



OAK RIDGE PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
OAK RIDGE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Members Present

Tracy Street, Chair
Phyllis Anders, Vice Chair
Brady Young

Staff Present

Terry Lannon, Parks & Recreation Director
Ashley Royal, Deputy Clerk

Members Absent

Mike Cronan, Alternate
John Garrett
Barry Knight

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Tracy Street called the meeting to order at 6:57 p.m.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Brady Young made a motion to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of Be the Match 5K (Amy Nelson) and the 2019 Music in the Park schedule (Phyllis Anders) under New Business. Phyllis Anders seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Phyllis Anders made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2018 meeting. Brady Young seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).

4. STAFF REPORT

Parks & Recreation Director Terry Lannon presented the staff report:

- **Finance report.** Lannon presented an update on the current budget.
- **Park improvements.** Lannon reported that fall seeding is done and the majority of the planting has been completed.
- **Septic tank update.** Lannon reported that he is waiting on Duke Energy to finish their work on the septic tank.
- **Concession trailer slab.** Lannon reported that the slab for the concession trailer is operational now.
- **MST.** The group will hold two work days on November 17th and 28th.
- **Eagle Scout projects.** Lannon suggested that it is time to update the idea list for Eagle Scout projects and that there are potential projects at the Cascades. Lannon asked Commission members to let him know about any park or Whitaker property ideas.

- **Music in the Park financials.** Lannon provided a financial overview of the 2018 season with comments about hypothetical scenarios of increasing meal prices by \$1.00 in the future. Lannon stated that the Commission had never done a price increase, but yet the cost of the food and other products had increased. Anders said that she thought any potential price changes would still be a great and reasonable deal. Street said that she thought the Commission should wait to have the concession price increase conversation at a future meeting when more members were present; Commission members agreed by consensus.
- **Whitaker property.** Lannon reported that work had been done to clean out the pine plots and that he is getting recommendations for a spray application to use underneath the trees. Lannon is working on getting a price to lift canopy up; the potential contractor has worked with Frank Whitaker before and knows the property well. There are no ideas on what is going to go on the property, but future plans will be a part of the Town Council's strategic plan that will be shared with the Commission. Lannon was instructed to do an RFQ for a contractor to do a master plan for the Whitaker property just to get the firm on board. Lannon said that he would keep the Commission posted on quotes that were received.
- **Programs.** Lannon said that ORYA and tournaments were finished for the year. He also shared that the Craft Fair was huge success with over 90 vendors.
- **2019 Events.** Lannon shared the 2019 event calendar with the Commission but stated that some dates are not firm yet. He is working with ORYA and its president, Tom Collins, to do a Halloween event with the new Teen Leadership group. They would need to coordinate with the Great Pumpkin Event which is sponsored by the Merchants that will be held on October 26, 2019, 3-5 p.m. Young said he felt like more participation would happen if an event was done before Halloween on October 25-26.
- **Security System Update.** Young asked for an update on the park's security system and Lannon stated that Council had put a hold on all capital expenditures. Young asked if we had received enough bids and Lannon said yes, but that the price that he was getting had exceeded the informal bid range so he had to re-bid the project. Lannon said he had no idea on the timing of when the park's security system will be addressed again.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Disc Golf (Chuck Rhoades).** Rhoades introduced himself to the Commission and said that he was from Greensboro and had played disc golf for 30 years. Rhoades has built disc golf courses in High Point and Burlington, and said he thinks that Oak Ridge would enjoy having a course here as well. He gave out proposals to all Commission members and stated that the park maybe a tight fit and that there may be other places that will work better, such as the Whitaker property. Rhoades stated that there needs to be about 20 acres to offer enough space for 18 holes with room to throw the discs. Rhoades said that disc golf is a very popular sport, has tournaments, is good for all ages, and keeps the park crime and litter free. He said the cost is less that of a basketball court and would be around \$15,000. Rhoades encouraged Commission members to research disc golf online or visit a location to see what it looks like. He stated that there is a nine-hole course in Stokesdale and the goal would be to find a safe space with enough room in Oak Ridge.

Young asked if the course needed dedicated space, and Rhoades replied that a walking path could be around it, but that it would need signage to warn those using the path of flying discs. Lannon stated that Council is looking into passive recreation and this

activity would be considered active. Lannon went on to say that there is no definite plan for the Whitaker property, but maybe disc golf could blend into the landscape better at that location. Tom Collins said that he did not think that disc golf fit into our Town Park now, but it may in the future. Lannon said that work is being done on the next phase, but that everything is on hold right now due to the new strategic plan.

The Commission agreed by consensus to keep disc golf as an option for the future, but many members were concerned about pedestrians getting hit by flying discs.

- B. Drive-in movie (Blake Miller, Oak Ridge Youth Association Teen Leadership team).** Miller introduced himself as being a member of the ORYA Teen Leadership team. Miller told the Commission that the group would like to host a drive-in movie night at the park and use the field across from the fire station. He provided the Commission with a list of dates in December that they are interested in hosting the event. The group would need electricity and would sell movie-type food in order to inspire the community to attend. Miller said that admission would be charged per car and that ORYA would provide a large screen. He also stated that this group wants to give teens an opportunity to show their leadership skills.

