

**Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department
Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
July 13, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Parks and Recreation Admin House
123 Grannis Lane**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Thorson, Seth Hathcock, Jeff Cheek, Jane Laney, Ben Johnson, Richard Coleman, Bobby Deal, Joseph Cooke
COMMISSIONER Scottie Brown
STAFF PRESENT: Tate Osborne, Ryan Brill, Stacy McGlamery, Brittany McNeill

MINUTES

Jeff Cheek called the meeting to order and asked Barb to open with prayer. There were no requests to speak.

Jane Laney made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 11, 2023 meetings. Richard Coleman seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.



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

July 13, 2023

STAFF

Sports, Events & Facilities	Programming	Recreation Center	Parks Grounds	Admin
Brandon Free	Brittany McNeill	James Huffman	Micah Deane	Tate Osborne
Marty Haneline	Stacey Ulaszek	Ronda Benfield	Scotty Harris	Ryan Brill
Austin Setzer		Devon Sawyer	Jordan Lail Ben Liles Steven Beavers	Stacy McGlamery

HIGHLIGHTS

Administration:

- Hired Assistant Director Start July 10 Ryan Brill
- Wrapped up FY23
- Held Prebid for Jennings
- Bid opening for Jennings (Pedulla)

- Working through alternates now.
- RFQ put out for Inclusive playground (July 13 return)
- Met with Duke at Stumpy concerning future plans
- Met with muralist at Scotts

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Completed NXT Lacrosse Tournament at Stumpy Creek on 6/3 and 6/4 with over 1,000 people in attendance over the weekend.
- Finalized dates for Summer Series special events.
- Started taking registration for our Pickleball Tournament in July.
- Soccer Shots has started their summer session for soccer trainings.
- Completed FC Athletico “Street Soccer” Skills And Ball Mastery Camp at Stumpy Creek Park 6/12-6/15
- Completed Fifteen Sports Baseball Camp Session 1 from 6/12-6/15.
- Completed FC Athletico Summer 6v6 Kick Off Tournament on 6/24.
- Completed FC Athletico Fundamentals, Skills, And Technique Camp at Stumpy Creek Park 6/26-6/29.
- Met with NC Wildlife about doing a fishing clinic this summer at Stumpy Creek Boat Landing.

Programming:

- Completed Week 1 of Camp Iredell & Camp Iredell Adventures
- Completed Week 2 of Camp Iredell & Camp Iredell Adventures
- Estimated Camp Revenues for Weeks 1-2:
- CI North ~ \$12,000: CI South ~ \$12,750: CI Adventures ~ \$7,600
- Camp Iredell is currently serving a max of 85 kids every week at three different locations (i.e., Troutman, Mooresville, and Statesville)
- Camp Iredell Adventures is currently serving a max of 20 campers from two different locations (i.e., Statesville and Mooresville)
- Finalizing 1st annual Swim with Santa on July 15th, 4-6pm – 20 out of 80 registered (\$6/participant). Anticipate registration to meet at least half the max.
- This month’s trips are to Hickory, NC and Replacements Ltd./Reynolda House trip. We’ve met over the minimum to go.
- Programs at Scotts Rosenwald Building are Rock Painting (ages 8 & up, FREE) and another Paint with Me (ages 8 & up, \$12/participant)

Recreation Center:

- Pool open for the 2023 season.
- Lemonade Stand, Flying High Academy, summer camp, and HeartStrings groups are attending the pool.
- Interviewed, hired and trained 2 new Front Desk Attendants.
- Open house for county employees to visit the pool and Rec Center was held on 6/24 & 25.
- 16 pool rentals reserved as of 6/27/2023.

Recreation Center: Membership & Attendance	May	YTD
Membership Category:		
*Regular Membership		731
County Employees		34
Corporate		16
Insurance		255
Partnered Membership		29
Pool Passes		7
Current Membership accounts:		1,073
Total Individuals in all membership categories <i>(including children under the age of 14)</i>		1,654
Pool Drop-In (Including groups, lessons & rentals)		0
\$5 Drop-In Registrants		2,099
Group Exercise Attendance		5,404
Total Check Ins (including pool)		26,913

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

Park Properties:

- Sand was spread on soccer fields at Stumpy.
- Aerating and fertilize going out on Bermuda fields in all parks.
- Weed treatment on baseball fields at Stumpy.

