

PARK AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

ZOOM MEETING MINUTES – May 20, 2020

PRESENT: Jake Chesnutt, Betty Sonneveldt, Kristen Weaver, Lola Skolnik, Ric Gordon, Lance Beasley, Marc Siegel, Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Jordan

Staff: Greg Varda, Acting Director of Recreation Programs; Joe McNeal, Acting Director of Recreation Operations; Anne Oudemans, Recreation Program Supervisor; Stephen Parks, Aquatics Supervisor; Brian Townsend, Public Works; Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator.

Excused: Michael Lee, Les Whitmer

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Chair, Jake Chesnutt

February minutes were approved.

City Council Report: -Mayor Pro Tem Emmett Jordan thanked the Recreation Department for what they are doing to keep our residents safe as well as recognizing how crucial recreation is to our overall health. He inquired about the plan to permit youth organizations to have access to city athletic fields.

Recreation Department Council Work Session- The Recreation Department makes about 75% of its revenue between March and September. The department may see a \$700,000 shortfall for FY 20. The FY 21 Budget will be adopted at a City Council Meeting in June. Council will reevaluate the FY 21 Budget again in September.

Recreation Department Update- Covid-19 Response

Buddy Attick Lake Park-Signage has been placed throughout Buddy Attick Park in both English and Spanish regarding masks and social distancing. Park Rangers are in the park daily reminding patrons of safety precautions. Park Rangers are manning an information tent at the BAP to provide information to park patrons as they enter the park.

Community Center, Youth Center and Springhill lake Recreation Center remain closed.

GAFC – Closed. Plans are being made to open the outdoor pool during Stage II.

Programs-Traditional camps have been cancelled for Summer 2020. We are utilizing our new Virtual Recreation Center as our principal platform for communicating with our patrons. All summer programs will be presented virtually through prerecorded sessions, to provide flexibility to our families while keeping our campers engaged. A few “live” engagements structured around the participant’s age will be offered each week.

Recreation is involved with Food Delivery for seniors. Becky Sutfin; Therapeutic Supervisor and the Greenbelt Police Department have been facilitating food delivery to Greenbelt senior citizens. Recreation is working in closely with the county on this project.

Staff-A number of positions in FY 21 will not be filled. Jake advocated to Council regarding our part-time staffers, encouraging paying them as long as it is feasible for the City to do so. Jake also expressed concern regarding the Director’s position that has been vacant for 18 months. He stated that it is not in the best interest of the Recreation Department or the City of Greenbelt not to have a permanent figure in that position.

Dam-In the final stages of completion with soil cleanup underway and awaiting the States final inspection. The lake is refilling naturally. Aquatic plants and shoreline plants have been added.

Parking Lot-The parking lot permits should be in by the end of the week, with the RFP possibly completed by the end of June. Following this timeline, construction could possibly begin in July or August.

Masterplan- It was in the Proposed FY 21 Budget; realistically any projects not tied to grant money may get cut including the Masterplan.

Old Business:

Firefly Sanctuary Garden-Installation of the garden did not require much; a 10ft buffer around the area with small access path and signage. The signage will provide educational information for the public as well as signs for NO mow or pesticides. Public works will maintain the area to prevent wood area plants from growing.

Greenbelt Tennis Association- PRAB will extend an invitation to June PRAB meeting to discuss FY 21 application.

New Business:

2 Court Research Rd Playground: Brian Townsend with public works presented the proposed playground plan by Sparks@Play. Sparks@Play specializes in equipment that promotes inclusive play. Council requested a “space” theme to coincide with NASA’s 60th anniversary. The unit has a space ship with dual slide, climber and rocker/glider. The existing playground was built in the 1970’s and well past its due date to be replaced. Although the property is owned by GHI, Greenbelt maintains the playground equipment, with GHI contributing 20% of the cost. As a cost savings, the existing swings will stay and public works is removing the remainder of the equipment and will replace the wood chips.

The City Manager has recommended that 4th of July celebration at BAP be cancelled this year due to Covid-19. Looking forward to future events, Labor Day Festival has been cancelled, again due to covid-19. A virtual component for both 4th of July & Labor Day are being planned.

The next ZOOM meeting is scheduled for June 17th

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathy Pracht, Administrative Coordinator