

# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, July 27, 2015, 7:00 pm  
Harrisburg Town Hall, Harrisburg, NC 28075

## *Minutes*

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marcus King, Chair  
Antonio Porretta, Vice-Chair  
Linda Thurman, Secretary  
Bob Yates  
Van Jaynes

### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Eric Smallwood, Manager  
Shawn Marble, Assistant Manager  
Chelsea Nardozi-Rec. Program Coordinator  
David Isaacs-Town Council member and Council  
Liaison to Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

### **MEMBERS EXCUSED ABSENT:** Jensen Caudle and Michael Gallagher

Marcus King called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Approval of minutes from June 22, 2015 Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting. Motion made by Antonio Porretta, seconded by Van Jaynes. Motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS:** (Eric Smallwood reported)

1. Cabarrus County Matching Incentive Grant (a yearly application)
  - The project (which has been very successful in other towns around the area) are permanent (cast concrete, low maintenance) Corn Hole Courts. Implementation, if approved, would be fall 2015.
  - The Cabarrus County Active Living & Parks Department recommended project for approval. The County Commission will vote on the project in the near future.

#### *For informational purpose only:*

- This is the Parks and Recreation's fourth grant application but third time receiving it. Past projects included the concession stand at Harrisburg Park, dugout covers, and windscreens.
  - Eric and Ann Gibson (Communications Director) research and apply for the various grants and apply as Harrisburg Youth Association (a non-profit).
  - Grants can be used to acquire land if the opportunity arises.
  - Marcus King suggested to the advisory board members, if we know of other grants that may be available we send that information to Eric who can review them with Ann.
2. NCDENR Trash and Recycling Grant
    - Scott Noel (Planning and Zoning Board member) along with Eric and Ann successfully obtained \$15,000 to install 23, 32-gallon trash/recycling combo units (black and blue) in all three parks and around Town Center. \$1500 for signs and educational material about the new units for the public will be ordered by this September.
      - As a point of reference, the City of Asheville has implemented this program with these colors and it has been very successful for their community.
      - Implementation for Town of Harrisburg would be this winter.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Board Member Update
  - None were provided
2. Department Updates – Assistant Parks and Recreation Manager (Shawn Marble reported)

- *Bags in the Burg* will be on 9/26/15 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM / *Fall Community Concert* will be on 10/9/15.
  - Planning for the Bags in the Burg event is progressing very well. Shawn reported that she will be partnering with Harrisburg Business Network (HBN). Small changes such as dropping Market on Main will be made, but overall it will be very similar to last year's event. All donations from the event will be for a HBN's chosen charity. For 2015, it will be the *Joyful Hearts* Charity, which serves special needs youths with variety of social events/activities.
  - Planning for the Fall Community Concert is progressing. The location will be in front of Town Hall and the concert may have Food Trucks available for the public. This is a FREE event for public.
- *Fall Athletics Update – Adult*
  - Registration opened July 27, 2015 for co-ed soccer (new this season, two divisions: 35 and over and an Open League). Softball remains co-ed, no changes.
- *Fall Athletics Update – Youth*
  - Fall registration ended July 10, 2015 and approximately 1300 youths registered along with six Pop Warner football teams and two Cheer teams. The fall sports begin their practices and games in August.
  - Football is still in need of several boys ages 9-11 but weight under 120 pounds or boys age 12 but they must weigh between 80-100 pounds.

### 3. Manager's Update – Parks and Recreation Manager (Eric Smallwood)

- *Harrisburg Night @ Kannapolis Intimidators Game* will be Saturday, August 15, 2015
  - It will be a Fireworks night, along with giveaways, the goal is to have all attendees be Harrisburg residents -a true community event
  - Youths who wear any Parks and Rec Jersey get in for free
  - Adults can buy tickets online for only \$5.00 or pay \$10 at gate (a number of free tickets for adults are available at the Parks and Recreation office with a five can good donation which will benefit the Harrisburg United Methodist Food Pantry).
  - This event will be good opportunity to promote all that Parks and Recreation and Youth Athletics and encourage a sense of community amongst residents.
  - A news and press release will be prepared by Ann. Eric asked the advisory board members to help spread the word about this event.
- *Cabarrus Arts Council Grant* (application due Friday, July 31, 2015)
  - Community Concert Series is offered both in the fall and spring. This year's (2015-2016) grant request will be for \$5,000. Last year's grant for \$2300 was received for the spring concert.

For informational purpose only:

- If this grant is successfully received, it will bring the grant total to \$17,500 for 2015.
- A potential opportunity for a third concert with Charlotte Symphony has recently emerged but still in the very early stages of reviewing logistics and performance area/stage requirements. If the opportunity is possible, perhaps the Arts Council can assist with concert. Possible concert date would be in the late spring 2016.
- As an aside, Marcus King suggested one possible way to increase attendance to events is for any electronic communications such as emails or website announcements, consider implementing an option that allows folks to "add event to their calendar".

- *Discussion of the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> -possible event changes* (items to be considered by advisory board members for future discussions)
  - Based on feedback (community members, vendors, public safety officers, etc..), consider moving vendors who sell a product or service away from the stage (band is too loud) and relocating them up on the parking lot. The noise level will be reduced, they also can transport items from their vehicles to their booth/table and it will improve their visibility to the incoming crowd. If that move does occur, the empty space on the field could be filled with food vendors, games and rides.
  - Parking overall went well and the ZMax parking lot was also heavily utilized (for future consideration, only allow vendor or handicap parking at the field).
  - Need to review the use of Shuttle Service. Initial reports was that ridership was very low compared to past years and shuttle drivers reported difficulty navigating around pedestrians as well as vehicle traffic. It is an hourly cost and the return on investment has to be reviewed further. However, there is an early indication that a shuttle service may not be a financially viable option in the future.
  - Due to it's popularity, consider expanding the traditional Corn Hole Tournament and start the tournament earlier.
  - Changes that may affect this event will be sent to Town Council for recommendations.
- *Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Time Change*
  - Similar to the Planning and Zoning meeting and Town Council meetings, consider moving this meeting to a 6:00 PM start time instead of 7:00 PM.
  - As a board, we will vote on time change at the August 24, 2015 meeting and then send the recommendation to the Town Council. If approved by Town Council, the public will be properly notified about the new meeting time.

#### **OTHER TOPICS:**

1. Marcus King and Antonio Porretta both inquired about youth and adult field availability due to town growth.
  - Eric reported due to the Greenway plans, public land donation/ fee in lieu of and other Parks and Recreation initiatives that were implemented over the past years, space for playing sports and other recreational activities is and will continue to be available and he had no reason for concerns.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Citizens are welcome to share their comments. Anyone wishing to address the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board may do so during the public comment period. Please state your name, be courteous and do not repeat what has already been said. Please keep your comments about the subject and not personal in nature.

- There were no public comments.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion to adjourn made by Bob Yates, seconded by Antonio Porretta. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 8:05 PM.

**Next Meeting: August 24, 2015**

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**Linda A. Thurman, Secretary**