

Recreation Advisory Board
April 12, 2018
5:30pm

Minutes

Members Present: Herman Little, Dr. Sterritt, Johnnie Walton, Eddie Spencer, and Debbie Malenfant.
Also present: Dexter Harris, Director of Parks and Recreation.

Members Absent: Phillip Hornthal and Buck Jolly

Eddie Spencer welcomed and called the meeting to order.

Herman Little led the board in prayer.

March 2018 minutes were then approved.

There were no comments from the public.

Old Business-

Dexter Harris updated the board on the Enfield Skate Facility grand opening and the state statute regarding the skaters wearing helmets at the facility. Skate park rules and signage displaying "skate at your own risk" are displayed on site. Dr. Sterritt questioned if bicycles were allowed in the skate facility. Mr. Harris explained that they are not due to insurance reasons.

Dexter Harris then gave the board an update on the progress of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Educational Boardwalk for the Children at Charles Creek Park. Decking, railing, and alcoves will be completed within the next few weeks. Concrete will then follow. Signage and the kiosk are in the process of being ordered. Staff is anticipating a mid to late June opening. Plantings have been outlined and will be seasonal. Councilmember Walton proposed a suggestion of placing a bust of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the site, between the pavilion and the boardwalk, close to the kiosk.

Mr. Walton questioned Mr. Harris regarding the upcoming budget and if there was anything that he needed for the Board to recommend.

A discussion was held regarding Coast Guard Park and the launching of the kayaks and canoes. The launches are not ready so that program start date is unknown at this time. Suggestions were made on what could be done at Coast Guard Park where the Project Zebra monument was to be placed previously.

The board then held a discussion on the Shipyard Property.

New Business-

Mr. Harris informed the board members that sign ups have begun for the parks and recreation summer camps and activities. Dexter Harris showed the board new activities that have been added

for the summer such as the Rockstar Cheering Camp, Ninja Camp, and Yoga in the Park. The board talked about the basketball camp. Dr. Sterritt spoke on the need for outdoor basketball courts available for teenagers 16-18 and that a facility north of town was needed. Dexter responded that when he first arrived, Mr. Rodney Bunch and he had actually rode out looking at locations addressing this matter. Finding and purchasing the land was one major factor. Mr. Walton suggested to Dr. Sterritt that this would be a great conversation for a joint council commissioner meeting. Eddie Spencer suggested a property near the Dollar General in Morgans Corner that would be a great location for a playground and/or basketball court.

Herman Little questioned the usage of the Northeastern Rec Field. He stated that it is looking like an eyesore and that some maintenance might be needed.

Dr. Sterritt reminded the Board that the County pays \$900,000, 55% of the recreation budget while the City pays 45%. Dr. Sterritt asked if there was any surplus at the end of the year.

Eddie Spencer reminded Dexter that if there is a big ticket item needed in the budget that he needs to let that be known. Dexter then updated the board about requests that had been made in the 2018-2019 budget.

Eddie Spencer asked about the upcoming sailing camp and the beautification down Elizabeth Street. Mr. Spencer then asked about the old Elizabeth City Middle School (PAL Building) and if it would become part of parks and recreation eventually.

Mr. Spencer asked about the walking trail at Fun Junktion and if it would be fixed. Mr. Harris let the board know that the trail was completely fixed and that he had made a trip around it (driving).

Mr. Walton asked about the past talks regarding the Armory and reiterated the need for a senior center.

Dr. Sterritt inquired about Mrs. Terryberry operating a sailing camp this year. The parks and recreation has partnered with Mrs. Terryberry on that camp this year. Dr. Sterritt praised Mrs. Terryberry for doing a great job with running her camps.

Mr. Walton made motion to adjourn and Mr. Spencer seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 9th at 5:30pm** inside the Senior Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Williams, Administrative Assistant on behalf of Dexter Harris