Park Reservations for: MAY		
Park	Amount of Reservations	Total Participation
Bigleaf Slopes	0	141
East Iredell Lions Club Community Park	4	140
Jennings (Fields only, w/o Ropes Course)	35	2,625
Jennings (Other/Special Events/Shelter)	0	0
Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park	0	0
Rec Center Field	3	120
Rec Center Gymnasium	133	1,340
Scotts Rosenwald Community Building	8	305
Scotts Rosenwald (fields only)	0	0
Stumpy Creek (fields and picnic shelters)	111	8,611
Stumpy Creek Boat Landing	0	7,680
Stumpy Creek Disc Golf Course	0	403
Totals	294	21,365

UPCOMING DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- Meetings with several youth sports organizations... Charlotte Ultimate, USA Softball
- Reviewing and finalizing plans for Stumpy Lake Access Area. (Duke is developing those)
- Jennings Park Ground Breaking
- Secure approval from Commissioners for budget amendment for memorial benches at Stumpy
- Meet with representatives for Three Corners Project
- Meet with in house staff at Big Leaf to discuss future plans

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- FC Atletico Mid-Summer Sizzler 6v6 Tournament on 7/15.
- Fifteen Sports Session 2 Baseball Camp.
- Meeting about End of Summer Disc Golf Tournament.
- Pickleball Tournament
- Impact FC Lacrosse Camp at the Recreation Center multipurpose field.

Programming:

- Camp wide Carowinds trip is taking place on Wednesday, July 12th
- Camp wide Emerald Pointe trip is taking place on July 26th
- 1st annual Swim with Santa on July 15th, 4-6pm
- Drafting fall Life of Leisure newsletter
- Finalize fall program space usage with Heartstrings

Recreation Center:

Park Properties:

PAST DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- Bid opening Jennings

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with Charlotte Disc Golf Association
- Meeting with Blazing 7 on 7 football organization

Programming:

Recreation Center:

Park Properties:

CALENDAR: EVENTS & PROGRAMS

DATE	Event	Division
July 10 th – July 13 th	FC Athletico Attacking, Finishing, and Goalkeeper Camp	Sports, Events & Facilities
July 10 th – July 13 th	Fifteen Sports Baseball Camp Session 2	Athletics
July 15 th	FC Athletico Mid-Summer Sizzler 6v6 Tournament	Athletics
July 17 th – July 21 st	Impact FC Lacrosse Camp	Athletics
July 22 nd	ICPRD Pickleball Tournament	Athletics
July 24 th – July 27 th	FC Athletico Elite Preseason Camp	Athletics
July 29 th	FC Athletico 6v6 Championships	Athletics

Administration

- Tate reviewed some of the highlights from the Staff and Park Report. He is happy to have the new Assistant Director, Ryan Brill, on board. He come from Mecklenburg County.
- Fiscal year 23 is wrapped up. We asked to roll over money from four or five areas.
- Bid openings have been done for Jennings Park. Pedulla was the low bidder. They are working through alternatives now. David Saleeby is working on that.
- RFQ for the inclusive playground was returned today. Got four respondents. The committee has time to review.
- Tate met with our new Duke representative last week. They are about two weeks away from having plans approved for the what they are going to do at the Stumpy Creek Boat Landing. It will include a trail and other features. Tate aske for a kayak launch and storage for kayaks so we could do some programming there. He does not know if it will be incorporated into the plans. They should get back together in a couple of weeks.
- The shore line is getting some heavy erosion. The representative said it is common around the whole lake. He gave Tate a name for a shoreline protection guy. Tate will get in touch with him. You cannot build out but you can maintain what you have. There may be some money to help with costs.
- Tate met with a muralist at Scotts. It is the same lady who did the mural at Randy's BBQ in Troutman. Tate met with her at Scotts to look at the mural on the building and getting it redone. They also talked about getting the sidewalk games repainted. The design for the mural is not ready. There were some plaques and pictures from the school we tried to incorporate into the design. It is around \$8,000 for the mural and the sidewalks. Once we decide on designs, we will go look for some money to help pay for it.

Sports, Events & Facilities

- We had a big lacrosse tournament at the beginning of June. It went very well. There was a big crowd. We are looking to do more.

- We started taking reservations for the pickleball tournament. Ryan has helped this week to get that going. We want to do more of those. We need to find spaces.
- We had several soccer (FC Atletico) and baseball camps.
- We met with NC wildlife officer. We were going to start our own fishing program. He has free reels and is going to provide them. It will work kind of like the library. They can check out rod and reels like a library books.

