



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 14th, 2025 – 5:45p

Large Meeting Room – Aquatic Center
120 Paul Franklin Road – Clarkesville GA 30523

Roll Call

- ✓ Joe Elam
- Peggy Fortson
- ✓ Cassie Head
- Angela Haughton
- ✓ Keith Deyton
- Shelley Tullis
- ✓ Matt Shirley

Absent - Peggy Fortson, Angela Haughton, Shelley Tullis

Old Business/Minutes

1. Approval of December meeting minutes – Motion to approve Kieth Deyton, seconded by Joe Elam – carries 4-0
2. Scholarship Policy Revision – Updates – Mr Elam provided the group with the current draft and updates to the HCPR Scholarship Policy. The group discussed using the Federal Poverty Guidelines each year to keep the policy's matrix updated annually and all agreed. A staff member from the Parks and Recreation Department will need to check annually to update the matrix. The group went over the proposed changes such as wording to allow for special circumstances, and updates to the percentages covered by the scholarship. Director Whitmire let the group know in the event a family needs 100% coverage or help with equipment, there are several community organizations staff members help get in touch with & they typically cover those needs.

Members asked how rentals were going after the changes were made & Director Whitmire informed everyone the department had one private rental group cancel their requested date and another private rental request decline to move forward due to the increased fees associated with security. The group also discussed options for the Parks and Recreation department to offer avenues for families to get needed equipment, or possibly helping by requesting donations if a family were to approach the department with their needs.

The group discussed what avenues there are to continue to raise money for the scholarship fund. Director Whitmire discussed that the department used to host a Golf Tournament each year, but it was discontinued. There are several donations made annually from groups like the Habersham County Pickleball Club and the Motorcycle Safety Skills Tournament. Director Whitmire clarified that the scholarship fund is separate from the county budget. It is solely funded through donations made by community members and businesses.

Group approved for the draft presented to be sent to the county attorney to correct wording and/or approve draft to go before BOC.

New Business/Current Events

1. Director's Report – Brooke Whitmire

Director Whitmire gave updates on the condition of the Gymnastics Center and the storm damage to the roof. She also gave updates on the roofing project at the Aquatic Center (previously scheduled). They did run into delays with the weather that had come through and low temperatures. There was also a setback when the company discovered more severe damage and rusting to the roof over the fitness center and meeting room, so additional materials had to be ordered. The group also discussed worries over how long the repairs will take on the Gymnastics facility and how it affects the RFP process. Currently, all recreation level gymnastics classes are suspended, and the competition team has been able to practice at another location.

Director Whitmire also gave an update on the RFP process on the pool deck. There was only one submittal on the first RFP process and there were several details that were left lacking. The team ultimately decided to re-open that RFP to see if we could get more submittals. The worry there is the timeline on getting the project done around competing swim team schedules.

2. Gymnastics RFP Process – Brooke Whitmire

Director Whitmire went over the initial proposal for the gymnastics equipment & program with the group. The negotiation team will meet again soon and schedule another meeting with Mrs Daniels to further discuss terms. HCPR staff and a moving company was able to go over to the gymnastics center and remove any equipment that could be saved. It is now stored in a dry, safe area of the fairgrounds and will be part of the negotiation process for purchase. It has also been discussed to reach out to Mrs Daniels to set up a time for her to come and see the gymnastics facility as is after the storm damage.

The board discussed advising that terms be reached no later than March 31st, 2025, all agreed.

Upcoming 2025 Meeting Dates – all held at the Ruby Fulbright Aquatic Center – Large Conference Room at 5:45p

- a. January 14th
- b. February 18th
- c. March 25th
- d. April 8th
- e. May 13th
- f. June 10th

- g. July 8th
- h. August 12th
- i. September 9th
- j. October 14th
- k. November 10th
- l. December 9th

Adjourn

Motion by Joe Elam

Seconded by Keith Deyton

Time: 7:02