



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, August 20th, 2024 6pm

Conference Room – Main Floor Admin Building
130 Jacob's Way, Clarkesville GA, 30523

Roll Call

- ☐ Joe Elam
- ☐ Peggy Fortson
- ☐ Cassie Head
- ☐ Angela Haughton
- ☐ Keith Deyton
- ☐ Shelley Tullis

Also in attendance, Director, Brooke Whitmire

Old Business/Minutes

1. Old Business

a. Updates on revision Recreation Advisory Board By-Laws

Updates to the by-laws have been added and sent through legal with the county. We think it will be good to go for the September BOC meeting. The additions will be to add a 7th member to the board who would be a athletics representative from the school system and there are additional duties added so that the Rec Board would review and approve a draft of the departmental budget prior to it being submitted to finance. The group also discussed implementing monthly budget reporting from the Rec Department to the Rec Board moving forward so they can be kept abreast of the progress of the budget each year.

~~b. Updates on gate by soccer fields~~ Should have been removed prior to the meeting

c. Updates on playgrounds

CIP money to renovate the playground at Diamond Memorial and build a new one at the Aquatic Center fields were approved but pushed out to FY26, so we should be able to start on those projects in July/August of 2025! The group discussed if the funding was adequate and what steps would need to be taken to prepare for those projects. Putting out community surveys and looking into grant funding were all discussed as plans moving forward.

2. Approval of July 2024 Minutes

Motion – Peggy 2nd Keith – Carried 5-0

New Business/Current Events

1. Written Report – Director, Brooke Whitmire

a. CIP FY25 Approvals

Director Whitmire took the group through the entire approved FY25 budget and explained where they'd need to look for information and which budgets referred to different parts of the department. All materials can be found in the packet from this meeting. The group also discussed scheduling with the County Finance Officer to get some training on how to read and look at the budget for the board. There was discussion about the Rec Board having more involvement in re-assessing current contracts the department has with user groups like The Rapids FC, The Hurricanes, and Piedmont College. The board feels all user groups should be treated equally and wants to make sure things are being assessed periodically to make sure.

Other important items that were approved are bleacher replacements in the gymnasiums, door replacements inside the natatorium, pool deck replacement, and score board replacements on baseball/softball fields.

2. Recreation Advisory Board Social Media Etiquette

The group discussed and decided on a social media etiquette everyone should follow. The group discussed that members should remember they represent the county in a way and should conduct themselves online accordingly and refrain from calling specific county personnel or people out by name.

3. Discussion pertaining to private rentals at the Dewey Tench Pavilion – revisit

There are still issues with the private rentals at the Fairgrounds. These rentals are primarily weddings and quinceaneras during which there is music or live bands playing. A board member who lives close to the venue has received complaints from neighbors and has experienced issues themselves. Director Whitmire explained that all events have been approved and are following current departmental and county guidelines. She spoke with code enforcement who stated they had not received any complaints recently, but they would monitor the situation and provide updates. There was much discussion as to how to address this issue. The main cause for concern is that any changes would first have to follow county ordinance, as well as be the same across the board for all private rentals. The group was encouraged to think on this and bring suggestions to the next meeting.

4. Request from Lumpkin County to use lap pool for team

Director Whitmire received a call from Lumpkin County's swim coach. Apparently, they are shutting down the pool they use and he is looking for somewhere to conduct practices for the season. She wanted to bring this before the board for their input. It was decided that we could not house any more swim teams during the season as we already house the HCHS program and Piedmont who will have close to 120 swimmers between the two programs.

5. Discuss Revision of Departmental Scholarship Policy

A sub-committee was formed to look at the current scholarship policy and consider revisions. Joe Elam will head up this endeavor.

6. 2024 Remaining Meeting Dates – all held at Habersham County Administrative building beginning at 6:00p

- a. ~~February 20th~~
- b. ~~March 19th~~
- c. ~~April 16th~~
- d. ~~May 21st~~
- e. ~~June 18th~~
- f. ~~July 16th~~

- ~~g. August 20th~~
- h. September 17th
- i. October 15th
- j. November 19th
- k. December 17th

Upcoming Events

- 1. August 23rd – 25th – Private Wedding Event
- 2. August 26th – 29th – Sheriff EVOC Training
- 3. August 30th – 31st – Bear Drive Car Show
- 4. September 7th – Football Games Begin
- 5. September 9th – Baseball/Softball Games Begin
- 6. September 19th – 21st – NE GA Car Swap Meet
- 7. September 27th -29th – Private Wedding Event

Adjourn

Motion by Joe Elam

Seconded by Shelley Tullis

Time: 8:15p