



**Town of Clayton
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
Monday, October 11, 2021 @ 6:00pm
Clayton Community Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emily Beddingfield
Travis Crowder
Bennet Jones
Butch Lawter
Karen Phinazee
Ted Willer

STAFF PRESENT:

Council Member Avery Everett
Scott Barnard
Kelly Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gina Garera
Rebecca Bradford
Mark Morgan

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm.

Motion: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield
Second: Board Member Ted Willer
Vote: Unanimous

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Draft Minutes
- September 13, 2021 Regular Meeting

ACTION: Adoption of September 13, 2021 Minutes

Motion: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield
Second: Board Member Bennett Jones
Vote: Unanimous

3 OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Barnard stated that the only change this month in our COVID-19 update relates to winter sports, specifically basketball, which is getting ready to begin. Because of our usage of various school facilities in the county, we must adhere to their specific policies. Therefore, although we don't have a mask mandate at the Community Center when engaged actively in rigorous sport, the schools do require masks regardless of the activity. This information has been relayed to parents and coaches. Mr. Barnard commented that as the volleyball season is wrapping up, participants and parents had done well with compliance.

- b) Bond Projects Update
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard announced that a special session with the Town Council will take place Nov. 10, 2021, at 3pm to discuss Municipal Park and East Clayton Park project updates. The construction firm has been hired for Municipal and they are currently honing the final costs for the Town of Clayton. East Clayton is going out to bid this week. The final cost for Municipal and the bid for East Clayton will then be taken to the Local Government Commission on Nov. 15 to determine how much money will be borrowed. Mr. Barnard stated that Municipal is coming in over budget which is not surprising due to the rising costs everywhere. Originally, Municipal's budget was 5 million but is now coming in at 6.5 million. Decisions will need to be made as to how to allocate funds for each park project. Mr. Barnard expressed his advocacy for 100% completion of Municipal as well as East Clayton Park and then to reevaluate. It would not be ideal to partially complete three park projects. It is unfeasible to work on all three park projects simultaneously. There is very little room to cut from the budget. Mr. Barnard stated he would love to have representation from the Recreation Advisory Board at the meeting on Nov. 10 with the Town Council as there would be much to debate. Mr. Barnard also mentioned that the Town Council will receive a demo package for Municipal which should begin in November in order to complete the project by Memorial Day. The poor condition of our current tennis courts at Clayton Community Park were addressed. However, our saving grace is our partnership with Clayton High School and the use of their courts.

- c) Cycle NC 2021
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared there were about 850 cyclists who came through Clayton with Cycle NC on October 7, 2021. The town was busy with activity that day and our economic development team had surveyed local businesses to gauge economic impact. Three weeks ahead of this event, businesses were reminded of our guests and business owners were excited. Multiple officers worked the event, and it was pulled off without incident. Some of our Town team went to Creedmoor the night before to distribute maps and QR codes relaying information about our town. The cyclists seem to like Clayton. This was the first time they had ridden a long section of Greenway, over 30 miles. Mr. Barnard suggested that we take this success and figure out a way to go after something different, perhaps other cycling groups or other

sporting groups with tournaments such as tennis and draw in revenue for the town.

- d) Clayton High School Partnership Update
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Clayton High School is still waiting on the Town for small details to be finalized. The partnership contract has been signed but another contract which spells out details such as mowing frequency, fertilizing, keys, bathroom supplies, etc. is still in talks. These details should be finalized soon. Everyone is anxious to get things rolling. The CHS facilities are not locked generally and can mostly be used. Hopefully, in the next 30 days, the full partnership will come to fruition and everyone can begin to enjoy the added amenities. Mr. Barnard said that an official announcement will be made. A question was raised as to which other schools engaged in a joint use agreement with the Town. Clayton Middle School's partnership is at the attorney's office. The other schools utilized are Cooper and Riverwood but those are rent agreements. Some discussion was had about future partnerships, especially with schools with gymnasiums/multipurpose rooms.

