

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

June 19, 2019

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wesley Davidson, Rhonda Hoke, Marvin Norman, Scott Bell, Rob Jackson, Michael Kubinieć, Kevin Smith, Barb Thorson, Chris Campbell

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Hepler, Stacy McGlamery, James Huffman, Christian Williams, Ronda Benfield, Nancy Grabow, Kim Goodin, Jen Winters, Daniel Taylor, Seth Gardner, Jason Basinger, Maribel Martinez

Chairman Wesley Davidson welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Michelle welcomed everyone and thanked them for all that they do.

Michelle recognized Recreation Advisory Board members and Parks and Recreation staff.

RECOGNITION OF VOLUNTEERS

Martin Perry – Since Oct 2014 5 days a week, 52 weeks a year, year in and year out, Martin drives to Scotts Rosenwald at the crack of dawn before he goes to work and unlocks the gates and bathroom. That totals 1,170 days Martin has given his time. Thank you Martin Perry!

Randy Benfield – He jumped in feet first in the deep end. Prior to Day One of opening the Rec Center he was volunteering. He has been a painter, carpenter, door hanger, picture hanger and the list goes on. . . . you name it he has done it. Randy Benfield we appreciate you!

Stanlay Webber – She started her volunteer expertise long before we moved into the Rec Center when she started emailing me. She had provided us insight, direction, feedback. She is 100% behind the things we are doing in this department and the new Rec Center. She has contributed financially and has even she pulled weeds with Michelle in 90 degree weather. Thank you Stanlay Webber!

Scott Bell – He is an active Rec Advisory Board member. He and his son went out to the property and donated their time in determining where our property lines were. Scott put in \$2,820 of man hours by producing a survey of our East Iredell Lions Club property. Thank you Scott Bell!

Not present, but recognized:

Layton Getsinger – Thank you for your financial support, moral support, guidance and direction at the Rec Center.

Marvin Hastings – Thank you for the hundreds of hours contributed to our soccer and athletic programs for the last several seasons.

We have hundreds of others who donate their time to our programs.
–Over 500 coaches in Athletics programs

– American Heritage Program and American Renaissance Middle School helped develop trails for the ropes course at Jennings Park.

We can't do what we do, without the help and support of others.

Michelle asked team members to give two or three highlights from each of their respective divisions:

STAFF REPORTS

Adult Program / Kim Goodin

32 day trips

Successfully offered overnight trip to Nashville

Already exceeding revenue projections for FY19

New lunch and learn programs at Rec Center

Created a Walking Club which meets at the Rec Center

Currently serving on the board for Senior Games. 3 Iredell County participants are in Albuquerque, NM national Senior Games

Final Kim Gallyon Memorial Golf Tournament

Athletic / Daniel Taylor

Hired Christian Williams as new Athletic Coordinator

Christian has developed 2 new programs: pickleball tournament and adult golf league

Athletic division has surprised the revenue benchmark for the year.

Camp / Jen Winters

Had spring break camp 5 day camp. 12 kids.

Another successful season with summer camps that started this week. This year we have a third location at the Rec Center with many weeks full or close to capacity.

OEC / Seth Gardner

Opening the Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park. First program was one month after course was completed with 103 kids going through the course in two days.

Rec Center / James Huffman

First six months of business, we have 1,622 active members ages 14 and over.

11,803 check-ins.

Admin / Michelle Hepler

After 18+ months, we have secured the renewal of our 40-year lease on Stumpy Creek Park with Duke Energy.

Staffing is at capacity with 11 employees. First time since last August that all full time positions were filled.

Since July 1, 2018 (for fiscal year 19), \$9,100 in cash in grant funding and general donations. In kind donations totaling \$12,119. Total contributions in grants, donations and contributions \$21,219 in this fiscal year.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Stanlay Webber:

I don't belong in the august group. I really don't and I thank you Michelle for your kind words. I am so impressed with the parks and rec. I want to thank all of you for what you have done in making this rec center available to those of us who live in the community and love it. I come every day. I love it. I love the people who work here. I love the people I share equipment with. I love that Randy came and blew up all the balls. I so impressed with the organization and the people who are in charge – the people sitting here. You don't know what this means to those of us who were so worried that we were not going to have this facility available to us "old people" who needed this in our lives. It is just phenomenal. Thank you thank you thank you one and all for what you have given to our community and to me personally and to the friendships I have made form the Rec Center. Thank you.

Marvin Norman:

On behalf of the County Commissioners I want to thank each of you volunteers who came out during the year to help do what's been done. I know that you guys can make this a successful place. You can see the growth. There's going to be more growth. Thank you all for making this such a great place. I hope it keeps going and growing.

Rob Jackson:

I think it's amazing all the new programs which is new information, new kids, new people involved. The numbers are up all the way through with the Recreation Center. It's positive growth. There is revenue coming in and you don't see a lot of expense as a detriment that everyone thought might happen. Lots of positives going on. We are here for the children. We are here for the middle class adults . . . the middle aged . . . the seniors. The Rec Center is not just for the young it's for all who want to get healthy and stay healthy. Its programs are set up and put in place to grow Iredell County. And that positive note needs to go out to everybody. Programs are growing. Numbers are growing. Revenue is growing. It's not a detriment to Iredell County. That's the positive note. Thank you all for all your work.

Barb Thorson:

We need to market this ourselves. Those statistics we need to publish. Thank you community for helping us in exceeding our growth.

Michelle Hepler:

It has taken us some time to get there. We have the best team of employees that this department has ever had. Right now in this year 2019 there is not a single person on this team that's not supposed to be here. From Jason and Maribel who work with us part time day in and day out. They close our parks and open our parks so we don't have to work on weekends. If it weren't for you we wouldn't be able to do what we do. We can't do it without the support of the volunteers. And that's what tonight is about, celebrating those who give time and dedication.

Chris Campbell:

I remember three years ago sitting in a (Rec) Advisory meeting. You asked everyone what their vision was for the Rec Department. Someone said when they think of Rec Department they think of soccer. As a vision for the whole thing, we have to get away from that. Now when we think of the Rec Department you don't think soccer.

Rob Jackson made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Chris Campbell. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, August 1, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room in the Administrative Offices (located at 123 Grannis Lane).

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy McGlamery

Recreation Advisory Board Secretary