



**Town of Clayton
Recreation Advisory Board Minutes
November 8, 2021 @ 6:00 PM
Clayton Community Center**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Emily Beddingfield
Rebecca Bradford
Travis Crowder
Gina Garera
Bennett Jones
Mark Morgan
Ted Willer

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Barnard
Kelly Young

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Council Member Avery Everett
Butch Lawter
Karen Phinazee

1 CALL TO ORDER

- a) The meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm.

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

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) DRAFT Minutes
- Recreation Advisory Board - 11 October 2021 Regular Meeting

ACTION: Adoption of Minutes

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

3 OLD BUSINESS

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

Mr. Barnard stated there had been no change in the Town policy. The mask mandate is still in effect, but he is optimistic that the mandate for masks will

relax inside the facilities, maybe after Thanksgiving. This would be good news for our athletics. Johnston County Schools has relaxed their mandate and players are no longer required to wear masks while engaged in sports. This is helpful for Parks and Recreation programming since we currently utilize some of their facilities.

b) Bond Projects Update

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard shared that the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for Municipal Park has come in at \$6.5 million, which was a little higher than the target but still manageable. Some disappointing news was that the bid opened today for East Clayton Park, but only two were given. A minimum of three were needed. Bids will be reopened on Nov. 30. He estimated that bonds would be sold in early December. Of the \$18 million, \$13.5 million would be borrowed which includes all our contingencies. Things seem to be going well for the Town currently and Mr. Barnard is hopeful that the projects at Community Park will advance. All projects seem to be on track. Municipal Park has now changed; it is almost scraped clean. The bleachers and lighting were donated and about 80 wheel stops were saved to reuse. Municipal is scheduled to be completed before May and East Clayton by mid-May. Mr. Barnard showed a rendition of the plan for Municipal and commented on various aspects of the plan. The Town has chosen a style for benches as well as a VORTEX Splashpad which will be about 5800 square feet. The playground equipment will be made by Miracle and will be larger than the previous playground. There will be lots of seating walls, permanent umbrellas, and four outdoor power pedestals that will allow for 50 AMP food trucks. Landscape ideas were discussed, for instance using native species and avoiding leaf litter around the splashpad. Fruit trees aren't an option since we don't want to attract bees where kids play. Also, soft bushes were recommended as opposed to holly to be more playground friendly. July 4th festivities were mentioned. Archer Lodge has reached out regarding a collaborative effort to possibly handle fireworks. Clayton could head up a July 3rd street event. No decisions have been made at this point. On another note, Mr. Barnard invited the board to the Council meeting on Nov. 10th at 3:00 where they would be deciding that the \$13.5 million will be purposed for these specific projects. He encouraged those that could not attend to email/call Council members to express their support/ideas. Additionally, Mr. Barnard advised that the YMCA will be vacating the property at Powhatan. East Clayton improvement projects, which include lighting and parking, will allow the Clayton Clovers, a college, wooden-bat league to play during the summer. They will be looking for host families for the players.

c) Clayton High School Partnership

Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard stated that we would hopefully be finalizing details soon. Council approved two new positions for Parks and Recreation primarily for the CHS site as well as the greenways. They also reclassified a vacant position for a Parks Superintendent so there will hopefully be someone dedicated with a degree in Agronomy or something similar like Turf Grass Management to handle that end of our operation, which is a necessary jump as we expand our operations. Two new crew positions will be hired by the new superintendent

and will round out that team which has grown substantially in recent years. As a sideline, our partnership with Clayton Middle is also becoming formalized and we will be hosting a disc golf tournament on Nov. 14th. A hybrid course will be at Community Park, the Community Center, and CMS. Currently, 98 participants are registered. Mr. Barnard also mentioned he had touched base with Cooper Elementary about a partnership there as well. There is much interest from multiple parties in this regard.

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

Caterpillar has committed \$75,000 for 5-year naming rights to the new stage at Municipal Park. There are also others who are interested in naming items at Municipal including the splashpad. A great relationship is being formalized between the Town and the Foundation as attorneys work out how the Foundation can be a conduit to receive land donations and cash donations for sponsorship. There is already a land donation in the works along Ranch Road.

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

Mr. Barnard presented some drafts of greenway signage. Law enforcement officials said regulations needed codes posted as well so that they could be enforced more easily. Codes were adopted a week ago with park-specific regulations. The Board was asked to review and comment if they saw any changes that were needed or should be added. A police liaison has previewed the document and approved. Some questions were raised and answered about lighting at Community Park. Field lights are scheduled but tennis courts are on a timer system. No lights should be on past 11pm.

- f) **Comprehensive Growth Plan Update**
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard stated that there was still time to complete surveys and weigh in on the plan. There's been lots of feedback. Leaders attended the Fall Fling event and hosted a tent at the Harvest Festival. Emily Beddingfield commented that the Pedestrian Plan is still online till Nov. 15th.

4 NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Barnard stated that we have had some staff changes- one resignation (a programmer) who is moving to the mountains. Hopefully, the position will post soon. We also have a Community Center manager position to be funded by January.

- b) **Recreation Advisory Board Special Dates/Meetings**
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Our Advisory meeting calendar for next year was presented and voted on with one change made to reschedule the Feb. 14th meeting to Feb. 7th. The Advisory Board Appreciation Dinner will be held December 9th at Brick and Mortar. It was voted upon to cancel the December 13th Advisory meeting date as the Appreciation Dinner is already being held in December.

ACTION: Adoption of 2022 Meeting Calendar

Motion: Board Member Rebecca Bradford

Second: Board Member Gina Garera

Vote: Unanimous

- c) **Appointments to the Recreation Advisory Board**
Presenter: Scott Barnard, Parks and Recreation Director

Mr. Barnard presented the status of members currently serving on Advisory and asked for discussion if the number should be reduced or remain at 11. He expressed that reducing the number to nine makes it easier to have a quorum which has been difficult for some boards due to the current times while navigating a pandemic. The consensus was reached to keep the board at 11 in hopes of having a more diverse group. Some questions were raised as to the number of members allowed for inside Town limits and those in ETJ. No solid answer was confirmed.

ACTION: Adoption of By-law Amendment

No changes made; no vote required.

Motion: None

Second: None

Vote: None

5 STAFF REPORTS

- a) Mr. Barnard stated that we have the biggest youth council we've had in years. Our basketball numbers are at about 80% in comparison to pre-COVID. Pottery classes are booming. Our special populations dance took place in October and we have had the same numbers as previous years, about 30, plus lots of support for donations. This is an indication that people still want to get involved and give back. Our Elf Academy will be on Dec. 10th, geared toward kids under 12. Kids will go through elf challenges, Santa will be there, and kids will receive certificates. No Santa calls will be made this year as it has become more challenging. One suggestion was made to have a Santa mailbox for children to drop letters to Santa. Mr. Barnard is hopeful that our Elf Academy will fulfill that desire.

6 ADJOURN

- a) The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm.

Motion: Board Chair Emily Beddingfield

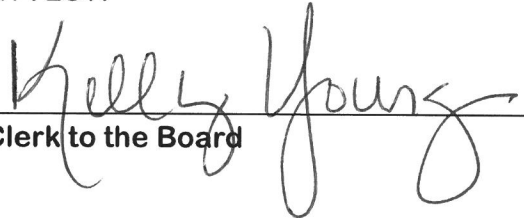
Second: Board Member Travis Crowder

Vote: Unanimous

Duly adopted this the 10th day of January, 2022 while in regular session.


Chair

ATTEST:


Clerk to the Board