- e) Clayton Recreational Foundation
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

The Clayton Recreational Foundation has done an amazing job to secure the naming rights sponsor for the new stage at Municipal Park. The legalities are currently being reviewed but a large local employer will donate \$75,000 for a five-year term with an option to renew. There will be picnic shelters available as well to sponsor and name, with discretion, of course. Mr. Barnard explained that the money collected goes to the Foundation, and then the Town decides allocations. The Foundation is used as a conduit to get monies that provide an economic benefit to the donor. Mr. Barnard also mentioned that Parks and Recreation has been approached twice in the past month about two different property donations. Neither have recreational value but do add value for economic development within the Town so leaders are working to see how to do just that, perhaps directing it through the Foundation to benefit Parks and Recreation.

- f) Greenway/ Signage Update
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard stated that there were no new developments or updates regarding Greenway signage. Discussion is between legal and PD right now. He expects there will be much discussion in the future between Town Council and the Police Chief. As a side note, a question was raised about updates on the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Barnard mentioned the three projects that will be impacting the Greenway: the replacement of the three bridges in Riverwood (which is out for bid), the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the work at Legend Park- all three being Greenway disrupters. The wish is to coordinate projects, so the Greenway is not closed on multiple occasions. Hopefully, at least two projects can line up. No talk was mentioned on scheduling or delays.

- g) Legend Park/ Natural Playground
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard stated that Parks and Recreation was approached by a local citizen who took the idea for a natural playground to a member of the Junior Woman's Club. They were going to collaborate, form a vision and bring it back for review. A

location has been solidified. Part of the plan includes using the existing White Oak trees on Legend's site because of their longevity. As far as Legend Park's future plan, our concerns were sent back to the new project coordinator who requested an area on the topography map detailing an area to be padded out (capped). That was completed and sent to the designer. The project coordinator will let Scott know when he has updates. Questions were raised about dangers of toxicity on Legend's site. Mr. Barnard stated that there was no danger of leeching methane gas but there are sink holes and waste pouring out of the ground. Trees may create venting if they were to fall over, so deforesting will occur and probably two feet of dirt placed on top. Only household waste has been detected at this site, no chemicals. Timeline should begin in 2022; it will not be a quick process and it will be a very visible project. Further discussion was had regarding the Greenway connection on City Rd. and installing a barrier next to the Greenway to make it as safe as possible. This is probably not feasible due to right of way regulations, but it was suggested that future considerations should be made regarding sidewalk and Greenway connections when they abut major roadways.

- h) Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard commented that our Master Plan will be layered on top of the Comprehensive Growth Plan and Mrs. Beddingfield added that no new updates were available.

4 NEW BUSINESS

- a) Comprehensive Growth Plan- Recreation Element
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director and Emily Beddingfield, Advisory Board Chair

Emily Beddingfield reviewed the Comprehensive Growth Plan's Parks and Recreation element which is in the process of being updated. Copies were distributed of the plan as she shared her desire for everyone to be aware of the policies and to make sure they aligned with everyone's understanding of the plan. One interesting goal outlined in the plan is to provide all Clayton residents convenient access to a park within a 10-minute walk. Other ideas included prohibiting invasive plant species, incorporating green infrastructure which involves storm water, land, rivers, wildlife, and tree canopies, etc. and ensuring policies to protect what we have already. Mrs. Beddingfield noted her excitement in moving forward with the next steps as they relate to the future Master Plan.

5 STAFF REPORTS

- a) Mr. Barnard mentioned that activities are resuming, and our outdoor spaces are being utilized often. He noted that we are "full speed" on our offerings but only "half speed" on our number of participants. Fall programming is a full slate, something for everybody. Other departments like the library are using our facilities to ensure social distancing measures. On the Operations side of things, Mr. Barnard commented that mowing has lessened with cooling temperatures; now the blowing begins to keep the Greenway safe.

6 **ADJOURN**

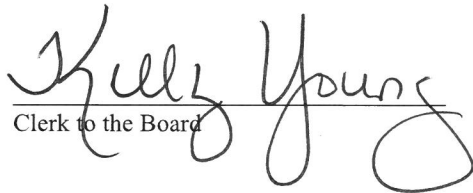
- a) Adjourn the Meeting

ACTION: Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Board Member Bennett Jones
Second: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield
Vote: Unanimous


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board