

**Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department
Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
April 6, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Parks and Recreation Admin House
123 Grannis Lane**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Laney, Jeff Cheek, Scott Bell
VIRTUAL Seth Hathcock, Deb Tatu
COMMISSIONER: Scottie Brown
STAFF PRESENT: Brandon Free, Stacy McGlamery, Stacey Ulaszek

MINUTES

Jeff Cheek welcomed everyone welcomed everyone, called the meeting to order. Scottie Brown lead the prayer.

No requests to speak.

Jane Laney made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2022 meeting. Scottie Brown seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.



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

April 6, 2023

STAFF

Sports, Events & Facilities	Programming	Recreation Center	Parks Grounds	Admin
Brandon Free Marty Haneline	Austin Setzer Stacey Ulaszek <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:

- Completed and submitted budgets for Parks (655) and Rec Center (656).
- Stacy, Brandon and Micah met with Jennings Park team to discuss IT related needs.
- Stacy, Brandon, Micah and James met with County Manager and Budget Analyst to review FY24 budget requests on 3/22.
- Participated in interview for OEC / Camp programmer candidate.

- Stacy attended virtual Environmental Enhancement grant webinar on 3/23.
- Micah and Stacy lead a Jennings Park Focus Group meeting on 3/28.
- Stacy, Brandon and Micah met with Jennings Park project lead to discuss inclusive playground at Jennings Park on 3/29.
- Micah, Brandon and Stacy met with David Saleeby about ADA walking trails and ADA sidewalks at Stumpy Creek Park on 3/29
- Stacy attended Empower Women Conference hosted by Statesville Chamber on 3/31.

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Soccer Shots started their spring season on 3/4
- SISA games starting for the spring season on 3/4
- SIAA skills day on 3/18
- Went to look at the condition of the baseball fields at ISS Elementary Schools.
- Identified 6 ISS Elementary Schools baseball fields that we will prep year-round.
- Met with potential vendors to do concessions at Stumpy Creek Park and Jennings Park this spring.

Programming:

- Interviewed 3 camp counselors and re-opened the position for more applicants.
- Summer Camp registration opened 4/3
- Stacey Ulaszek joined as Adult Programmer 3/12
- Interviewed for Youth & OEC Position
- March Newsletter Distributed 3/1
- April Life of Leisure Distributed 3/27
- Austin attended Canva Webinar 3/23
- Instagram new followers up 127% compared to Feb, FB new followers up/ 93% compared to Feb

Recreation Center:

- Facility Services came and removed the old boiler pipes that extended from the front desk to the fitness center and locker rooms.
- Interviewed 2 front desk attendants to fill vacancies.
- Now offering two weekly Zumba and outdoor yoga group exercise classes.
 - Hired Celeste Jackson as a Group Exercise Instructor. The Zumba classes are having around 16 people attend.
- Recreation Center Open House on 3/18 had 9 people visit the Rec Center.
- Soccer Shots rental started on 3/4. Held on the Rec Center field.
- The water feature motor and impeller are installed.
- Lake Norman Regional Hospital performed blood pressure checks in the lobby.
- Promoting Move More Month.
- Opened pool party reservations.
- Voting for best of Iredell is from March 28-April 13.
 - Recreation Center was nominated for:
 - Best Gym

- Specialty Fitness Gym
- Customer Service
- Yoga Studio

Recreation Center: Membership & Attendance	February	YTD
Membership Category:		
*Regular Membership		697
County Employees		33
Corporate		13
Insurance		258
Partnered Membership		29
Pool Passes		n/a
Current Membership accounts:		1,030
Total Individuals in all membership categories <i>(including children under the age of 14)</i>		1,579
Pool Drop-Ins (Including groups, lessons & rentals)		n/a
\$5 Drop-In Registrants	404	847
Group Exercise Attendance	1,041	2,119
Total Check Ins (including pool)	5,474	11,299

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

Park Properties:

- Installed the story walk signs at Scotts Rosenwald.
- Overseeding completed at Scotts Rosenwald and EILC.
- Finished major tree removal and trimming all parks.

