

Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department
 Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
 August 3, 2023 - 7:00 pm
 Iredell County Parks and Recreation Admin House
 123 Grannis Lane, Statesville, NC

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barb Thorson, Bobby Deal, Debra Tatu, Jane Laney, Jeff Cheek, Joseph Cooke, Richard Coleman
STAFF PRESENT: Ryan Brill, Stacy McGlamery

MINUTES

Jeff Cheek called the meeting to order. He asked Jane Laney to lead the group in a prayer.

One of our part-time staff passed away recently. Ryan asked Stacy to tell everyone about Barbara Turner, front desk attendant at the Recreation Center. She worked at the Barium Springs YMCA (same building) prior to the county’s purchase. She opened Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays many years ago. She made everyone feel welcome when they walked in the door. She will be missed.

There were no requests to speak.

Barb Thorson made a motion to approve the minutes form the July 13, 2023 meeting. Jane Laney seconded the motion. Call for discussion. There was none. Motion passes unanimously.

Ryan thanked everyone to coming and moved into the staff and park reports. Ryan give everyone a folder with several flyers for upcoming programs and a pamphlet with events the department plans to have each year.



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

August 3, 2023

STAFF

Sports, Events & Facilities	Programming	Recreation Center	Parks Grounds	Admin
<p><i>VACANT</i></p> <p>Marty Haneline</p>	<p>Austin Setzer</p> <p>Stacey Ulaszek</p> <p>Brittany McNeil</p>	<p>James Huffman</p> <p>Ronda Benfield</p> <p>Devon Sawyer</p>	<p>Micah Deane</p> <p>Scotty Harris</p> <p>Jordan Lail</p> <p>Ben Liles</p> <p>Steven Beavers</p>	<p>Tate Osbourne</p> <p>Ryan Brill</p> <p>Stacy McGlamery</p>

HIGHLIGHTS

ADMINISTRATION:

- Created pamphlet for Department programming
- Discussed service with Pepsi and future sponsorships
- Developing concession plan. May transition Stumpy concessions to self-serve
- Reviewed RFQ's for Jennings playground.
- Discussed four corners greenway with planning. Will meet next week to further plan.
- Scheduled meetings with Troutman and Statesville Directors for collaboration ideas.
- Worked with programming staff to develop new programs and schedule.
- Posted open positions. PT Rec assistant, FT Sports/Events/Facilities Manager, and FT Maintenance.
- Developed logs for Park vehicles to track maintenance records.

Partnerships

- ✓ Currently in talks with Lake Norman State Park and Calvary Baptist regarding programming space
- ✓ We have identified 15+ partners in the community as of Friday 7/21/23. Ryan and Austin will be going out in the community and speaking with them.
- ✓ Many of our new programs will be hosted at the Rec Center, where discounts for members will be provided. Thus, increasing memberships and attendance at the Rec Center.
- ✓ Meet with Statesville Chamber concerning future

SPORTS, EVENTS & FACILITIES:

- FC Athletico Attacking, Finishing, and Goalkeeper Camp 7-10-7/13
- Fifteen Sports Baseball Camp Session 7/10-7/13
- FC Athletico Mid-Summer Sizzler 6v6 Tournament 7/15
- Impact Lacrosse Camp 7/17-7/21
- ICPRD Pickleball Tournament 7/22/ Scheduling September Tournament 9/16
- FC Athletico Elite Preseason Camp 7/24-7/27
- FC Athletico 6v6 Championships 7/29

PROGRAMMING:

Upcoming Youth

- Afterschool
 - Starting in the spring, we will be offering afterschool every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This will include pick up from the school site, homework help, socialization, physical education and more.
- PE for Homeschool
 - This is a traditional style PE program for homeschooled kids. Children will get to participate in a wide variety of games to help homeschooled kids meet their required physical education components.
- School Day Out
 - School Days Out follow the Iredell- Statesville School calendar. During teacher workdays, we will offer a 'School Day Out' and have children go on trips, play games, participate in physical education activities and more!
- Kid's Night Out

- This event will occur about once a month. It is an opportunity for parents to drop their child off with us and enjoy a night out. It will have games, sports, crafts, music, & more for the kids to enjoy during their stay with us.
- Muddy Boots
 - This program is geared for toddlers' ages 3-6 years old. It will feature hands-on activities for kids, including mud play, forts, animal tracking, forest wisdom, foraging, insects, worms, bird watching, & more!
- Little Explorers
 - This program will allow toddlers ages 6 years-old and younger to explore their local Iredell County parks! The program will meet the second Wednesday of the month from March – May.