Street asked if they were interested in using the Redmon field for parking cars or if cars would park in the parking lot. Miller stated that the cars would be parked in the field, but the parking lot would be used for vendors. Anders asked if having cars on the field would cause damage, and Lannon said yes. Miller told the Commission that this event would be weather dependent and that they would just cancel or reschedule in case of rain. Lannon asked how much it would cost to rent the screen and if a refund be available in case of bad weather. Miller said that the rental fee for the screen is \$1,000, and he did not know what the weather cancellation policy was but would find out. Young asked Collins to give the Commission information about this new group.

Collins said that the Teen Leadership team was established so that kids have a story to tell on their college resumes and because many teens are in need of service hours. Collins went on to say that colleges are looking for students who give back to their communities in the form of service and this program will enable kids to come up with ideas on their own and make their ideas a reality. Collins said that the Teen Leadership group is also interested in assisting with a Halloween event next year. Anders said that she would rather the group use the large parking lot, but Miller said that people would not be able to see the screen from the parking lot because the lot is rectangular in size. Lannon said that he has no control over the parking lot lights and that would affect the ability to see the screen. Lannon also stated that the group would need proximity to restrooms and electricity, so he felt like the Redmon field would be the best option. Street asked if the rough spots in Redmon field had been graded. Anders said that she was concerned about people getting hurt while they were walking to the restrooms or to concessions due to the rough field conditions.

Miller said that a positive was that if people got hurt, the fire department was right across the street. Lannon said that it would take a lot of money to grade the field. Anders said that people cannot see at night and she had concerns about injuries. Street asked if there would be liability issues and Lannon suggested that advice should be given from the town's attorney, Michael Thomas. Young said that ORYA is covered by insurance, and event coverage is not expensive. Street asked if this would be considered a family event, and Miller said yes; he said a Christmas movie was going to shown and that glow

sticks would be offered for a charge so that people can see when they walked around. Street asked if food vendors would be there, and Miller and Collins both said that ORYA would sell popcorn, drinks and snacks. Lannon said that the Commission allowed the Art and Crafts Fair to sell food. Anders said that she thought the idea was good and that she had good memories of drive-in movies. Lannon stated that he would talk with Bill Bruce to see if Michael Thomas suggested adding event insurance coverage for this event. Young told the Commission that the Teen Leadership team had over 50 kids at their kick off meeting.

Young made a motion to approve the use of the Redmon field by ORYA Teen Leadership for a drive-in movie contingent upon legal and facility issues being addressed. Anders seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).

C. Discussion of appointment of new P&RC member. Street reminded the Commission that Michelle Davidson had stepped down and that Mike Cronan wanted to remain an alternate. Street spoke with John Garrett about becoming a sitting member, and said that John was interested in a permanent position on the Commission.

Street made a motion to nominate and appoint John Garrett as a voting member of the P&RC to be presented at the December 6, 2018 Town Council meeting. Anders seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).

D. Discussion of updating ideas for Eagle Scout projects. This topic was already discussed in Lannon's staff report.

E. Be the Match 5K (Amy Nelson). Nelson introduced herself to the Commission and said that this race was held last year at First Christian Church in Kernersville with 216 runners and raised \$16,000. Nelson said that they are looking to have their second event on April 6, 2019 at the park and will raise funds to support patients in need of a bone marrow transplant. Lannon said that they would need to use the Redmon field to avoid parking and field issues. Lannon suggested that Nelson look at the course that is used for the Run the Ridge event, and that they would need to schedule a sheriff for safety issues. Lannon asked Nelson how many runners she was expecting at the event. Nelson said that registration would be done online until a certain date so she did not have an idea yet on the number of participants. Street asked if the organization had tax-exempt status so that the park fees would be waived, and Nelson said yes.

Young made a motion to waive all rental fees associated with the Be the Match 5K to be held at the park on April 6, 2109. Anders seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).

6. OLD BUSINESS

Anders reported that she was working on finalizing the 2019 Music in the Park bands. She has five bands scheduled and is waiting to hear back from Shiloh Hill to confirm if they can play on September 14th. Anders suggested not having rain dates for the upcoming season because it messes up the scheduling with some bands. Many bands are not willing to reserve two dates and many will not play on Sundays. The Commission agreed by consensus that there would be no rain dates scheduled for the 2019 Music in the Park events. Lannon

suggested that the time be changed to 6-7:30 p.m due to the time change for the October 12th event.

7. OTHER DISCUSSIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/REMINDERS

- A. **Next Meeting: January 17, 2019 (No December meeting will be needed)**
- B. **Light up the Night Luminary/Tree-lighting: December 1, 2018 (6-8 p.m.)** Anders reported that volunteers were still needed for this event.

8. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Tom Collins announced that ORYA wanted to offer a Thanksgiving flag football game on Wednesday, November 21 at the park.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Phyllis Anders made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Brady Young seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (3-0).

Respectfully submitted:

Ashley Royal
Deputy Clerk

Tracy Street
Chair