Park Reservations for:		
Park	Amount of Reservations	Total Participation
Bigleaf Slopes	0	183
East Iredell Lions Club Community Park	3	140
Jennings (Fields only, w/o Ropes Course)	0	0
Jennings (Other/Special Events/Shelter)	0	0
Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park	0	0
Rec Center Field	0	0
Rec Center Gymnasium	115	1,120
Scotts Rosenwald Community Building	7	340
Scotts Rosenwald (fields only)	0	0
Stumpy Creek (fields and picnic shelters)	49	3,941
Stumpy Creek Boat Landing	0	1,180
Stumpy Creek Disc Golf Course	1	724
Totals	175	7,628

UPCOMING DELIVERABLES

Administration:

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with basketball clinic instructor.

Programming:

- Marketing for April-May Programs
- Executing New Programming for Adult Programs

Recreation Center:

- Uncover the pool.
- Paint the water feature.

Park Properties:

- Starting ant treatment on playing surfaces and boundaries ant treatments in April. Starting earlier to see if we can be more proactive instead of reactive. Having issues with fire ants like last year.
- Removal of pool cover at Rec center.
- Spring treatment of weeds on Bermuda fields.
- Walking trail renovation at Scotts.
- Installing new benches at Stumpy and Bigleaf.

PAST DELIVERABLES

Administration:

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with Charlotte Disc Golf Association

Programming:

- Sites reserved for Summer Camps
- Summer Camps registration ready to open April 3rd

Recreation Center:

Park Properties:

CALENDAR: EVENTS & PROGRAMS

Date	Event	Division
Month of April	Move More Month Fitness Challenge	Rec Center
April 1 st -April 29 th	Soccer Shots	Athletics
April 3 rd	Summer Camp Registration Opens	Programming
April 14 th	Antique Malls –Mooresville Day Trip	Programming
April 11 th	Garden Art	Programming
April 17 th	Upcycled Designs	Programming
April 19 th	Sip ‘N Paint	Programming
April 20 th	Belmont, NC Day Trip	Programming
April 24 th	Duke Mansion Day Trip	Programming
May 18 th	Osteoporosis Health Talk	Rec Center

Brandon shared some highlights from the staff reports. Budget meeting with the county manager and budget analyst has been completed. Soccer shots have started. We are still interviewing for the Youth and Outdoor Education Program position. The Recreation Center Facility Services removed the old boiler pipes from the lobby. is still doing well. Facility services removed the old boiler pipes from lobby, hallway and locker rooms. We are now offering Zumba classes and outdoor yoga.

Vote for Best in Iredell between March 28 and April 13. Nominated for Best Gym, Specialty Fitness Gym, Customer service and yoga studio. You can vote once a day in each category.

Our new programmer Stacy has added a lot of programs for adults. We are excited about that.

Commissioner Brown and asked if the rec center does summer camp. Brandon said Yes, we have three locations – one in Mooresville, one in Statesville and the rec center. On Monday, registration for camp opened by 8:10 the Mooresville location was full. The Mooresville camp has 30 participants spaces right now until we can be sure we have enough staff. The positions are open until the end of this month. Brandon and James have been hiring camp staff since the camp programming position is still vacant.

Jeff asked which Iredell-Statesville schools baseball fields will be prepped by Parks and Recreation year-round. Brandon said this is for the youth organizations to use while Jennings Park is under construction. We have one full time and one part time employee that make up our field crew. The list of schools has been sent to the county manager. The county manager will talk to the school system. The schools are Woodland Heights, Celeste, Union Grove, Cool Spring, Cloverleaf, and Central.

Stacey Ulaszek introduced herself. She has been hired as our new adult programmer. She comes to us from Mecklenburg County but lives in Iredell County.

OLD BUSINESS

Stumpy Creek ball field lights

Lights for the baseball fields and the soccer fields have been approved to be installed during this fiscal year. Parks and Rec staff will work with Musco to set up an installation date. However, the installation date will not be until after the spring baseball season. This means that all the fields of Stumpy Creek Park will now have lights.