Camp

- Camp going fairly well. We had a van that broke down. It had trouble with a tire coming home from Carowinds yesterday. Brittany said they survived that. Tate said they did a great job. We have a max of 85 kids. We could do double or triple if had the space and the staff. Camp Iredell Adventures has 20 kids in it.
- We are having our first Swim with Santa event. We hope to have this as an annual event. It will be Saturday at the Rec Center pool. We have 35 signed up now. It will probably be over 40 before Saturday. Stacey has pool noodles that look like candy canes, snowballs and snowmen. Santa will be there with a Hawaiian shirt on. It will be a lot of fun.
- Senior trips have been going really well. We have tried to start programming outside of the Rec Center. It is a little slow starting up at Scotts Rosenwald but it is something we want to continue building.

Rec center

- The pool is wide open.
- They have hired two new front desk attendants.
- We held an open house for county employees to visit the pool and rec center on June 24 and 25. It was a little slow. We will look to do more programming or county employees.
- There are 16 pool rentals as of June 27.

Jane said all that sounds good.

Commissioner Brown asked why someone questioned programming to older people. A gentleman said taking seniors on trips and having arts and crafts classes for seniors is not recreation. Jeff Cheek if this gentleman thought recreation should be limited to a certain age group. Barb said those programs were started because people were complaining that we did not have anything for seniors. Someone said they thought the programs should be expanded. General consensus was the group hears that senior programs should be expanded. Tate said the programs were expanded this week.

OLD BUSINESS

Jennings Park Update

We had the bid opening. They are going through alternates. They were working through some things in the bid. Most ICPRD items are out of Jennings. The old scoreboards are out and being stored. We may try to sell them. They are wireless so we could make a little bit of money. The fencing and netting are not being reused. The flagpole will be part of the construction plan.

Flag Pole at Stumpy Creek Park

Tate looked for one flagpole to put in front of the concession stand where it could be seen from the baseball and soccer fields. The price of 45 ft flagpole is around \$8500, installed. It has an internal

lanyard in an aluminum pole. Jane said she could get matching money. She has been calling around. Tate got this quote from a local company.

Lighting at Stumpy Creek Park

Musco has not given us a date on when they will install. Brandon was going to check back with them today. Tate will check back next week if needed. The lighting project is holding up the paving project to pave the walking trail and provide some concrete around the baseball concession stand for ADA requirements. We want to put the lights in first so they will not drive across the new sidewalks.

Memorial for Commissioner Marvin Norman

Previously, there was discussion to name the playground after Norman. Jeff said the consensus was to name the playground after Commissioner Norman. However, no motion was made at that time. The board is still in favor of this. Commissioner Brown said if you new Commissioner Norman he was great. He was in there and he would stand up to anybody.

Richard Coleman made a motion that the new inclusive playground at Jennings Park be dedicated in memory of Commissioner Marvin Norman. Barb Thorson seconds the motion. Motions passes unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing Updates

Tate said he is excited that Ryan started on Monday. We are fully staffed now aside from a full-time Parks Grounds Specialist which was approved as of 7/1. There is an interview next week with a guy who used to work with us part time.

We have two part time positions. The Pool Manager was never filled. James and Ronda got their pool certifications. They have done all the pool stuff this year and he commends for that. However, there are other things Tate needs James doing besides checking water. The Pool Manager is a 260-hour job. The Part-Time Rec Asst is a 999-hour job. May try to combine those two jobs and have a 24 hours/week person to work at the pool and help at events. Tate hopes to fill these two positions with one person. Tate is going to meet with the HR director.

FY24 Budget Updates

Tate said Stacy handed him the budget. We are working with what we have. There are some restraints since the department was not fully staffed. We may be able to move around some money. We have two new mowers coming in FY24. We purchased some items in FY23 to free up some funds for FY24.

Credit Card Fees

The department needs some advice with this. Credit card fees are killing us. We allow \$5 drop-ins to use debit and credit cards. One idea was to make all transactions \$5 and under all cash. We are unsure if we can charge a processing fee. Someone said yes, we could charge a processing fee. Commissioner Brown said at his business automatically charges at the time of the transaction. If the fee is \$5, the charge is \$5 plus 4% processing fee automatically. Jeff Cheek said he recommended that we put up sign to let people know of the charges. Put up a sign that says processing fee will be added to card charges. Richard Coleman recommended calling it a convenience fee. Scottie said some places

will let you set it to what you want it to be. Tate thanked everyone for their input and said we will work on it on our end.

