labor Day when we've completed at least 45-60 days of operation. East Clayton Park renovations will have a kick-off meeting on Friday and the plan is to have dirt moving in 2-3 weeks. Discussion mentioned phasing the asphalt work so that more elements of the park could be accessible. We are under budget currently. There will be a groundbreaking at East as well, hopefully around the second week of February, to keep East projects in the public eye. The Town Council will hopefully join the ceremony as well as they were appreciative to be included at Municipal's ceremony. The Clayton Clovers' season is set to kick off Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Barnard ended with a review of all the improvements proposed for East Clayton Park, including an LED, perimeter lighting package from Musco, a double pitch artificial turf field, netting on corners, portable goals, perimeter sidewalks on three sides of the artificial turf, expanded area behind Homeplate, and paving of all the parking. There will also be a round-about at the front area of the park to help with traffic flow.

c) Clayton Recreational Foundation

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard mentioned that our new Advisory Board member, Jordan Sims, also serves the Recreational Foundation. The Foundation wants to invite the Advisory Board to a meeting soon to collaborate on the next project which may include Community Center improvements, like Bocce, cornhole, shuffleboard, and horseshoes (elements involving Senior Games), since they have a donation specifically earmarked for this.

d) Greenway/Signage/Cameras Update

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared the new signage for the Greenway/park ordinances and elaborated on our camera system. Cameras are currently deployed at two places and are portable, moving from place to place. There has been vandalism at East Clayton Park and Community Park multiple times. There are currently no cameras on the Greenway. There will be a permanent camera set up at Municipal which will be on the Town's network. A third-party vendor at East, Musco Lighting, offers cameras. The cameras at Community Park were a wired system that was struck by lightning and is awaiting repair/replacement. Discussion led to the wayfinding signage which was a side project led by Travis Crowder so that folks could navigate from the Greenway to Downtown and back. Mr. Barnard relayed that they have been purchased and we should

be seeing those soon. Questions were raised about flooding on the Greenway. Mr. Barnard stated that there was no recourse to curtail the flooding. The goal was for it to sheet flow across the grass and filter to the river. There is nothing that can be done about overflowing the banks. Currently, maintenance leaves 8-10 feet of grass between the Greenway and the river. Three of the bridges are set to be replaced in the next few months. They will be steel bridge style.

- e) **All-Star Park Update**
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared a photo of the playground at All-Star Park as well as the new shade structure recently installed. The next step is to officially change the name from All-Star to Clyde Sinclair Park. The basketball court will become the Globetrotter Court and is set to be redone in March using corresponding colors and logo. Our tentative ribbon cutting is for the last Saturday in March with the Harlem Globetrotters in attendance. All-Star Park has gotten much more use in recent years and there are plans to update the play structure. The new shade will accommodate the new play equipment.

- f) **Comprehensive Growth Plan-Parks and Recreation Element**
Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Chair

Emily Beddingfield shared that the Comprehensive Growth Plan was recently adopted out to Year 2045. The plan accommodates coming growth, goals, various elements such as Parks and Recreation and helps with future funding. She encouraged the Advisory Board to keep the Town Council informed about our various ventures and urged other Boards to get involved as well. More information about the Comprehensive Growth Plan can be found on the Town's website.

4 NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Welcome New Advisory Board Members**
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

A slight change in agenda order was suggested by our Chair, Emily Beddingfield, and each of our Advisory Board members (seasoned and new) introduced themselves at the beginning of our meeting. We welcomed three new members to the Board, Daniel Santarsiero, Mark Turnbull, and Jordan Sims. It was adamantly agreed by all that we have the "Best Board in Town."

- b) **Staffing Changes**
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared there had been lots of movement within the Parks and Recreation department that has been mostly growth driven. We are currently interviewing and reviewing applications for Athletic Supervisor, Programmer, Park Superintendent, and Community Center Manager with Maintenance Crew positions becoming available soon. There has been an abundance of interested applicants, so the pool is promising. He went on to state that one of the qualifications for the Park Superintendent would likely be Splashpad and turf grass experience. The Community Center is expected to open seven days

a week in March, and we have added 22 acres of Bermuda grass in the last 4 months, so staffing is certainly a priority.

c) **Facilities Tour**

Presenter Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard invited the Advisory Board on a Facilities Tour around Clayton. The Advisory Board has taken a tour in the past. The Town Manager is also planning to take the Town Council on a tour. Plans for a modified tour may be necessary if group transportation is unavailable. The tour puts ideas/places in perspective and is helpful to fully understand the vast opportunities in the Town. The tour was tentatively set for Saturday, February 12. The Board will meet at the Community Center at 8:30am. More information is forthcoming.

d) **Loop Road Park**

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard elaborated on the adopted Master Plan for Loop Road Park, which would include elements such as an amphitheater, dog park, green spaces, outdoor classroom, events lawn, etc. There would also be parking access to the Greenway. The idea is to also have an environmental educational center as well as for the park to be a passive space where citizens could recharge and observe nature. A proposed zipline across the river will more than likely not come to fruition simply because the proposed location is now near the Waste-Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Barnard then showed another draft of the space that Council requested to be drafted and then awarded one million dollars to be designated for Loop Road Park. The second plan shows eight rectangular fields with parking. Mr. Barnard suggested he would like to see a merging of these two plans. Prior Council was excited about breaking ground; however, Mr. Barnard expressed reluctance in dismissing the original adopted plan that had been approved in recent years. His hope is that the Town's parks not become one dimensional. Discussion and suggestions were had about merging the elements of both plans so that they can coexist. Concern was also expressed to replace the space that was used on Powhatan Road. Mr. Barnard noted that there was money budgeted for consulting if taking a second look at this space is needed. Emily Beddingfield made a motion to recommend that Scott secure a design firm to incorporate the primary elements of the adopted Master Plan as well as the prior Council's direction to include the soccer fields before construction level design is initiated. The recommendation was seconded by Mark Turnbull and the vote was unanimous.

ACTION: Motion made to recommend that Scott secure a design firm to incorporate the primary elements of the adopted Master Plan as well as the prior Council's direction to include the soccer fields before construction level design is initiated.

Motion: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield

Second: Board Member Mark Turnbull

Vote: Unanimous

e) **Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard expressed the positive nature of having the Parks and Recreation Master Plan from the Town of Clayton and that we would be moving forward with the plan. The community has had much input. The Master Plan makes applying for grants much easier; it is pointless to apply for grants without one since the Plan identifies very specific priorities.

- f) Recreation Advisory Board By-laws
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard briefly mentioned the Advisory Board by-laws. A copy of the by-laws has been included in the Advisory Board binders to be distributed at our next in-person meeting. We should either adapt or adopt these by-laws.

- g) Pedestrian Plan
Presenter: Emily Beddingfield, Recreation Advisory Board Chair

Emily Beddingfield quickly commented that there is a Pedestrian Plan underway from a grant from the State and expressed her excitement to see it move forward.

5 STAFF REPORTS

- a) Mr. Barnard stated that programming is spinning up again with classes for photography, drawing, acrylics, fitness, etc. An interest in playing rugby on the Powhatan fields has been expressed. Our area boasts the second largest Rugby Club in NC. Also, one of our maintenance guys, Evan Annese, has been subbing in for Nick Rummage while the athletic program supervisor position is waiting to be filled. Our meeting concluded with Emily Beddingfield thanking the new board and encouraging them to share any new ideas and initiatives. Avery Everett also expressed thanks to the Board and reiterated his excitement for the new year.

6 ADJOURN

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

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

Duly adopted this the 14th day of March, 2022 while in regular session.

Chair

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board