Stumpy Creek walking trail

After the ball field lights are installed, we will pave the walking trail. The Walking trail goes around Howard and SISA Fields. Sidewalks will be added to the Kim Gallyon Memorial Playground, near Howard Field. The addition of the sidewalks also addresses ADA deficiencies within the park.

Jennings Park Focus Group Update

Micah and Stacy met with the Jennings Park Focus Group on March 28. The recommendations that came from this group were:

BASEBALL FIELDS:

- ❖ Recommend 3 smaller fields be 225' with turf infield and grass outfield (turf infields would stop just after the bases)
 - This would allow t-ball, softball and/or baseball up to 13 years old to play on these fields.
 - Most tournaments would take place on these fields.
 - Few tournaments are over age 13.
- ❖ Recommend premier field be 310' with dirt infield and grass outfield.
 - Middle school teams could play on premier field.
 - Hold off on the "crow's nest" at premier field. This could be added at a later time when funds are available.
 - Can be used as a reserve or overflow field for tournaments.
 - Have a nice temporary fence for this field.

ADVANTAGES of the turf baseball fields:

- ❖ Buddy Ball is a year-round, non-profit, special needs athletic league.
 - <https://www.buddyball.net/>
 - We could expand to include opportunities for special needs baseball.
 - This would tie in nicely with the inclusive playground.
- ❖ Explore ADA grants opportunities to help defer cost of turf install on baseball fields.

MULTI-PURPOSE / SOCCER FIELDS:

- Recommend turf on all fields.

Citizen have been waiting for a park in North Iredell since 2004. This group does not recommend holding off construction because costs will continue to rise.

One question from the group is if disc golf is still included in the park plans.

Members present at the meeting were Scott Bell, Kathy Richards (Godfrey Williams' daughter), Barb Thorson, Jeff Cheek. Todd Padgett, Yvonne Barbee and Michelle Hepler. Jeff pointed out that to have a public park with turf is unique. Turf fields along with an inclusive playground would make this a destination park that people would want to visit. There's great potential revenue from the disc golf course. Jeff shared with Commissioner Brown that there was a lot of discussion about the lack of input or having a seat at the table by the focus group essentially since Michelle left. The focus group and the advisory board have not had a lot of input in the process.

Scotts Rosenwald Storywalk project

This project is a collaboration between the Iredell County Library, the Iredell County Friends of the Library, and Iredell C Parks and Recreation. The mission is to provide lifelong literacy and learning for Iredell County residents. Everyone can read a story as they go along the walking trail at Scott Rosenwald. The book out there right now is Dragons Love Tacos. The Friends of the Library will change the books out once quarter. A big thank you to the parks grounds crew.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Updates

Our new employee, Stacey, has hit the ground running. She is doing a great job. She is bringing in a lot of ideas. We look forward to see what the future holds for this division. The youth/outdoor education position is still open. It will close next week.

Summer Camp Update

Camp is full. Brandon James and Ronda have been working together to set up camp for 2023.

Next meeting location

Next meeting location will be at the Parks and Recreation Admin House. Commissioner Brown suggested about moving the time of the meeting. Earlier this month, the Board of Commissioners changed their meeting times. The pre- agenda meeting is at 4:00. The regular meeting is at 6:00. After a short discussion, the decision was made to send out a doodle poll to all members to get feedback on changing the meeting time to 6:00pm

June/July meeting date & location

In the past we have combined the June and July meetings. It is difficult to have a meeting in June and in July due to vacation schedules.

There was a short discussion about dogs in parks. Lately there have been more instances of citizens taking their dogs out onto the fields at Stumpy Creek. The dogs do their business on the field and the owner does not clean up. There are signs that say no dogs allowed on fields. The field gates are not locked due to baseball season happening now. A solution was not reached.

Jane Laney made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Scottie Brown. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, May 4, 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