New programming

Tate said that Ryan is big on community partnerships which is what attracted Tate to his resume. The rec department is out of space for our programming. The space at the Rec Center is under the basketball court. If you are down there trying to paint or trying to do a book club, you will have a basketball bouncing around on top of your head. Ryan went to the church down the road earlier this week to talk with them about meeting space. We are waiting on them to get back with us. They have three big classrooms they are willing to let us do programming in. Stacy took Ryan and Stacey over to Lake Norman State Park and introduced them to the ranger. We are looking to do a partnership with them also. They have kayaks, fishing equipment, canoes, and rooms for programming.

Ryan comes from Wilmington and then Charlotte/Mecklenburg County to experience some of the growth out here. His programming expertise ranges from seniors, adults, youth to special Olympics. He previously supervised Brittany at one of the only rec centers in Wilmington. He did not know she worked here until he started interviewing for the job. He used to work with Stacey but she was not his direct report. He wants to hit the ground running. He is working with Brandon to get some affordable youth clinics established for sports that the county should be providing. Brittany looks forward to working with the state park – from the youth outdoor education to fishing programs. Ryan said you cannot do recreation without community partnerships. These pockets of the community, like Scotts Rosenwald Park, we need to identify community members out there we can speak to who can help us establish programming out in that area. He plans to meet with a police officer this week to establish a Police Activity League that will serve inner city population. It is not all about revenue but we do have to make some revenue as a recreation department. Ryan and Tate have been talking a lot about pickleball for adult sports. At his last position they did youth sports of 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U, 14, 16U basketball clinics, flag football camps. They cleared revenue and used that to continue to offer programming. He is excited to be there to work with Brittany and Stacey and all the other staff on board. Brandon is excited about some clinic opportunities for flag football. Austin has jumped on community partnerships. Ryan asked him to have identified 12 community partnerships that we can work with in different pockets of the county by next Friday. Ryan will go with him to the first few of those to help him get our foot in the door.

Tate mentioned where we were highlighted in the NC Recreation and Parks Association on Facebook. One of Stacey's programs was highlighted where she partners with the Animal Control. Once a month she has a "Mutt Walk" where she highlights a dog at the shelter. People can sign up to take the dog for a walk. She may keep him all day. She had Grover this week. The kids from the camp got to play with him. Members from the Rec Center had their picture taken with him and then the pet's day is shared on Facebook. We also shared this information with the commissioners. This was good recognition for Stacey and the works she is doing. Tate said we have a super team and he looks forward to seeing us go to work.

Jeff asked where Ryan came from that they did youth sports. Ryan said they did youth sports in Wilmington from T-ball, basketball, and soccer. They partnered with soccer. In Mecklenburg County he was part of enterprise recreation to make revenue. It was still community recreation. They did have programs that fit the needs of community but they were designed to make revenue. Before he left

they had cleared \$2.5 million in revenue from memberships and around \$50,000 to \$60,000 was associated with youth sports we were able to offer. Adult program, in pickleball alone, he brought in over \$12,000 in eight months of pickleball. With youth sports, we need to establish community partners to effectively offer youth sports with coaches, contracts with refereeing associations, etc. He is passionate about youth sports. He has done it his whole life. He was a part of it when he was young. Clinics are a good way to get our foot back in the door and get people to come to our parks and facilities. Tate and Ryan talked to Brandon today to look at three different clinics. Tate is working on softball and baseball clinics. We plan to do volleyball, football, soccer and then slowly move in to basketball. These would be one day clinics.

Commissioner Brown said if anyone has done any reading this week, we have some issues with youth sports. Next week he plans to talk with some of the other commissioners about the future of youth sports. Just recently, Mooresville was recognized as one of the fastest growing cities in the United States. Mooresville is built so now the growth is coming to Troutman and Iredell County. The new recreation team is in good. Tate is gung-ho and that's good. Commissioner Brown said we have tried to kill Stacy for almost two years. Tate said he would be lost if she wasn't here. Commissioner Brown said they knew this would come back around. Now the department is fully staffed. It is time to move. There are several meetings regarding youth sports coming up.

Tate let everyone know, if you remove full time salaries, the rec center made a profit. If we get a full year of programming, we can make it profitable next year.

Commissioner Brown had a conversation with the Sheriff about the importance of youth sports. If we do not address this issue, those will be the kids that will be in the jail if something is not done. Barb said there is a piece of it to make money but it is also to do something for the children. Commissioner Brown said it would be good to break even. At the school board meeting the statement was made that these people are making money hand over foot. A football helmet costs \$200 and you have 100 kids. You cannot charge enough. Tate said it is not about making money. It is about providing the service for the kids. Ben said people in the county have lived for years. He looked at some of the equipment used by some of the associations and it was not good. The discussion continued about equipment for the other sports – basketball, volleyball. The equipment starts to deteriorate. Richard said a bucket of 30 baseballs can cost \$170 and they are not game balls. What is happening in Iredell County, is that travel teams are dividing kids into the haves and have nots. Some travel teams can cost \$1,500 to be a part of the team and they does not include the cost of your uniform or travel expenses.

