

CARRBORO RECREATION AND PARKS COMMISSION – 2/4/08

Present – Members: Doris Murrell, Marianne Nicholson, Eric Allman, Cheryl Parker and Kevin Fuerst; Board Liaison: Lydia Lavelle; Guests: Steve Scroggs and Staff: Dennis Joines and Anita Jones-McNair.

Murrell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Murrell called for corrections or questions concerning the minutes of the last meeting, 1/07/08. No corrections or questions were requested; therefore the minutes were accepted as presented.

Communications and/or Speakers from the Floor

Alderman Lavelle was introduced as the Commission's new Board Liaison. Steve Scroggs was introduced and presented an overview of the School Facility Rental Process. Facility rentals were recently transferred to his division. Soon the rental function will be web-based and available on line to complete. Scroggs shared that fact that there were over 12,000 hours of facility rentals last year. One of the main focuses will be to know who is renting each facility and when. He is also standardizing the scheduling process along with facility billing. One other focus is on advance communication with renters.

Nicholson asked about the usage of outside facilities. He mentioned tennis courts should be reserved for liability purposes. Tracks are open and rentals are only necessary for track meets and structured activities. Base and softball fields are rented too. The school district runs into problems with rental of rectangular fields for soccer, lacrosse and field hockey because of high usage and maintenance concerns. The district is considering artificial turf.

Murrell asked about the Community in Schools Committee/Group history. At this point, Scroggs is not aware of the history, however is not opposed to the idea of having a group of citizens to help. He reiterated that we serve the same citizens. Murrell also shared the meeting of the local Recreation and Parks groups and the concern raised about working with the school districts and facility usage. Everyone in attendance agreed on the need for balance between schools, communities and renters.

Joines asked about facility rental increases. Scroggs did not anticipate our rental fees increasing for the next fiscal year. Joines also requested that staff work with his office on facility key inventory.

New Business

Murrell called for new business. Joines presented and summarized a departmental Special Events calendar. Jones-McNair suggested that the listing be given to the Board of Aldermen.

Jones-McNair presented the Smith Soccer Field resurfacing project that Orange County requested. The commission discussed the request. One of the concerns was the precedence it will set. They also thought about similar situations that the Town was involved in. The Century Center Hall floor and Farmers Market were mentioned. Jones-McNair will check on those two situations and provide information in the upcoming Board Agenda item. The commission was asked whether they can support the recommendation(s) presented to the Board? The commission members present can support the recommendation(s) presented to the Board, however expressed concern that the groups that contribute should not be allowed to increase usage and "bump" other groups using the field unless time is available.

Old Business

Murrell called for old business. Allman announced the Bicycle Committee is underway. Greenways Incorporated is the consulting firm that will work with the committee and community to develop a Bicycle Plan. The first public workshop will be in April.

Allman also provided an update on the Greenway Commission. Two commission meetings were held and one is scheduled for Wednesday. The first meeting was an introductory meeting sharing specific information about the commission and charge. The second meeting was designed to provide an informative 3 hour session that included presentations from Chapel Hill, Land Legacy, Morgan Creek Land Conservation and Greenways. The next meeting is scheduled to elect officers and begin the RFQ process for the Bolin Creek and Morgan Creek projects.

Report by Chair and Director

Jones-McNair summarized the proposed budget. She also announced a cultural resources project with three MPA students this quarter. Alderman Lavelle suggested obtaining a copy of the Architectural Inventory.

Murrell announced the Tennis Backboard Dedication scheduled for February 13th.

Alderman Lavelle asked how many membership applications are being reviewed and how many commission seats available? Murrell shared that two applications are being considered and 4 committee openings.

Considerations for next and future meetings

Meeting Adjournment

Murrell adjourned the meeting at 9:04p.m.