



## Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### Call to order

The recent Park Advisory Board Meeting was held on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the Belle Johnston Community Center. The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm by Clay Perry and seconded by Randy Brantley.

### Attendees

|                            |                 |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Matthew Jakubowski (staff) | Sue Bankston    | Barbara Manning             |
| Erin Hamilton (staff)      | Randy Brantley  | Tristan McMannis            |
| Jordan Williams (staff)    | Lorraine Haynes | Stacy Shatterly             |
| Clay Perry (chair)         | Yvette Isaacs   | Milady Meadows (Non-member) |

### Public Comment:

Lorraine Haynes thanked the Park and Recreation staff for all of the senior events we have offered. She appreciated it and said her seniors appreciated it as well.

### Approval of minutes

Randy made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Motion approved and seconded by Lorraine Haynes, ayes by all.

**Staff Updates** – Matthew Jakubowski, Parks and Recreation Director gave an update on the following:

- **Introduction of New Director:** Matthew Jakubowski introduced himself to the Park and Advisory Board. He grew up in Philadelphia and went to Campbell University. Matthew worked for Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation for 19 years. He mostly worked at the aquatic facility. He also worked for Start and Finish race company, organizing races. He has had a great first two weeks. He told the board his door is always open. He wants to bring new events and programs to our department. His background of beliefs: hire smart people and give them resources to do smart things.
- **Rock’N & Reel’N Update:** We have had four events so far.
  - o Our first concert was REO Survivor/Chicago. Great turnout for our first concert in a year and half.
  - o Our first movie was Dolphin Tale. The pre-show was a juggling show. We probably had around 100 people.
  - o The symphony was on June 27 and it was a great crowd. Due to Covid-19, there was only part of the symphony in attendance. The entire 75-person symphony could not be booked. The two food trucks that were schedule cancelled last minute. One had a death in the family and one couldn’t find her keys.
  - o Too much Sylvia had a great turnout. We had two food trucks for this.

- This Friday we will be playing our second movie. This was a people's choice movie that we put out on social media for the people to pick from. The Croods 2: A New Age was selected.
  - Matthew suggests having more music next year. Maybe move the concerts to Saturday or Sunday since the kids are out of school? Have the movies on Saturday nights?
  - Randy asked about having beer/wine at the concerts. Matthew is going to speak with Ryan about it. There's a lot of red tape. You can't take it out of the fenced area. Is it worth it?
- **Farmer's Market Update:** Jordan tells everyone he consistently averaged 4-5 vendors each weekend. We had more vendors in the beginning and they tapered off. The produce guy got hit by the last frost in April and it put him behind. But he has consistently been there the last few weeks.
- Everyone agrees is underwhelming. There are not enough vendors and there not consistent in their attendance. The flea market is competition because they sell food. There are several other close markets that compete.
  - Tristan suggests we do once a month in the afternoon/evening. Get Margauxs, Pintville, Kits, etc. involved and make an event out of it. A lot of things going on at the same time.
  - Ivette said the location is bad because it's hard to get in and out of. Is the farmer's market in the right spot?
  - Should we relook, redo, rebrand
  - Lorraine suggests having it 1<sup>st</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> weekends.
- **Budget Items Approved:** Heaters and Fans for outdoor restrooms: money was allocated from the 2020-2021 fiscal year. They were installed in the restrooms outside in the park. New Indoor Fitness Equipment: money was allocated from the 2020-2021 fiscal year. We are replacing two treadmills that are old, replacing the flex/combo, replacing stepper. We are also purchasing new benches, new weights, new rubberized tile floor. Matthew wants to paint the weight room, make it look fresh. We are hoping to get more people in to use the facility.
- 2021-2022 Fiscal Year Approvements
    - Two mowers and one tractor with attachments in Scott's department.
    - Inflatable movie screen for the movies in the park.
    - Pressure wash and paint the hut exterior. There are also new gutters but we went ahead and did that in April from 2020-2021 budget.
    - Clarification of gutters or roof for large shelter. We are having drainage issues when it rains.
    - New signage coverings of the stadium scoreboard. New logo and all signs.
    - Putting a basketball court beside the town hall. A council member wanted it and it will be done quickly. No fence. Just the court and goals. No lights.
- **Events Update:**
- Family Game Night: Nickelodeon Trivia 4/23: We had to cancel due to lack of signups. We only had one team signup.
  - Senior Bingo: 4/27: 1pm-3pm. We had 30 people sign up which was about 14 cars. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and it was a nice day to do it. It wasn't too hot and we had many winners from different cars.

