

Recreation Advisory Board

FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Minutes

Members Present: Dr. David Kleinschuster, Buck Jolly, Dr. Sterritt, Herman Little, Johnnie Walton, and Letitia Evans. Also present: Jeff Simpson, Rodney Bunch, and Hipp Barclift.

Dr. Kleinschuster called the meeting to order.

A moment of silence was observed.

No comments from the public.

Old Business:

Jeff Simpson gave an update on the Mack Sawyer Building and Edgewood Park.

Mack Sawyer: Drywall work and painting done. Carpet getting layed. Office getting ready for Rebecca Cross to move in. Sean Robey starting design work for bathrooms.

Edgewood Park: All playground equipment in place. Waiting on arrival of border from playground company then fence will be installed after that. Estimated delivery date is 2 weeks. Ribbon cutting will be scheduled after that.

It was questioned about the increase of members on the Advisory Board and if suggestions made by the Advisory Board will be overruled. It was suggested that there were alternatives to kicking someone off the Board for not attending and that it should be so that there were 2 representatives for the City and the County so that as long as one were present the information would still get to the City and County governments. (***The Recreation Advisory Board is not a decision making board. It is an advisory board only. It advises and recommends changes, programs, facilities, etc. to the City Council and Board of Commissioners thru the Parks and Recreation Department. Any changes to the Recreation Advisory Board must come from the City and County Governments and the Interlocal Agreement must be changed by both governments.***) It was stated that Bobbi White was the only nonfloating Board member and this discussion should be tabled until she was present since she is the permanent structure and lives with the decisions of the Board. It was questioned that Bobbi White is truly a member of the Board. It was the understanding that she is not a member only a staff member.

Dr. Sterritt addressed a concern of the County Commissioners. He stated there was a disconnect. The County funds 55/56% of the budget and is believed that the City is running the operation. It is a joint effort. It was questioned who Bobbi White reports to and it was answered City Manager. It was stated it needed to be better coordinated with the budget process and steps were being made to make that happen this year.

Dr. Kleinschuster asked for a motion to table the matter. Johnnie Walton made motion and Dr. Sterritt seconded. Motion approved.

Dr. Kleinschuster asked about not approving minutes until clarity made. It was stated that minutes are to reflect what is said in the meeting. It was stated that a comment regarding COA and Elizabeth

City State that Bobbi White made at the last meeting was not noted. ***(Recreation Advisory Board minutes are not verbatim minutes. They are only summary minutes. They indicate actions taken. If the Board wants to have a discussion written verbatim, then the Board can vote to do so.)*** It was stated that sometimes if a person doesn't break down what they say and can mean something else. It could be it was a broad statement and not meant that way. Johnnie Walton made motion to accept minutes with necessary corrections. Dr. Sterritt seconded the motion. All in favor, minutes approved.

New Business:

Dr. Kleinschuster stated it was time to look at a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the Board and the way the guidelines are set up that the new Chair would be a County appointee. He asked the Board to recommend someone from the County. Dr. Sterritt stated it can not be an elected official. Dr. Kleinschuster stated that the County members present were Herman Little and Buck Jolly. Dr. Sterritt recommended Mr. Jolly, Dr. Kleinschuster seconded. Dr. Kleinschuster called for vote for Mr. Jolly to be Board Chairman. Before vote was final it was questioned if Dr. Kleinschuster had checked into him staying as Board Chairman. He stated it was time for a County representative but he would serve in any capacity. It was then asked if Dr. Kleinschuster could be Vice-Chairman. This answer was unknown. ***(An elected official does not need to be Chairman or Vice-Chairman. Because the Chair for 2013/2014 is a County resident, the Vice-Chairman should be a City resident.)*** Vote continued for Mr. Jolly to be Board Chairman. All in favor none opposed. Next it was asked for recommendation for Vice Chairman. Johnnie Walton recommended Herman Little. Dr. Sterritt agreed with that recommendation. Herman Little stated that he felt Dr. Kleinschuster was a better recommendation since he has already been Chairman. Two people were recommended, Herman Little and Dr. Kleinschuster. Johnnie Walton suggested waiting until the 7th member to be appointed since it was a City resident and then vote. Motion made to table made by Johnnie Walton, seconded by Letitia Evans. All in favor to table: Johnnie Walton, Buck Jolly, Herman Little, Johnnie Walton. Not in favor: Dr. Sterritt. Motion carried.

