

**Recreation Advisory Board**  
**May 11, 2017**  
**5:30pm**

**Minutes**

Members Present: Dr. Sterritt, Herman Little, Eddie Spencer, Buck Jolly, Debbie Malenfant, Johnnie Walton, and Phillip Hornthal. Also present: Dexter Harris.

Eddie Spencer welcomed the board and called the meeting to order.

Buck Jolly led the board in prayer.

Conversation was had on the Dog Park discussion missing from the April minutes. Johnnie Walton updated the Board on the status of the Dog Park after the budget meeting. More discussion was had regarding having a dog park next to the children at the Splash Pad.

April 2017 minutes were approved.

There were no comments from the public.

Old Business-

Dexter Harris gave the board an update on the progress of the Enfield Splash Pad. Plumber has piping all set where the splash pad is going to go. The concrete has been poured to stabilize some of the piping and support the apparatus. Clear weather is needed to get the entire pad poured. Irrigation and sod will then be installed. A Memorial Day opening is the goal. Dexter advised the board that the apparatus has been delivered and inspected.

Dexter then explained the day to day operation of the pad. The apparatus is a permanent fixture and poured in ground so nothing will have to be taken up daily. Day to day operation will involve a timer beginning at 10am. The pad will not operate after 7pm except for nights that Adult Softball is held at Enfield Park. Those nights will be at 6pm. Once that timer is set for closing, the water will not come back on regardless of how many times the button is pushed. No age limit has been set for the splash pad. Staff anticipates a high usage on a day to day basis. For restrooms, the public will have to use the ones at the athletic fields. As far as supervision being required, that responsibility would fall on the parent at this time. Discussion was had on having a parks and recreation staff person on site at all times that the pad is open. A bike rack will be placed on site. Signs with the rules will be displayed.

New Business-

Dexter updated the board on the kickoff of adult co-ed softball league and the ladies volleyball league. Co-ed softball has ten teams with games played on Tuesday nights at Enfield. Games are well attended and there is a lot of excitement within the games. The ladies volleyball league has 6 teams and they play on Monday nights at Knobbs Creek. Both leagues are running smoothly.

Dexter then updated the board on the skate park. He advised the board that he actually had a meeting with some local skaters after this meeting. The planned location for the skate park is at Enfield. Dexter has been talking with many local skaters around town to get their input. The

question of expanding the Fun Junktion skate park was raised. Due to the Fun Junktion skate park being metal, there is a lot of upkeep that needs to be done. Staff is looking at constructing a concrete skate park over where the tennis courts are at Enfield. Concerns were raised regarding the location of the skate park. Skate at your own risk signs would be displayed along with the recommendation of helmets and padding being worn.

Dexter updated the board on the July 4<sup>th</sup> festivities plans. Staff is well into the planning phase for this event. Fireworks have been ordered. Food vendors are being lined up. A kid's zone will be set up again this year as well as a pop up splash pad being provided by the Elizabeth City Fire Department. Donations are coming in slow but staff is working on hitting the streets and asking for more. Fireworks will be set off from land at Coast Guard Park by Zambelli. No barge will be used.

Debbie Malenfant reminded the board that the Potato Festival was coming up at that volunteer slots were still open for Saturday night and Sunday.

Eddie Spencer stated he had been out to Fun Junktion where repairs were being made and that it was looking good.

Concern was raised regarding the Knobbs Creek parking lot and the damage from the roots of the trees. Parks and Recreation staff is looking into the removal of the trees.

Mr. Walton asked Dexter about the Flag Football camp that is being held in July and questioned if there was a football league. Dexter responded that a flag football league will be starting with the games being played at PAL and River Road for 5-13 year olds.

Mr. Jolly asked about the Sheep Harney fields being on Sunday afternoons around 3:00pm. Dexter said he would check into that.

Phillip Hornthal brought up concerns with youth baseball leagues with the Camden and Elizabeth City leagues being split. Instead of two weaker leagues, can one strong league be formed? In the past, when the leagues were combined the teams were strong. Girls softball is really struggling with the divide. Numbers are down in both Camden and Elizabeth City.

Dr. Sterritt told Dexter that they all appreciate him on what he is doing and what he is bringing.

Eddie Spencer questioned what came about from the discussion with AYSO Soccer at River Road. Dexter responded that payment for some of the services that Parks and Recreation provides has been discussed beginning with them paying for the cost of paint for the fields.

Motion was made to adjourn and seconded. Eddie Spencer asked if there would be a July meeting or if the board would just take it off as done in the past. Decision will be made and the board will be sent an email.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Williams, Administrative Assistant on behalf of Dexter Harris