- Spring Community Yard Sale: 5/1: All tables were booked. Heather worked the event and said they had a steady crowd through most of the day. The last hour is always the lowest number of people. Unfortunately, the Kidney Foundation did not pick up the leftovers due to Covid.
- Senior Drive Thru: 5/4: It was National Orange Juice Day so we handed out individual orange juices and a muffin. They had a choice between marble and cinnamon muffins. We had around 60 seniors come through.
- Family Game Night: Bingo was on 5/14 and we had 40 signups of around 10 families. We had a great time and someone won from each family.
- Senior Drive Thru: 5/14: It was National Chocolate Chip day. We handed out chocolate chip cookies and drinks. We had around 50 seniors drive through.
- Senior Drive Thru: 6/4: It was National Donut Day so we handed out Krispy Kreme donuts and coffee. We bought six dozen donuts and we were on the last dozen when the cars stopped coming. We had somewhere between 55-60 people come through.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - Family Game Night Bingo on September 24<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fall Community Yard Sale on September 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - Fall Fest on October 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Halloween Bash on October 29<sup>th</sup>.
  - Tree Lighting on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **PCAA/Jack Hughes Update:**
  - PCAA: 40K raised in May 1st Hit-A-Thon fundraiser. This is the most they have ever raised at this Fundraiser.
  - 13 Changes in Board Members, 8 board members left, 9 new board members.
  - They want fix Batting Cages, put shade over the Bleachers, New Sprinkler heads, Pitching mounds behind Field 3 with the new fundraised money.
- **Park Advisory Board Structure Overview:**
  - Matthew brings up how other park board meetings operate. Should the board be running the meeting and staff is there for questions? Or do they like the way it is now? Should we move the meetings to quarterly? We (Parks & Recreation) are very seasonal. Clay, Randy like quarterly meetings. We could softly move towards the board running the meeting.
  - Barbara thinks it's important to talk about the past and what we can do better. What went well and what went wrong?
  - Tristan believes we need to revisit the master plan at one meeting. Also, one meeting needs to be about items for the budget and what we want to advocate for. Can we be more involved about buying land next to our parks or talking to the developers about what is going into next to our parks.
  - **Call for a vote on quarterly meetings; special meetings for budget, master plan, land development: ALL in favor, unanimous.**
- **New Board Member Terms:** Clay Perry has decided to leave the board. He has been on it since its inception. We thank him for all service he has volunteered and all of his advocacy for Pineville Parks and Recreation.

### Advisory Board Discussion

-Randy suggested putting a kiosk at the dog park to advertise our programs and events.

-Randy said the NO Parking signs on Lake Drive have helped. We are getting permanent signs soon.

-Milady Meadows: Parks and Recreation Commission has been working on the Meck County Playbook. It's in its final draft and goes before the County Commissioners for approval. It is equity driven. In general, it's about neighborhood parks are within walking distance to residents. Partnerships with CMS would be amazing because the school playgrounds would become neighborhood playgrounds when kids are out of school. Milady is moving so she is looking for a replacement for her spot.

-Randy asked about informative signs/nature signs. Signs that explain what kind of wildlife are in the area/park. Signs that explain history of the town?

-Matthew wants to have an Art Festival in the spring. Have starving artists be able to come out and sell their work. We would have food trucks and such. Some of our staff are going to go to Festival in the park to solicit our cards and see if we can gather more art vendors for our next festival.

-Lorraine asked about who our janitorial staff are for our facilities. The staff clean everything as of now. We are hoping with our new checklists there will be more maintaining and accountability by all staff.

Adjourn – Clay made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Barbara Manning seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm.