



City of Boiling Spring Lakes

9 East Boiling Spring Road
Boiling Spring Lakes, NC 28461

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 17, 2017

6:30 P.M.

City Hall

ATTENDANCE: Bob Stanley, Chairman, L. Paige Garza, Co-Chair,
Bruce Pennington, Bon Cantrell, Carolyn Doshier, Kay Talbott

Commissioner Liaison: Mary Stilwell

Staff: Mary Green ~ P&R Director, Pamela Bellina ~ Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Stanley called the monthly meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to order at 6:29 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Bruce Pennington to approve the agenda as written.

Vote: 6 - 0; Motion Carried

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Bon Cantrell and seconded by Carolyn Doshier to approve the April 19, 2017 minutes as written.

Vote: 6 - 0; Motion Carried

IV. Subcommittee Reports

- **Facilities Subcommittee**
 - **Dog Park Subcommittee**
- **Communications Subcommittee**
- **Department Subcommittee**

Paige reported that the Dog Park Subcommittee would be holding off with any further planning until the Parks & Recreation Master Plan was completed.

Paige reported on behalf of the Communications Subcommittee that a memo was prepared supporting the Parks & Recreation budget as discussed at the April meeting and she will send the memo to the Board of Commissioners.

Bob and Bruce did not have anything to report from the Department subcommittee.

V. Old Business

a. 2017/2018 Fiscal Year Budget ~ update

Mary Green asked Commissioner Stilwell if there would be any additional workshops for the budget aside from the longevity bonus and Fire Department fees workshop. Commissioner Stilwell advised it was a done deal. Mary advised there was commitment from the BOC to upgrade Muse Park for \$60,000. Mary will apply for a PARTF grant that could bring the funds to upgrade Muse Park to \$120,000. With this grant, two courts would be resurfaced and there would be the opportunity for lighting one of the courts, the ability to comply with handicapped accessibility issues and add a smaller amenity such as a fitness course or a walking path around the park; however, applying for the grant will push the renovation ahead. The grant must be submitted in April of 2018 and Mary would hear whether it was granted in September of 2018. The renovation would have to be put off until then. If the City does not receive the grant, the \$60,000 would still be available to renovate the park but not to the extent if the grant was received.

With respect to staffing, the BOC agreed to add a full time staff person and a part-time before school person; however, Mary would be giving up two part-time community center staff members. There are three interns in the budget also. Mary introduced Stephanie, the first intern who will be working during the Spring months. Mary advised that the City would see more programs in the future with having another full-time staff person on board at the Parks & Recreation Department.

The City Manager removed the van conversion from the budget but advised when the conversion is needed, he would fight for the van to be converted.

b. 2017/2018 Fee Schedule

Mary reminded the members that a few increases were made last year and the previous year to some of the fees.

Room Rentals and Fitness Room Rates: After discussion, the Advisory Board members agreed that the Room Rental rates and the Fitness Room rates should stay the same. Paige suggested the non-resident Fitness Room rate could be lowered to attract local employees who do not live here in town such as the Middle or High School teachers/staff or Duke Energy employees who commute down Rt. 87 but agreed the rates were competitive.

Fitness on Demand: Mary advised that Fitness on Demand was slow because there was no dedicated space for the program but the equipment is used for other things such as playing movies for the seniors. There are many other programs that utilize the same space, which does now allow for use of the Fitness on Demand equipment.

Programs: The Before and After School Programs as well as Summer Camp Programs were discussed at great length whether the rates should be increased. Some of the members were not in favor of increasing the rates and some were in favor. Paige related that the rates charged by the Community Center were in line with other local daycare in the area as far as afterschool care. Commissioner Stilwell asked about the programs provided in Southport. Paige explained they take them on outings that are basically cost free but they do take them out weekly. Commissioner Stilwell said the difference was that Mary plans programs which requires staff and materials which is something to take into consideration. She further explained that in speaking with families, they are not opposed to paying \$5 more because their attitude is that it is close, easy and has wonderful activities. Paige felt from a commuter standpoint there was no difference in paying \$40 or driving to Southport. Mary suggested a \$5 adjustment to both Before and After School Programs would be reasonable.