Ryan said county recreation is the bridge. When they offered \$5 clinics, they filled up every one of them. Then, those kids joined their leagues, which were \$60 to \$80 for the whole season and included uniforms. Ben knows kids who went on to play college sports who got their start in recreation sports. Ryan said there are ways to navigate youth sports and provide opportunities when kids get older too.

Barb said she was concerned because they said there was one school they would not let on the league but the story seemed a little vague. Commissioner Brown said they are working on that.

Tate said the bottom line is that we have a team here that has experience in youth sports. He knows the benefits of youth sports and has passion for it. Our department will take direction from

commissioner and county manager. What they decide, is the direction we will follow. We would need more staff if youth sports were to return to the recreation department.

Currently kids are paying to play football and volleyball outside Iredell County. They go to Davie, Catawba or Alexander to play. When NIYAA dissolved, principals did not know where to send parents to for sign-ups. By the time an answer was found and given back to some parents, they had already found a different place for their kids to play ball. The potential is the kids and parents will build community with the other county. The kids will play high school sports where they played youth sports.

Iredell Statesville Schools has set up a task force. It is made up of county commissioners, school board members, community members, youth association people, etc. There are about eight people on the task force.

Commissioner Brown said there are businesses that look to come to Iredell County, they ask what the county has to offer. There were a couple opportunities the county missed because we do not have a walking trail. Members mentioned the walking trail around the Lowe's corporate offices.

Richard ask about staffing overall. Tate said we are lacking rec assistants. People to help with programming. Brittany said camp is going great. They are officially half way at the end of this week. One person initially hired for camp did not make it through all the county background checks so they have heavily relied on the summer intern. Ben asked about the criteria for the rec assistant. They must be 18 years old. Tate said if the jobs can be combined, this position will manage the pool and then be everywhere. Ryan is working the Swim with Santa program this coming Saturday. We should have a part time person to help do that. Ben said he knows of a couple of kids that just graduated from high school that are looking for job.

Richard asked if we had short term or long-term goals or immediate needs that they should be focused on. Tate said another building for a rec center. The rec department needs space. A commercial building with a concrete floor where we could get four or five courts in it would help. Commissioner Brown said he did not see that coming in the next two years. Jennings Park and high schools are at the top of the list this year.

Tate met with Dave Cable today about the Three Corners project. They are getting close to making an offer on the land.

We have \$40,000 for a playground at East Iredell Lions Club Community Park. Tate wants to ask if he can use that money for planning. Parking needs to be addressed. He would like to have a plan before the playground is put in place. Barb asked if the community wanted a playground. Tate wants to ask the community.

Tate wants to explore the idea of a BMX track at Bigleaf Slopes. He does not want to dig to create the track but tie it into the existing trails.

Ryan mentioned immediate needs from a programming perspective. Programming will be looking for people in the community to help with coaches, run clinics, nature education and experience. With the

growth there will be additional need. Maybe we can talk to some of the organizations that are using our fields about helping with clinics – everything from flag football, soccer, volleyball, nature education, etc. Barb asked if they had talked to the Wildlife officers. Tate said that is who gave the fishing rods. Commissioner Brown said someone reached out to him today about helping. He will send the names to Tate.

Tate had a meeting last week with ultimate frisbee. It is like football with a frisbee. He is working with them to bring a tournament to Stumpy Creek next year. The Charlotte club hosts a lot of college championships.

Jeff loves the energy and all the new programs but wonders where games will play. When it comes to budget cuts, the library and recreation are the first to face cuts. Now facilities need to be addressed.

Tate and Ryan have had conversations this week about space. They have looked for partners with facilities that we could use. We can make a trade off with our partners.

Foundation creation

Tate wants to form a foundation for scholarships. This would be money handled by the foundation. We could send kids to camp that could not afford to go to camp, athletics, etc. It would be great to have \$15,000 to \$20,000 to start with. One suggestion to use for eligibility is free and reduced school lunches. Jane said parents can provide this information to the foundation. Tate is going to follow up with Commissioner Neader. They talked about the foundation when she toured the Rec Center a couple of weeks ago.

Richard Coleman made a motion to adjourn. Jane Laney seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, August 3, 2023 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