



**Town of Clayton
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, September 13, 2021 @ 6:00pm
Clayton Community Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rebecca Bradford
Emily Beddingfield
Travis Crowder
Gina Garera
Butch Lawter
Karen Phinazee

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Barnard
Kelly Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilman Avery Everett
Bennett Jones
Mark Morgan
Ted Willer

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting was called to order by both the DDA and the Recreation Advisory Board at 6:05pm.

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

2 STAFF REPORTS- JOINT MEETING

- a) Parks & Recreation Department Bond Projects Update
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard stated that two contracts have been awarded by the Town. The first is for Municipal and is a Design Build contract. Proposed plans were distributed for the boards to look over and comment as Mr. Barnard explained different features of the design. Several tweaks are still in the works, but they are close to an advanced grading package which will accommodate upcoming events. The plan allows for 90-degree parking on McCullers and parallel parking on Kilgo, but this may flip flop due to overhead power lines. Mr. Barnard felt that this shared plan was about 75% accurate. The timeline for completion is Memorial Day 2022. Several questions were asked leading to discussion of items of interest. They are

hoping to go with seed instead of sod due to cost. The cost for total construction is an estimated 6 million dollars. Currently, there is no plan to move the concert series to Municipal. Mr. Barnard stated that this will be a venue for larger scale events. Signage or a gateway feature will hopefully be placed along Stallings. One member commented that directional signage should be considered to lead folks to downtown, tying Municipal to the downtown area. Pedestrian connectivity was discussed as well. The second contract awarded is for East Clayton Community Park and is a Design contract. Two artificial turfs, sports lighting and parking improvements are in the works. Also, Council recently voted on a deal to add a Minor League Baseball team at East with a 28-game season running from about Memorial Day to two weeks prior to Labor Day. This will be a college-aged, multi-state league. They are still workshopping an appropriate name for the team. Mr. Barnard added that CHS would reveal its new field with artificial turf on Friday night, September 17, 2021.

b) Downtown Parking Update

Presenter: Patrick Pierce, Economic Development Director

Mr. Pierce made a few comments about downtown parking concerns and remedies, pedestrian safety, and connectivity. He commented that this is an ongoing, active conversation and is moving in the right direction.

3 NEW BUSINESS- JOINT MEETING

a) Cycle NC 2021

Mr. Barnard stated that Cycle NC came to our town in 2019 with over 1000 cyclists. They never come to the same town in a 5-year rotation; however, due to changing plans, they are going to Smithfield this year and running a section of the Greenway from Falls Lake Dam to Municipal on October 7, 2021. They will be in Clayton from about 11:00am to 2:30pm which allows us a unique opportunity to serve them in our downtown area and bring in revenue. Clayton will be a lunchtime rest stop; therefore, this would be a great time to promote our restaurants and other local businesses. Much discussion was had as to how to plan for the cyclists. They will take over Horne Square, bringing in their own parking and portable potties. Several members submitted ideas including having vendors, a concert, quick menu items from local restaurants, picnic tables, and shade. There was also discussion about QR codes to scan for relevant information ahead of the stop over. The purpose of Cycle NC is to tour the state, eating and drinking the local fare along the way.

4 ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- a) The DDA and the Recreation Advisory Board concluded joint meeting and then met separately.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) DRAFT Minutes
 - June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting

ACTION: Adoption of June 14, 2021 Minutes

Motion: Member Gina Garera
Second: Member Butch Lawter
Vote: Unanimous

6 OLD BUSINESS

- a) COVID 19- September Update
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard reiterated our current mask policy which requires masks to be worn in the building except when engaging in rigorous activity. We have had no issues through our adult basketball season; we are now into our volleyball season. The facility has increased its cleaning protocol, utilized outside spaces for class time and opened our roll up doors in the upstairs classrooms to help curtail the spread of illness. Even third-party users of our facility are required to follow the rules set forth under our health and safety protocol while using our spaces.

- b) Summer Camp 2021
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Summer Camp was a success. Mr. Barnard stated that we had maintained healthy staff and campers right up till the Monday after camp ended. A few positives cases with campers showed up after that but no staffers popped positive that were exposed. All recovered fully.

