

Recreation Advisory Board
July 25, 2019
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Nic Palmer, Alan Swank, Brandon Thompson, Travis Gatling

City Staff: Terri Moore, Vanessa Scott

Guests: No Guests

Call to Order: The July meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was called to order at 5:33 pm

Old Business

Sandlot

- Terri stated she would like to get a letter out to Sandlot and suggests meeting with them prior to the retreat or at least have letter for review prior to that.
- Alan said he would like the letter done within the next two weeks in order to get a response prior to August meeting.
- Terri stated she would get a draft to the advisory board, make changes accordingly, and have Andy and the mayor review. Said she sent an e-mail to Todd, and they seem compliant.
- Alan said he draft a letter or be involved one on one with Kevin S. States it's important to work together, air grievances.
- Nic states issue has been ongoing for some time - not sure why it is an issue. There should be a dialogue to find out issues and get a response from them before the retreat.

Arts West After School Program

- Terri stated that the Afternoon Arts program is happening. It will operate 4 days a week – Monday – Thursday. One issue to overcome is escorting children to arts west from the school.
- Alan – there should be concern about rain and snow, and it's not a good street to be walking and concerns about safety. Terri said she will discuss the route and weather concern with the program specialist.
- Terri reports the program will accommodate twenty kids max. Cost will be comparable to afterschool program at Athens Community Center. Time will be 3:45 to 5:30 P.M. 20 people have already stated interest, so it has potential to be full.

Retreat Agenda

- Terri reports as for the date, September or October. Andy and Mayor Steve would like to be a part of it. The first three weeks in October is best for them.
- Time is dependent on availability of board members. Terri states her staff is available all day.
- Put together an agenda to determine if it requires a full day or half day.

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- MOU to be discussed as well as projects to tackle. Terri would like to develop a work plan of priorities. Have full time staff at the retreat. She would like the board to help decide priorities for the coming year.
- Nic says he'd like to revisit the long term priorities for Arts, Parks, and Recreation. Priorities to be covered include MOU, Sandlot, and farmer's market.
- Terri agrees that Arts, Parks, and Recreation is due for a master plan. Would like to work internally on a comprehensive maintenance plan.
- Terri brought up that due to retirement of George Enevoldsen, Parks and Recreation will probably inherit some of those duties. Alan expressed concern that Kevin and crew cannot keep up with what we have. Terri said they are not cutting positions, just not filling George's position. Kevin will oversee the existing employees formerly under the director of Lands and Buildings. Lands would have three part time and one full time employee, for a total of four employees.
- Brandon brought up that priorities should be determined because all projects look different and needs shift over time.
- Mark said he would like to see at the retreat the mayor present what he sees for the future where the board can be most helpful.
- Mark asked if fall is the right time of year before budget to hold the retreat.
- Terri said she believes it is because they will be talking about budget. Would like Kathy to come to retreat and give a budget overview.
- Alan said one thing to keep in mind is who the city serves. Determine what taxpayers want and ensure that projects are being done with them in mind, not just what fits into a department's timeline.
- Alan mentioned one idea brought up recently was adding outdoor programming from the Habitat House. Terri pointed that thus far we do not have any outdoor programming.
- Nic says they should seek input from the mayor at the retreat as to why board members were appointed so that they can play to their strengths.
- Terri said staff suggested board can help with a scholarship program. Board needs to determine how many scholarships are rewarded and how. Would like support from the board to write grants for Athens Foundation for girl empowerment and Women in Sports Day.
- Terri said for retreat she'd like to discuss Sandlot, APR budget, which Kathy would likely agree to come in and review that. Looking at projects and 2020 goals.
- Can also ask Lisa Eliason to come in and look at MoUs.
- Terri would like to see work sessions and not lectures at retreat. Adding value to the guests is important. Would like to bring top three items for projects.
- Alan said he'd like to see five years of revenue numbers and expenditures
- Mark would like to draft what the board's impact for the next year

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- Travis also asked what the board's boundaries also are and suggests that also needs to be determined
- Mark suggests setting an annual calendar. Would like to know how to formalize: onboarding, what are needs and what isn't needed, boundaries, focus on goals, what they have done.
- Terri says she sees the board as an advocate and advisory board. Would like to determine the community needs through perhaps surveys or town halls. She would like to survey different interest groups.
- Getting feedback from other boards could be helpful to round out perspectives. There are eighteen other boards, including the disability commission.
- Planning and instruction more important at retreat.
- There are only two meetings before beginning of October when they hope the retreat will be. They would like to identify an agenda to be discussed at next meetings. Homecoming is the 12th and have to keep in mind city and university events.
- Terri suggests meeting off-site, though there's concern work won't be getting done off site. She suggests a half day. Her staff suggests Pleasant Hill Winery, Jackie O's venue space off-site, so they can relax after. Light breakfast if done in the morning. Lunch if in afternoon.
- Suggested 1st week of October. Tentative date is Wednesday October 2nd from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M. Shade Winery was suggested by Alan.

Staff Report

- Terri reports they recently replaced the pool controller in the lap pool. Replaced on Wednesday. Air conditioner went out on Sunday at Athens Community Center. She says they closed early.
- Terri says Kyle's last day is August 10th. Andrew is back August 12th. Administrative Operation Specialist position is filled and they begin August 5th.
- Terri reports there was an incident at the pool where a camper hit their head. Life guards and camp staff did what they needed to do. Injury wasn't serious.
- Terri announced the Arts West fundraiser at Devil's Kettle for music lending library from 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.
- Terri says two weeks left of summer camp. Brought in \$93,500 in revenue from summer camp. Cost was \$38,000. Reduced staff by two and implemented some changes from last year.
- Terri reports fall soccer registration is open.
- A part time preschool teacher position is open. Adding nature-based programming in preschool this year.
- Terri says Habitat House is on the radar and is moving forward.

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- Terri said there is a contract with York Paving for repaving bike path. Work was supposed to start last week. Kevin will supervise. We have used York in the past for bike path paving.
- Alan asked about a rumor he'd heard if pool was \$60,000 short of where we need to be. Terri thinks they're way ahead of where they were and will take a look at it.
- Terri says there are concerns with 271 for the Community Center. Ran promotion through July for membership. Says she doesn't have immediate concern for 270.
- Terri said she'd like to continue with increase in promotion for memberships. She will take a hard look at programs and how to grow numbers.
- Terri offered to provide reports.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 P.M.