

Recreation Advisory Board
October 12, 2017
5:30pm

Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Sterritt, Buck Jolly, Deborah Malenfant and Herman Little. Also present: Dexter Harris-Director of Recreation, Jeffrey Simpson-Superintendent of Parks, and Andy Duck-Artisan Skateparks.

Members Absent: Phillip Hornthal, Johnnie Walton, and Eddie Spencer.

Buck Jolly welcomed and called the meeting to order.

Herman Little led the board in prayer.

Before approval of the September 2017 minutes Dr. Sterritt asked about the Knobbs Creek Nature Trail that was mentioned in the September minutes. Dexter Harris and Jeffrey Simpson responded that the trail has been blocked off for years, since Hurricane Isabel. The trail is impossible to walk and is a liability. When asked about other trails and walking areas Causeway Park was mentioned. Jeffrey Simpson stated that park really needs work, the boards/piers are not safe. Dexter responded that the department is looking to do that work in stages.

Herman Little advised Dexter Harris that the board used to all meet once in a while and all go ride around and look at the different parks and areas. He asked if they could start doing that again. Dexter said they could.

Buck Jolly asked about Goat Island. Jeffrey responded it is still there. The platforms are still there for camping.

Debbie asked if Camden County contributed anything or would contribute to the Camden Causeway Park. Dexter said we could definitely check into that.

September 2017 minutes were then approved.

There were no comments from the public.

Old Business-

Dexter Harris introduced Andy Duck of Artisan Skateparks. Artisan, based out of Kitty Hawk, NC, was awarded the bid for the construction of the Enfield Skatepark. Mr. Duck presented the board with plans and ideas for the new skatepark. All employees that work for Artisan are skateboarders. This helps with reaching out to those who are interested in the skatepark. The consensus for this site is a plaza type set up. The site will be built up with geometric foam. Fencing and lighting are already there. Asphalt will not have to be torn up. All these factors help to save and will put more money into the actual design of the skatepark. Andy stated that the budget and the space are not in alignment for complete concrete and features for the entire space so that means there will be free standing concrete. The extra space, where the asphalt is, will be used for some extra features and will be usable.

Buck Jolly asked what would be some of the activities in the skatepark, would there be rails? Andy responded a "plaza" is generally what would be considered a slow, medium speed facility. All the features would be to mimic what one would find in the city, rails, and steps that are at the places that the skateboarders are getting kicked out of. There will be no big halfpipe drop walls since that would take up the entire space.

Herman Little asked where the closest park was that he had done to Elizabeth City. Andy responded Currituck. Elizabeth City would have the only street style plaza around. Besides the material, the parks would be completely different. Dexter added that he had gone around and met with the local skaters and got their input on what they would like to see here.

Buck Jolly questioned if those kids using the park would have to have a safety helmet. Mr. Duck responded that there was a state statute that requires those using municipal ran facilities to wear helmets, elbow pads and knee pads. He added that 99 out of a 100 skaters don't want to wear them and trying to enforce that is a difficult situation. Dr. Sterritt asked Mr. Harris what the City Council and City Manager will do to address this situation. Mr. Harris responded that signs will be posted at the location but that the skatepark will not be manned. Mr. Jolly asked if this park will keep the kids interested and challenged. Andy Duck responded yes, that's what his company is good at. Herman Little asked about the lights at the location and if they would be on a time limit. Mr. Harris stated that the lights would have a timer. Andy added that the lights would extend the usage and participation, especially for those who work and couldn't come to the skatepark until after they got off work. Dr. Sterritt questioned if the project was still within budget and how much was the project. Mr. Duck responded that the contract was \$180,000 and Dexter Harris stated that the amount was budgeted. When asked about maintenance costs, Mr. Duck stated around \$1,000 a year if City staff was doing it. Concrete will eventually crack and need to be caulked and every two years sealant will need to be sprayed. Mr. Little asked in regards to liability who would be responsible for putting up the sign at the park and who would be responsible for the wording of that sign. Mr. Harris responded that the Parks and Recreation would while working with the City on the liability and the wording. Buck Jolly then asked how young could a child be to get taken out to the skatepark to get them started. Mr. Duck said that's a question best left for the parent.

Dexter told the board that the department is excited about this project and getting it moving forward. When asked how long this project would take, Andy stated two months but he was looking for about six weeks, with the project to start in December. Andy Duck was then asked if trash around these skateparks were a problem and his response was yes. Parks and Recreation would be responsible for the trash clean up.

Dexter thanked Andy for his time and reminded the board that the public meeting for the skatepark would be after this meeting, at 7:00pm.

Buck Jolly asked if this was very popular would there be room in the future to expand it. Mr. Harris replied where it was located, the flat areas could be but staying inside the confine of the fences was probably the best thing they could do.

New Business-

Dexter Harris asked the board to brainstorm on increases participation numbers within the Parks and Recreation programs. He asked the board think about it and email or call him with ideas.

Buck Jolly asked about South Park and how it was doing. Dexter explained that we had had some tournaments. Buck then mentioned that at one time there was talk of expanding South Park and coming out on Perkins Lane.

Dexter then moved onto ECSU Community Relations by telling the board he has been meeting with Russ Haddad and Carol Terryberry about an idea to bridge the City/College/University gap and to bring them all together to do things together. The board talked about several ideas.

Buck Jolly asked if the sign was up on Coast Guard Park building. Debbie responded that it was stuck in the design phase but the new design would be going before City Council soon.

Bill Sterritt commented that regarding the walking trail behind COA, the County submitted a grant and just received word within the last week that the money was going to be awarded by CAMA. The percentage match has been raised by donations made by citizens. An additional grant will be applied for later for the second phase due to the extent of damage to the trail.

Bill Sterritt then added that the Pines Golf Club had been purchased by the YMCA and that could pose a lot of good opportunities there for recreation.

Debbie Malenfant told the board about the ECDI fundraiser that was being held that Saturday night.

Debbie Malenfant moved for the meeting to be adjourned. Dr. Sterritt seconded. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 9th at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Williams, Administrative Assistant on behalf of Dexter Harris