Mary also heard concerns that the summer camp prices were high but Paige felt they were incredibly low. Mary explained parents were used to dropping their children off locally at the high school and middle school but now summer camp will be in Bolivia and it starts at 8 and ends at 5 so parents have to travel to get their children to camp by that time schedule. If parents want to drop off earlier or pick up later, then there is the charge for before camp/after camp. The charge is \$10 for early drop off and \$15 for late pick up or \$20 for both. Commissioner Stilwell thought that summer camp rates should stay where they were and the Before and After School Programs could be looked at. Paige felt those rates were very competitive. Mary explained her program was still \$5 less than Brunswick County camp and her program travels two more days than they do. Bon made the point that aside from the Before and After School Programs, the summer camp rates are approximately \$17 per day and that a babysitter charges about \$10 per hour.

Commissioner Stilwell asked Mary what an increase would do for summer camp which Mary said it not would not do much but it would make a significant difference with Before and After School Programs. The Before and After School Programs pay for everything else the department does. She explained \$35 per week x 30 kids x 40 weeks a year is a big chunk of revenue generated. The revenue generated from these programs helps to offset other programs. The Before and After School Programs are low cost programs but they do provide snacks, supplies, ice cream parties and are low cost as compared to the summer camp program. Bruce asked if Mary was suggesting to raise the rates for the before or after school programs but Mary said she was looking for a recommendation from the Advisory Board whether they should or should not be raised. Bruce asked if Mary thought the public would bear a \$5 increase to which Mary said yes.

Bon brought up the time difference between the Before and After School Programs and thought the After School Program, since it was a longer program, would be the one to increase. Paige advised the rates were the same as to what local private businesses charge and that the Parks & Recreation Department programs provide a service for the residents and should not be higher than local private businesses. Childcare Network in Southport charges \$35 for after school care.

Commissioner Stilwell felt that residents were paying for the convenience. Paige did not feel she should pay for convenience within her own City. Mary tried to clarify what she thought Paige was trying to say: should a municipal government and a parks and recreation agency be profiting from a program. Should rates be increased if services are not increased. If the program was not providing anything more, why should the rates be increased. Paige advised the purpose of government in this particular case was to provide a service that is affordable to parents and raising the rates should be based on information gathered from local towns and businesses providing the same services. The increase should be based on information gathered, not on what is felt or thought it should be increased to. If all things are considered equal between the programs, the rate for afterschool care is the same price as other local programs. Paige thought that was fantastic because residents are provided with the same services at the same price in addition to being within the community.

Commissioner Stilwell advised Bob that a vote would have to be taken for each line item on the rate sheet because there was disagreement. Bon suggested a vote did not need to be taken on each item since there was agreement on the previously discussed rates and the Before and After School Programs were the only ones in disagreement.

A Motion was made by Bruce Pennington to raise the rate by \$5 for the Before School Program.

There was no second; Motion failed.

Bon asked where the \$5 amount came from. Mary explained it was in discussion.

A Motion was made by Paige Garza and seconded by Bon Cantrell not to increase the rate for the Before School Program.

Vote: 6 – 0; Motion carried.

Bon suggested that before the next fiscal year, information be gathered and provided so that an informed decision can be made whether rates should be increased. He questioned that if the program was not losing money and the City was not in the business to make money, why was there a need for the rate increase. Mary apologized for the lateness of this topic and asked Pamela to make sure the Fee Schedule would be on the Agenda for next March. Bon stated it is difficult to vote on something on short notice when there is no information. Commissioner Stilwell explained that the rules state when there is disagreement between committee members, a vote must be taken and if it is something on the agenda, it has to be resolved. Paige thought if they need to do further research in order to make a motion, she did not think there should be a motion one way or the other. Paige clarified that if the Advisory Board tables this topic because they do not have the proper information to make a Motion, then there would be no change to the rates and they can be looked at next fiscal year. Commissioner Stilwell advised because there was disagreement and there were people who want to change the rate, a vote has to be taken.

A Motion was made by Kay Talbott and seconded by Carolyn Doshier and Bruce Pennington to increase the After School Program rate by \$5.00.

Paige disagrees with the increase and questioned what the increase was based on. She feels strongly that it was irresponsible to pull a number from the air. Kay explained it was a cost of living increase and amounts to just \$1 more per day for approximately four hours of after school care. Carolyn asked if revenue was brought back with this program and Mary replied it was. Paige then questioned if the program was already creating revenue and was not losing money, then what was the purpose of increasing the rate and felt the increase was exploiting the residents. Kay felt the residents appreciate knowing their children are covered and safe and does not believe that raising the rate \$1 more per day is wrong. Paige explained that the program generates revenue and was not losing money and she did not feel raising the rate had any merit; she did not see the purpose behind it. Bob added if snacks were provided in the program and the price of those snacks increased over the last year, then the rate increase was justified. Commissioner Stilwell reminded Bob that since there was disagreement over the increase that he would need to take a vote and reminded him that the Chairperson does not vote unless there is a tie.

Vote: 3 (Kay Talbott, Carolyn Doshier, Bruce Pennington) for the increase and 2 (Bon Cantrell and Paige Garza) against the increase. Chairperson did not vote. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Stilwell said this needed to be looked at like a business and that Parks & Recreation does generate revenue and it has to be looked at as a business. Paige disagreed stating she thought that was a political opinion and not necessarily a factual opinion of someone who was actively involved in government. Commissioner Stilwell explained Special Events is not looked at as a business because it does not generate revenue. Mary asked why Parks & Recreation was considered a business since it does not make money and was not in the black. Commissioner Stilwell said it has to be looked at like a business because you have X amount of dollars to do X amount of things and you do it and you bring in the revenue and has to be looked at as a business. Mary asked if Building and Inspections was considered a business and Commissioner Stilwell said it was because it brought in revenue. Paige advised exchange of money was an operation of government but government itself was not a business. That was why governments pass fiscal policies outside of other government interactions because governments were inherently not legally established as businesses. They have money that comes in and money that goes out but the exchange of money does not define government as a business.

Mary discussed with the members that the combined rates for Before and After School Programs were not listed on the Fee Schedule and were as follows: \$60 for residents and \$75 for non-residents. She will increase those rates by \$5 as voted above and she will have that line item added to the Fee Schedule.

Mary also discussed with the members the Out of School Program which involved day trips that include transportation and excursion fees. The rates are \$30 for residents and \$35 non-residents and Mary felt those rates were reasonable for the expenses that were incurred. This program also includes spring break camp and Christmas camp which are week-long programs and Mary provides a little price break to the week-long rate.

A Motion was made by Kay Talbott and seconded by Bruce Pennington to have the remaining fee schedule rates stay the same.

Vote: 6 – 0; Motion carried.

Mary summarized the discussion by verifying the only rate increased was the After School Program which was increased by \$5.

c. Master Plan ~ update

Mary advised Dr. Herstine will be at the June meeting with an update. Paige and Mary have been helping put together focus groups. Paige will ask to set aside a room at the high school and will invite students and teachers to become part of the focus groups. She currently has four seniors that are in her government class for one of the focus groups.

d. Dog Park Presentation ~ update

Paige advised the Dog Park subcommittee was holding any further movement until the Master Plan was developed since it will help the subcommittee move forward. Commissioner Stilwell asked that the subcommittee provide the BOC with a status report. Mary suggested the subcommittee write a letter to the BOC. Paige will meet with Jill and have her write a status letter.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

VII. New Business

a. Subcommittee Goals

- **Facilities Subcommittee**
 - **Dog Park Subcommittee**
- **Communications Subcommittee**
- **Department Subcommittee**

Bob suggested that visiting the parks to report maintenance issues to Mary should be part of the Facilities subcommittee, not the Department subcommittee. Paige will send out the original purpose of each subcommittee and the Advisory Board will revisit the purposes at the June meeting for re-evaluation.

VIII. Next Meeting Agenda Items

Subcommittee Purpose Re-evaluation
2017/2018 Master Plan ~ Dr. Herstine ~ update

IX. Announcements

Kay announced she would not be renewing her application to be on the Advisory Board. Her last meeting will be June.

Bob advised he would like to step down as Chairperson of the committee in July. He has served as Chairperson for the last three years and would like to give someone else the opportunity to lead the committee.

Bob announced his band, The Hired Hands, would be playing the first free concert of the season on May 27th from 4 PM to 6 PM at Spring Lake Park.

Commissioner Stilwell announced Spring Fling was Saturday, May 20th.

X. Adjourn

A Motion was made by Paige Garza and seconded by Kay Talbott to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.

Vote: 6 – 0; Motion carried.

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Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Bellina
Administrative Assistant