MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris Campbell, Wesley Davidson, Ronda Hoke, Rob Jackson, Michael Kubinec, Kevin Smith, Barbara Thorson and Marvin Norman

STAFF PRESENT: Michelle Hepler, Teresa Anstine and Daniel Taylor

Chairman Wesley Davidson welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order and asked Barbara Thorson to lead the prayer.

Chris Campbell made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2018 meeting. Ronda Hoke seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Michelle said early last week she received a letter of resignation from Pam Christopher. She appreciated her time and opportunity to serve on the Recreation Advisory Committee, but feels as though it is time for her to move on and she has stepped down effective immediately. Retha Gaither, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, will post a vacancy announcement at the April 20th meeting. Michelle expressed to Retha that we try very hard to have representation from all demographic areas of the county, so we would like to fill that vacancy with someone from the same area as Pam.

Division / Program Title: Administration and Operations Mgt
Person Responsible for the division/program: Michelle Hepler
Additional Staff support (full or part time employees): Teresa Anstine, and Jen Winters

Division updates since December Meeting:
ONGOING OR CONTINUED AREAS OF FOCUS:
• Michelle continues to attend in advisory role, the Troutman Park Planning Committee meetings
• Michelle is transitioning representation from the Parks and Recreation Department on the Get Fit Iredell committee to Jen Winters for FY19; please continue to help spread the word about this free program, open to all county citizens.
• Continue to work with NC Department of Public Safety and Community Corrections; community service candidates to help with projects
• Continue to work closely with the Athletic Division to implement new processes and systems; addressing questions and concerns about changes to the programming division.
• Re-engaging employees with bi-weekly check in meetings. 30 minutes each meeting to discuss successes, challenges and needs.

NEW UPDATES:
• Presented Jennings Park Site Specific Master Plan to the BOC and approved on March 20, 2018
• Coordinated with Jennings Park Focus Group to conduct a planning meeting on March 21, 2018 – reviewing Sponsorship Package draft for Jennings Park
• Drafted press release announcing Master Plan Presentation meetings for April 24th and 30th
• Worked with Facility Services to select Architect for East Iredell Lions Club Park – building expansion project. Insight Architects will be the design team for the new building.
• Selected vendor and coordinated requisition for parking lot lighting at Scotts Rosenwald Park
• Continued supporting work with Purchasing, Facility Services, and outside agencies regarding relocation of Ropes Course.
• Completed Variance Application and submitted to the Town of Troutman for the approval of a gravel driveway at the new Ropes Challenge Course location on East Monbo Road; presentation will be on April 11th at 4:00 pm at Town Hall. Working with County Attorney, Planning Director, and Outdoor Education Director on presentation.
• Presented / exhibited at the Mitchell Community College Agribusiness Career Fair on March 15, 2018
• Managing application process for (1) Part Time Recreation Program Assistant position and (1) Full Time Athletic Program Assistant Position. Coordinating candidate selection team including Rob Jackson, Michael Kubiniec, Barb Thorson and Chris Campbell. Positions have closed; interviews to be scheduled in next 2 weeks.
• Continue to work with Duke Energy and Make an Impact Foundation for the development of the license agreement for the Brody Thompson Memorial Playground
• Conducted on site planning meeting with Troutman Parks and Rec, Lowes YMCA, and Statesville YMCA for Get Fit Iredell-Family Frenzy event (we are the lead agency) to be held at Stumpy Creek
• Conducted (1) mid-year evaluation
• Coordinating with North Carolina Interscholastic Cycling League for event requirements on 4/21 and 4/22
• Conducted interviews with SVL Free News for article on Jennings Park, and with Statesville Record and Landmark for article on Ropes Course Relocation project.
• Conducted initial interview with candidate looking for summer internship opportunities.

Special Events with volunteer needs:
North Carolina Interscholastic Cycling League Event - Bigleaf Slopes, April 21st and 22nd
GOTR 5K – Mooresville, May 12th at 9:00 am
Family Frenzy – Get Fit Iredell season finale, Stumpy Creek Park, May 20th 2:00 pm

PARK REPORTS:

Bigleaf Slopes Park:
• Work by Tarheel Trailblazers and volunteers to finish an additional 1-mile section of Mountain Bike Trail is completed – new trail is an orange blaze.
• Met with group to take the lead on the easy trail (1.5-mile loop) that has been designed, bush hogged, and is ready for construction. Please provide suggestions of resources.

Proposed Carolina Thread Trail - Bigleaf to Greenbriar:
• NO update - still looking for additional funding options for this project. Project will likely be postponed until after the Lions Club Project is completed, unless grant funding can be secured.

Jennings Park:
• Coordinating with Facility Services for additional parking lot gravel
• Accepted donation from Olin Turf Farm for sod for field #3 ($1050 value)
• Shiloh Landscaping donated labor to install turf
• Finalized closing on property exchange with Knox’s
Outdoor Education Center and Ropes Course Relocation Site:
- Waiting on approval from Town of Troutman for variance approval and permit for drive way and entrance road. Presentation is April 11th at 4:00 pm. Once completed, the project should be ready to re-open the bid process.
- All equipment and materials have been removed; buildings, gates, and structures are all that is left on the property.

Scotts Rosenwald Park:
- Secured PO for parking lot lights, moving forward with this project this month.
- Playground shade canopy is also scheduled to be installed this month.

Stumpy Creek Park:
- Concession and restroom building remodeling is 50% complete
- Proposed Ribbon Cutting for new playground (if all goes well, June 18, 2019)

East Iredell Lions Club Community Park
- Architect Firm has been selected - Insight Architects, Inc. - Will be meeting next week to get initial measurements, and begin building designs.
- Initiated survey for overall site plan – waiting on proposal

Trees of Distinction Program:
No update

Division / Program Title: Admin/Camps
Person Responsible for the division/program: Jen Winters
Additional Staff support (full or part time employees): some PT staff to assist with events

Program overview:
- Preparing for Summer Camp season (registrations, job applications, scholarships, activity scheduling, supplies, etc)
- Assist with Administrative plans/tasks (i.e. park development, policies, documents)

Program registration information (start dates, schedules, ages, etc):
- Camp Iredell: ages 5-11, Camp Iredell Adventures: ages 11-13
- Camp to start June 18, run for 8 weeks, until August 10
- Registration started March 26
  - Camp Iredell in Mooresville is FULL all weeks (filled within 2 hours), and has a waitlist of 24-33 for each week
  - Camp Iredell in Statesville has 14-22 kids registered each week (above average for this time of year)
  - Camp Iredell Adventures only has 4 openings in week 3
  - Have received applications for 5 kids for Camp Iredell Scholarships so far

Volunteer/program/facility needs:
- Facilities confirmed for camp: Mt Mourne, East Elem
- Job posting is online for summer camp counselor position (positions start late May/early June). Closes April 30, or until filled. Looking for CDL applicants (bus drivers) and/or substitutes
- Have part-time staff assisting with camp planning/scheduling/prep
- Need help soliciting donations for our Camp Scholarship Fund (needed by early May)
- Will need 1-3 members for the Scholarship Review Committee, for 1-2 meetings in mid-May
Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

Current Areas of Focus:
- Summer Camp preparation (registrations, job applications, scholarships, trip schedules)
- Prepare department for transition to a new registration system (CivicRec, currently using ActiveNet). Begin system set-up in July & implement within 12 weeks. Discontinue use of ActiveNet after the summer/fall season finishes, as soon as CivicRec is available (est Oct 1).
- Website updates for spring: upcoming events (pages, calendar, news flash, slide shows)
- Assist with Administrative plans/tasks (i.e. park development, policies)

Special Events:
- Get Fit Iredell: Family Frenzy Event at Stumpy Creek Park on May 20, 2-4pm. May need volunteers.

Division / Program Title:  Adult Programs / Special Events
Person Responsible for the division/program:  Kim Goodin
Additional Staff support (full or part time employees):  As Needed

Program overview: Plan and implement adult programs which include day trips and execute Special Events

Program registration information (start dates, schedules, ages, etc.):
- Charleston 3 Day 2 Night Trip 5/14 – 5/17 : 44 - FULL
- Spring Trip Registration began on Monday March 19


Special Events:
Saturday April 14, 2018- The 19th Annual Kim Gallyon Memorial Golf Tournament-I am looking for teams, sponsors and door prizes. If you can come out and volunteer during the golf tournament, please email me kgoodin@co.iredell.nc.us or give me a call 704-832-2353.

Senior Games (50 and older) Social was a Big Success, we had 28 New Participants to join. The Games begin Friday April 20th and end Thursday May 3. Please come out and join us during this special time of year!

Special Olympics- Wednesday May 9, 2018 at Statesville High School.
Wednesday May 30-National Senior Fitness Day at city of Statesville Parks & Recreation

Division / Program Title:  Athletics
Person Responsible for the division/program:  Daniel Taylor
Additional Staff support (full or part time employees):  Junior Riddle & Marty Haneline

Program overview: Athletic programs and associated programs, including recreation soccer, recreation baseball, referee clinics, cheerleading & self-defense classes.

Program information (start dates, schedules, ages, etc.):

Cheerleading & Karate
Classes are being offered at Northview IB School on Saturdays: Now - September 8
Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting

**Baseball**
North Piedmont Babe Ruth Baseball (NPBR)
NPBR Games: Mar. 23 - May 20
NPBR Tournament: May 14 – 20

LAYAC Baseball
11-12 Games: Started March 23
Tball-9/10 Games: Begin April 14

**Soccer**
NCYSA Soccer Update
Please direct your attention to Daniel Taylor.

ICPRD Soccer
ICPRD Games: Mar. 3 – May 12. There was one weekend of cancelation on March 25th -26th for rain/sleet & snow.
No tournament is offered in the spring.
*No Games I-SS Spring Break Mar. 31 & Apr. 7

SISA Soccer
SISA Games: Saturdays Mar. 3 - Apr 28 (2 cancelations for wet fields and rain/sleet)
SISA Instructional U4/U5 Sundays: Mar. 11 - Apr. 29
SISA HS Tournament: April 27 - 29
SISA Spring Tournament: May 4 - 6

**Park Reservations for month of March:**
Scots Rosenwald Park - 2  *Birthday Parties*
Stumpy Creek Park - 6  *SISA Soccer Use Practice & Games [Monday – Sunday]*
                     *SIAA/LAYAC Baseball Practice [Monday – Sunday]*
                     *(4) ARS Baseball Games [Tuesday & Thursdays]*
Jennings Park - 5  *NPBR Baseball Games [Monday – Saturday]*
                     *(4) I-SS Baseball Games [Mondays & Wednesdays]*

**Program registration numbers (if applicable):**
Iredell County Parks & Recreation Total Baseball = 75 teams
  North Piedmont Babe Ruth Baseball (NPBR) = 45 teams
  LAYAC Baseball = 30 teams

Iredell County Parks & Recreation Total Soccer = 122 teams/1359 participants
  ICPRD Soccer = 57 teams/ 640 participants
  SISA Soccer = 65 teams/719 participants

**Special Events: Volunteer/program/facility needs:**
April 14th - 19th: Annual Kim Gallyon Golf Tournament held at Larkin Golf Course
April 21st - 22nd: NC Interscholastic Cycling Association: Mountain Bike Race at Bigleaf Slopes
May 20th: Get Fit Iredell Family Frenzy (Obstacle Course Run)

**Other/upcoming:**
Iredell-Statesville Schools (I-SS) Baseball/Softball
Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department will be hosting I-SS Baseball and Softball games at Jennings Park on Monday & Wednesdays March 5th - May 16th.

Athletic Assistant Update
We are currently evaluating the 24 qualified applicants and selecting the top 12 candidates to move onto the written assessment exercise. Interviews will start the week of April 23rd. We are hoping to have someone hired by mid-May.

Employment Opportunities
We really need referees and umpires for South Iredell!

Umpires
19 Umpires are hired for the spring 2018 baseball season and we are still hiring. Umpires will be hired as Iredell County Parks & Recreation employees. The job posting is up on the county website, if you know of anyone interested in becoming an umpire please have them contact the county parks & recreation department.

Referees
We are still in the process of hiring soccer referees for the 2018 Spring Soccer Season. The job posting is up on the county website, if you know of anyone interested becoming an umpire please have them contact the county parks & recreation department.

Currently Hired Referees
Northern Referees: 14
Southern Referees: 14

Division / Program Title: Outdoor Ed Division
Person Responsible for the division/program: Mike Hotze
Additional Staff support (full or part time employees): Part time facilitators

Program overview OEC:
- Relocation project update:
  - All program items have been removed from existing site storage and placed in the parks and recreation trailer.
  - Hot water heaters and ice machine have been removed and placed in storage for future park use.
  - Troutman variance hearing is Thursday April 12 for the gravel driveway permit.

- Bat Workshop - a K-12 wildlife-based education program that fosters responsible actions toward wildlife and other natural resources. Participants will receive an activity guide and qualify for CEUs and EEC credits. This program is FREE thanks to the NC wildlife department. April 21 9am - 2pm - currently have 20 participants signed up.

- Nature Explores Camp - half day nature camp the weeks of June 25, July 9, and July 16 registration is open online through active net. Currently have 25 kids registered total in this camp program

- Wildlife Explorer Programs
  Have you ever wondered about some of the critters and plants that live around us here in Iredell County? If so, join us for our new Nature Explorer programs. We will hold one each month
starting in April and running through September. Wildlife Explorers will take a hands-on approach to teaching environmental education to young children ages 5 to 11. Adults are also welcome to participate along with their explorer. Each program will last about 1-1/2 hours, include park exploration, and a take home craft to remember your exploration.

Nature Doesn’t Rest - April 8th, 1:30pm - 3pm $10
Exploring Essentials - May 6th, 1:30pm - 3pm $10
Homey Habitats - June 3rd, 1:30pm - 3pm $10
Critters Big and Small - July 1st, 1:30pm - 3pm $10
Wonderful Water - August 12th, 1:30pm - 3pm $10
So Many Birds - September 9th, 1:30pm - 3pm $10

- **Second Annual Cardboard Boat Race** - cardboard boat race at Stumpy Creek Park boat launch on July 29th. Cost is $35 per boat, and proceeds of this year’s race will benefit a local non-profit. Registration to open soon.

**NEW BUSINESS:**
The Jennings Park Focus Group members created the Jennings Park Sponsorship Opportunities document. Michelle gave them some samples to look at and asked them to tailor it to fit Jennings Park. The sponsorship opportunities include naming rights of amenities and structures at the proposed facility. This would need to be approved by the Recreation Advisory Committee as well as the Board of Commissioners. Michelle requested that a few more members of the committee help read through the documents and make sure that there aren’t discrepancies and that it makes sense from an economic standpoint to give someone naming rights for three years for a $9,000 donation. I need feedback on the document by April 16th.

There being no further business, **Chris Campbell made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Barbara Thorson seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

**The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Teresa Anstine*

Teresa Anstine, Secretary