

**Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department
 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
 March 9, 2023 - 7:00 PM
 Iredell County Parks & Recreation Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Thorson, Ben Johnson, Bobby Deal, Debra Tatu, Jeff Cheek, Joseph Cooke, Richard Coleman, Scott Bell
COMMISSIONER Scottie Brown
STAFF PRESENT: Brandon Free, Stacy McGlamery

MINUTES

Jeff Cheek asked Barb Thorson to open the meeting with prayer. Jeff welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Jeff welcomed to Commissioner Scottie Brown.

No requests to speak.

Each member of the board introduced themselves to Commissioner Brown.



**Iredell County Parks & Recreation
 Staff and Park Reports for Recreation Advisory Board**

March 9, 2023

STAFF

Sports, Events & Facilities	Programming	Recreation Center	Parks Grounds	Admin
Brandon Free Marty Haneline	Austin Setzer <i>Vacant-Adult Prog.</i> <i>Vacant- Youth/OEC</i>	James Huffman Ronda Benfield Devon Sawyer	Micah Deane Scotty Harris Jordan Lail Ben Liles Steven Beavers	<i>Director - vacant</i> <i>Asst Dir- vacant</i> Stacy McGlamery

HIGHLIGHTS

Administration:

- Working on FY24 budget for Parks (655) and Rec Center (656). Multiple meetings with division leaders in order to complete.
- Had a meeting with county manager for departmental updates: Brandon, James, Micah and Stacy attended.
- Brandon and Stacy attended the Statesville Chamber Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet.
- Scheduling weekly division leader meetings to discuss budget, camp, etc.
- Sat in on three interviews for programming position openings.

- Met with Caroline Taylor, Iredell County Budget Analyst, to review budget in progress since this is the first budget prepared since Director's retirement: Brandon and Stacy
- Met with IT to review camera options for Stumpy Creek and Scotts Rosenwald Parks: Brandon, Micah and Stacy.

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Chain Reactions Disc Golf Fall Series Tournament at Stumpy Creek Park on 2/4.
- Received practice/game schedules from youth organizations for the spring season.
- Jennings Park Electrical Coordination Meeting on 2/22.
- Identified soccer goals that need to go on surplus.
- Completed paperwork for Champions in Motion to host karate classes at the recreation center.

Programming:

- Hiring for summer camp staff.
 - Contacted last year's staff about returning for summer 2023.
- Interviewed for Adult Programming and the Youth/OEC full-time positions.
 - Adult Programming position was offered while the Youth/OEC position was re-opened.
- February Newsletter distributed on 2/01
- Instagram followers up 40% compared to January; page visits up 112%
- Austin attended Local Marketing conference 2/20

Recreation Center:

- January, 2023 Membership Highlights
 - In January, 2023 the Center had 147 annual memberships either renew or join.
 - January 2022 = 80 Annual Memberships join during the month.
 - January 2021 = 18 Annual Memberships join during the month.
 - January 2020 = 108 Annual Memberships join during the month.
 - During the month the Center brought in ~\$50,000
 - The cost to expense ratio as of 2/21/2023 comparing the Recreation Center Revenues (104656 line) \$191,229 to Recreation Center Expense (105656 line) \$218,503 is a current recovery of 88%.
- The public CPR and the balance health talk maxed out on registration at 25 and 10 respectfully.
- Preventative maintenance on the main pool pump completed.
- Ronda and James attended grand opening of Advantage Fitness' new showroom and warehouse.
- Interviewed and hiring Zumba group exercise instructor.
 - Zumba classes will be held Saturdays from 8-8:45am.
- Added day of pick-up pickleball.
 - Wednesdays from 5:30-8:00am.
- February Fitness Challenge had 213 people participate.
- Promoting the Recreation Center as a "Best of Iredell" location for Best Gym.

Recreation Center: Membership & Attendance	January	YTD
Membership Category:		
*Regular Membership		693
County Employees		38
Corporate		14
Insurance		256
Partnered Membership		29
Pool Passes		Closed
Current Membership accounts:		1,030
Total Individuals in all membership categories <i>(including children under the age of 14)</i>		1,602
Pool Drop-Ins (Including groups, lessons & rentals)		Closed
\$5 Drop-In Registrants	443	443
Group Exercise Attendance	1,078	1,078
Total Check Ins (including pool)	5,825	5,825

**Annual Family County & Corporate memberships are included with Regular memberships due to reports*

Park Properties:

- Micah and James trained on online SDS manuals.

Park Reservations for:		
Park	Amount of Reservations	Total Participation
Bigleaf Slopes	0	140
East Iredell Lions Club Community Park	2	80
Jennings (Fields only, w/o Ropes Course)	3	135
Jennings (Other/Special Events/Shelter)	0	0
Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park	0	0
Rec Center Field	0	0
Rec Center Gymnasium	123	1,183
Scotts Rosenwald Community Building	9	300
Scotts Rosenwald (fields only)	0	0
Stumpy Creek (fields and picnic shelters)	11	450
Stumpy Creek Boat Landing	0	1,120
Stumpy Creek Disc Golf Course	0	710
Totals	148	4,118

UPCOMING DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- Complete & submit FY24 budget for review
- Meet with County Manager & Budget Analyst to go over FY24 budget

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- SISA games starting for the spring season on March 4th
- SIAA skills day on March 18th

Programming:

- Amber is coming into plan the schedule for summer camp.
- Reservation of school sites and buses for summer camp.
- Marketing for March-April programs

Recreation Center:

- Installation of water feature pump and impeller.
- Painting water feature.
- Opening the lifeguard position for applications.
- Removal of old boiler pipes in main lobby.
- Replacement of old water heater by Facility Services.

Park Properties:

PAST DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- Still working to complete budget. Granted extension from Finance.
- Recreation Advisory minutes from December and February.