2013 dates for South Park tournaments were passed out. First tournament is a few weeks away, the second week of March. Almost every available weekend for tournaments is booked. The dates opened in fall coincide with the ECSU football games and are scheduled with teams that do not require overnight stay due to hotel capacity. It was asked how many of these tournaments are annual tournaments. Jeff Simpson responded all the Softball Nation and Nation Baseball tournaments are annual. Jeff Simpson noted that the softball tournament that is booked the week of July 4th is expected to be around 60 teams just for one age group and if you go to the MSN homepage with Elizabeth City as your location, this tournament is actually listed on that site. Mr. Simpson stated the average weekend tournament averages 20-25 teams. Staff cannot handle tournaments with 30 teams or over due to field maintenance and prep. Staff cannot work until after midnight and then report back to work at 6:30am the next morning. Mr. Simpson stated that since the change to the gate/admission policy no tournament has not made up.

South Park Billboards: 45 billboards up right now. That is 9 billboards per field. There is approximately enough room for a total of 4 more billboards per field in the outfield. Dr. Kleinschuster suggested getting new businesses to advertise at South Park and suggested working with the Chamber. It was asked where the money that is paid for the billboards and it was answered general fund. ***(The money for South Park billboards goes into a Parks and Recreation donation line item in our budget for future South Park needs.)***

Little League Softball/Baseball: 76 kids registered to date. That is on average compared to last year's numbers. A big spike is expected in the next few weeks, once basketball winds down and school

baseball starts. Dr. Kleinchuster asked for any more ideas on advertising to get more people involved in Little League. Suggestions were: Coast Guard Base, Hospital, TV, announcement at basketball games, COA, grocery stores, local restaurants, and the electronic signs at CVS and Belks. Jeff Simpson made the suggestion of a banner that is hung above the road, such as is done with Craftsmans' Fair and Coast Guard Day. Given the banner idea, Dr. Kleinschuster asked for a motion to research if it was worth the City and County to purchase the banner for advertisement. Mr. Jolly made motion, Mr. Walton seconded. Dr. Sterritt questioned the cost. Dr. Kleinschuster stated the motion was just to check into the idea of the banners. The City Electric Department installs the banners and Letitia Evans stated it was on Water Street and Road Street. It was suggested that it is possible that Jeff Dixon might donate/print the banners or RO Givens. The vote was held to look into the cost of banners, all voted for, none opposed. ***(Parks and Recreation Department has checked with several vendors. It will take 2 to 3 weeks to get these double sided banners made at a cost of \$700 per banner. By the time the banners are made, registration for Little League will be over. These banners will be made and ready for the Fall Little League registrations and paid through the Parks and Recreation/ElCiPaCa budgets.)*** It was also suggested to advertise at Tanglewood Drive at the entrance of Walmart.

Boys and Girls Club: Mr. Walton questioned the Boys and Girls Club and asked Mr. Simpson about the football field and Sonic. Mr. Simpson stated it is his understand the football field will stay just like it is now. Mr. Walton asked if anything was being done for another football field. It was suggested that be new business at upcoming meeting to see if there will be another location for PAL football. Dr. Sterritt questioned using Memorial Field. Rodney Bunch advised the board that the area behind PAL would be completely graded after the work on Elizabeth Street is complete and that is a large piece of land used for recreation.

Dr. Kleinschuster thanked everyone for their support and congratulated Mr. Buck Jolly as the new Recreation Advisory Board Chair.

Dr. Kleinschuster made motion to adjourn at 6:40, Letitia Evans seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Please note that the statements in bold, italic type are Parks and Recreation's answers to questions/statements made.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi White