

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES –May 19, 2021

PRESENT: Jake Chesnutt, Kristen Weaver, Lola Skolnik, Lance Beasley, Ric Gordon, Betty Sonneveldt

Staff: Greg Varda, Recreation Director
Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator
Brian Townsend, Assistant Public Works Director – Parks

Unexcused: Les Whitmer, Marc Siegel, Michael Lee

PRAB meeting called to order at 7:33pm by Chair, Jake Chesnutt

Agenda accepted with no modifications

April 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes were approved with minor modifications

Old Business:

City Council Referral - Synthetic Turf Field: Brian Townsend, Public Works-

Mr. Townsend Provided PRAB with the current maintenance schedule for city athletic fields.

- Grass cutting and weed whacking
- Filling holes and divots
- Lining and dragging for games and practices
- Aerate and over seed twice a year

According to Mr. Townsend the main issues in providing better playing conditions are:

- Staff resources and a financial commitment
- Limiting play especially after rain.
- Non-permitted use

Mr. Townsend suggested fencing to close off fields when not in use or under repair.

PRAB asked staff what would be the best location for a synthetic turf field?

Both Mr. Townsend and Mr. Varda agreed Schrom Hills Park would be the only viable location. All other athletic fields pose challenges that would not be conducive to synthetic turf.

PRAB questioned what measures have been taken to prevent non-permitted groups from using fields?

Mr. Varda stated that Park Rangers are attempting to stop play from non-permitted groups by intercepting the groups when they arrive at the park. We have seen some success with this tactic.

Beltway Plaza Redevelopment: Greg Varda-

The revised Detailed Site Plan is being reviewed by the Planning Department. PRAB will receive a presentation at the June meeting.

New Business:**City Holiday Events:**

Mr. Varda briefed PRAB on his meeting with CRAB to discuss inclusivity with City's holiday events. Recreation Department's position is to not have any religious symbols associated with city planned holiday events. PRAB decided not to weigh in on this issue at this time.

FY22 Boys and Girls Club Recognition Group Review:

PRAB had many questions regarding their application. Mr. Varda will reach out to BGC leadership for clarification.

Recreation Department Update:

- As Covid-19 restrictions are beginning to relaxed, staff will discuss plans for increasing recreation services.
- The outdoor pool will open on Memorial Day Weekend. Both pools will be open simultaneously. The lifeguard shortage is close to being resolved.
- The Youth Center and Springhill Lake gyms will be available to youth recognition groups, 10 people at a time and masks will still be required.
- We are allowing rentals at Schrom Hills Park, with restrictions: limited to 30 people, no picnic tables, chairs will be provided by renters, folding tables will be provided and Park Rangers will set up and breakdown.
- Upcoming Special Events: Greenbelt Day Weekend, Juneteenth and July 4th

Meeting adjourned at 9:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Cathryn Pracht, Administrative Coordinator