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with Charlotte Disc Golf Association

Programming:

- Austin attended Local Marketing Conference 2/20

Recreation Center:

Park Properties:

CALENDAR: EVENTS & PROGRAMS

DATE	Event	Division
March 14 th	Asheville Outlet Day Trip	Programming
March 18 th	SIAA Baseball Skills Day	Athletics
March 22 nd	Blood Pressure Screening with Lake Norman Regional	Rec Center
March 25 th	Tarheel Antique Festival Day Trip	Programming
March 28 th	Blood Pressure Screenings from Lake Norman Regional	Rec Center
May 18 th	Osteoporosis Health Talk	Rec Center

Brandon reviewed some highlights from the staff and park report. Staff is working on the FY24 budget. Stacy and Brandon attended the Statesville Chamber and annual awards meeting. There was a disc golf tournament was held at Stumpy Creek on February 4th. Karate is now being held at the Rec Center on Saturday mornings. Full-time staff is going through the process of hiring summer camp staff. An offer has been made for the adult programmer position. The new person will start on Monday. The OEC and Camp position was been reopened. Written assessments have been sent out to the new candidates. The REC center had a record number of annual memberships in January 2023.

Barb said that reports used to be handed out at the beginning of the meeting. Meetings were very long. A couple of years ago, it was decided to send out reports before the meeting to allow members a chance to review prior to the meeting. This allowed members to bring any questions they had to the meeting.

Richard asked what Instagram is used for whether it was for summer camps or hiring. The response was that it is used for everything. Facebook is also used.

Jeff asked about contacting last year's camp staff about returning to camp in 2023. There were several previous camp staff who planned to return. Jeff also asked about light guards. That position has not been posted yet. Ben suggested sharing the lifeguard position with Iredell-Statesville Schools, especially the high schools. The principals could share this information with their students. Lifeguards need to be 16 years old.

OLD BUSINESS

Jennings Park updates

Brandon and David Saleeby met with Stewart, Fuller and Edifice for a preconstruction meeting on March 6. Surveying is happening at the park now. Stewart will update the plans after surveying. They will have the updated plans ready March 24. Brandon, Stacy and Joey from IT sat in on a meeting regarding IT needs for the park.

Joe and Ben talked about the Verkada system used by the school system and perhaps piggybacking on that system.

Jeff asked if the plan for Jennings Park was still following the master plan. Commissioner Brown said that in the past six months, the plan has not changed for Jennings Park. The only change is whether there will be turf on all the fields or turf the infields and have grass outfields. The amount of water needed to cool turf fields is much less than needed to water grass fields.

Staff updates

New employee over adult program starts on Monday. Interviews for the youth and outdoor education programmer will begin next week.

Budget

The FY24 budget was turned in. We have a meeting Tuesday with Beth and Caroline to go over what we submitted.

Jennings Park Focus Group

The group was put together and appointed by the Rec Advisory Board. It consisted of citizens who wanted a park in North Iredell. Barb attended the first meeting. They have met at least once or twice a year since 2017. The last meeting was in August, 2022. All members, with the exception of 1, have said that they would like to continue on this group. Todd Padgett represents baseball. Todd Amstein represents soccer. Kathy Richards, Yvonne Barbee, Barb Thorson, Scott Bell and Jeff Cheek are also members. Jeff Cheek recommends appointing Michelle Hepler to the group and Michelle has agreed.

Jeff Cheek makes a motion to appoint Michelle Hepler to the Jennings Park Focus group. Richard Coleman seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

Stacy gave a brief history of the AFP grant. This is an Accessibility For Parks grant provided by the same people who do PARTF grants. It was a one-time opportunity to apply for a grant geared towards children and/or veterans with disabilities. Our department decided to apply for and inclusive playground for Jennings Park. It is a one to five grant match with the Board of Commissioners putting up \$100,000, that would be matched with \$500,000, if awarded. As we're going through the grant application process, we do not have a director, Jen is acting as interim director and we have two full-time positions vacant. We were the lucky recipients of an award! The number one item on our wish list is poured in place surfacing. This would allow the playground to be everyone – young or old, wheelchair, able-bodied, or people using walkers. The play structure will include ramps. Commissioner Brown pointed out that this is the first grant that we had received since our director's retirement.

Jeff said to the group that Stacy did not have to do this. He said this is "nowhere remotely close to anything in her job description". Commissioner Brown asked, "She does not get paid any more?". Jeff said she does not get paid any more and she was told at the time that the department did not have the manpower to apply for the grant but she did it anyway. Many people pitched in on this project, including Rhonda Benfield, Scott Bell and Seth Hathcock.

Sponsorship Package

As Jennings Park is coming online and dirt is about to start moving, it has been suggested to take another look at the sponsorship package to see if updates are needed. Jeff said we need to look at our process and make sure of the things we can and cannot do as far as sponsorships. Deb Tatu, Richard Coleman and Joseph Cooke volunteered to review the sponsorship package. Commissioner Brown mentioned contacting Lowe's about sponsorships. Lowe's distribution center is near Jennings Park. Richard said he gets calls often about people wanting him to sponsor teams or other things. He mentioned looking into outsourcing sponsorship requests and investigate if it is worthwhile. This would need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners. Jeff said if we keep this in house, it would be local people calling local people to sponsor Iredell County parks. Any changes to the sponsorship package will need to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Next meeting location

The next meeting will be held at the Parks and Recreation Admin Office. Jeff asked everyone to start thinking about our summer meeting. The meetings for June and July are usually combined into one.

Richard Coleman made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Commissioner Brown. Meeting adjourned at 8:30.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, May 4, 2023 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room in the Administrative Offices (located at 123 Grannis Lane).

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy McGlamery

Recreation Advisory Board Secretary