- c) Clayton High School Partnership
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard announced that Friday night, September 17, 2021 would be the ribbon-cutting ceremony and the first official night of play on the new artificial turf field at CHS. The field looks great and was really done well; turf was extended all the way to the track's edge which will help with maintenance and overall flexibility of field use. Hopefully, soccer fields will get artificial turf added in the next phase of upgrades; we are currently waiting on more funding but in the meanwhile, the soccer fields are still serviceable. Cost and leadership changes have played a part in the delay of completing the CHS soccer fields. Parks and Recreation programs have already benefitted from this partnership with added meeting space. The Clayton Youth Council plans to hold its meetings in the cafeteria monthly.

- d) Legend Park/ Dump
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard presented a proposed plan for Legend Park which had in year's past been the town dump. He explained various aspects of the layout including the waste movement, covering with a membrane, and hauling in dirt to cover. There will be a steep slope of the land, planted with meadow grass. Mr. Barnard also clarified that no trees will be planted as they would allow "venting" of the covered waste if the tree was to be uprooted. A parking lot would be revamped to allow access to the Greenway trailhead.

- e) Greenway Closures/Signage Update

Mr. Barnard stated that Council would be voting on new park ordinances and appropriate signage. The Town of Cary was used as a reference guide for establishing our proposed park ordinances. We had zero on the books regarding our parks. The signs will state rules as well as ordinances. Basically, upon review, Clayton took out the indefensible material. Rebecca Bradford requested a copy of the ordinances before the next meeting.

- f) Comp Plan Update- Recreation Element

Mr. Barnard updated that we now have a new planning director, Ben Howell. He is going to take the Comp Plan and run with it where it fell apart. Emily Beddingfield requested homework to review for the recreation piece.

7 NEW BUSINESS

- a) Turkey Trot
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard relayed that discussions with the Recreational Foundation had yielded a proposed 5K/10K Turkey Trot to be held on Thanksgiving morning. The race would begin at Municipal Park and run a portion of the Greenway. An entry fee would be paid by participants to benefit the Foundation. Sponsorships would be sought for T-shirts. Some ideas that were bounced around include youth volunteers, serving coffee and donuts, and the use of chip timers to space runners. Future marathon ideas were mentioned as food for future thought.

- b) Natural Playground
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks & Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard presented a plan to have the proposed knoll at Legend Park become a natural playground, a play area in the woods so to speak. White oaks would be cut and designed to become play structures. A representative from the Jr. Women's Club has already expressed an interest in this project and are seeking others for ideas and help. The discussion turned once again to the proposed plan for Legend as a whole, and concern was expressed for the negative aesthetic of the property

and lack of restrooms. One member suggested a field option for play and others urged Mr. Barnard to "push back" on the current proposed option. Other ideas were offered up including a dog park or future skate park. All in all, the concept behind the reconstructed design for Legend is about protecting the waterway. Members expressed preserving as much as possible for active use, especially since the park is so close to town. Mr. Barnard stated that they would like to break ground in the spring and reiterated that these options were still a draft.

8 INFORMAL DISCUSSION

- a) Several topics were briefly mentioned including "Coming Soon" signs for Municipal, Legend's parking area, and a few Greenway concerns.

9 ADJOURN

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 7:26pm.

ACTION: Motion to Adjourn

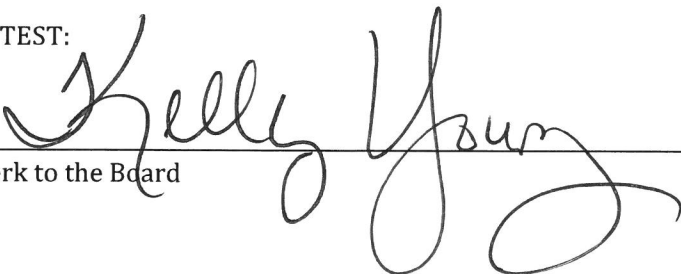
Motion: Member Rebecca Bradford

Second: Member Gina Garera

Vote: Unanimous


Emily Beddingfield, Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board