Upcoming Adult

- Trips
 - 8/18 - Taste of Country Tour - \$25/person. 22/22 registered, 4 on waitlist
Description: We'll spend the morning and early afternoon visiting local country markets in Mooresville, Mt. Ulla, China Grove, and Salisbury. At each stop we'll enjoy a sample of one of their local goods. We'll fit in a light breakfast, a mid-morning snack, and an appetizer all before lunch at the China Grove Family Restaurant. We'll even take a guided tour of some hydroponic gardens! Samples at each market are included in the fee.
 - 8/31 – Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre – \$85/person. 22/22 registered, 6 on waitlist.
Description: Million Dollar Quartet - This Tony award-nominated musical is set on December 4, 1956, when an extraordinary twist of fate brought Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Elvis Presley together at Sun Records in Memphis. That night would be one of the greatest jam sessions ever. Million Dollar Quartet brings that legendary evening to life with an irresistible take of broken promises, secrets, betrayal, and celebrations that is both poignant and funny.
- Arts & Crafts 55+
 - 8/3 – Let's Get Crafty - \$5/person. 3/8 registered
Description: Need a creative outlet? This program is for you! This summer, we'll get crafty with fun and simple projects. This program will take place at the Iredell County Recreation Center in the downstairs functional training room. For August we'll create a beaded memory wire bracelet.
 - 8/8 – Garden Art - \$5/person. 6/8 registered
Description: Give your garden or indoor plants some pizzazz with art created by you! This program will take place at the Iredell County Recreation Center in the downstairs functional training room. For August we'll created a beaded garden stake.
 - 8/23 – Sip n' Paint - \$14/person. 3/8 registered
Description: Create your very own masterpiece while sipping a glass of sparkling juice! No experience is necessary as this will be a step-by-step instructor led program. This program will take place at the Iredell County Recreation Center in the downstairs functional training room. For August we'll paint "Desert Golden Hour."

- Big Rig Day on 7/31. Parents and children are encouraged to come see, touch, and explore big rigs!
- Stumpy Creek Fishing Clinic. August 17th! Clinic is full and we are looking at scheduling two additional clinics.
- Goat Yoga on 8/26. Partnered with Lazy Day Farms to offer a fun outdoor community event at the rec center. People will participate in Goat Yoga and enjoy time with family and friends. A coffee truck will be present as well.
- 'Fall Family Fest' event will have bouncy house, fall festivities, food trucks, crafts, sports, music, & more! It is an opportunity for families to come out and participate in traditional fall themed activities. First Saturday in November 2023.
- The 'Summer Kick Off' event will have bouncy houses, summer games, food trucks, crafts, sports, music & more! It will be an opportunity to get children and families excited for the summer months and for them to get information regarding pool hours and summer programming. Third Saturday in May 2024.

RECREATION CENTER:

- For fiscal year 2023 the Rec Center was in the black at \$22,834 when comparing revenue to expense.
- Planned, scheduled and marketed sensory times at the pool.
- Added 12 chaise lounge chairs to the pool.
- Currently 15 pool rentals for the season.
- New backflow system installed to plumbing.

Recreation Center: Membership & Attendance	June	YTD
Membership Category:		
*Regular Membership		723
County Employees		33
Corporate		18
Insurance		262
Partnered Membership		29
Pool Passes		17
Current Membership accounts:		1,082
Total Individuals in all membership categories <i>(including children under the age of 14)</i>		1,657
Pool Drop-ins (Including groups, lessons & rentals)	1,776	1,776
\$5 Drop In Registrants	359	2,458
Group Exercise Attendance	1,029	6,433
Total Check Ins (including pool)	5,581	32,494

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

Park Properties:

Park Reservations for: JUNE		
Park	Amount of Reservations	Total Participation
Bigleaf Slopes	0	141
East Iredell Lions Club Community Park	3	115
Jennings (Fields only, w/o Ropes Course)	23	1,725
Jennings (Other/Special Events/Shelter)	0	0
Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park	0	0
Rec Center Field	5	240
Rec Center Gymnasium		
Scotts Rosenwald Community Building	9	345
Scotts Rosenwald (fields only)	0	0
Stumpy Creek (fields and picnic shelters)	77	20,166
Stumpy Creek Boat Landing	0	7,680
Stumpy Creek Disc Golf Course	0	403
Totals	117	30,815

CALENDAR: EVENTS & PROGRAMS

DATE	Event	Division
August 29	Blood Drive with the Red Cross	Rec Center
August 1, 3, 8 and 10	Sensory Times at the Pool	Rec Center
September 4	Closing Date of the Pool	Rec center
September 10	Chain Reactions Summer Point Series (Disc Golf)	Sports, Events & Facilities

Ryan highlighted some areas mentioned in the staff and park report. Tate has talked with Pepsi about future sponsorships. Concession plans are being discussed at Stumpy Creek. Some talk is about self-service vending machines to reduce staffing costs.

Some RFQ's were returned for the Jennings Park inclusive playground. Jeff asked why this the RFQ was done at this time. Ryan asked Stacy to respond. Stacy said that we know we are planning for the playground to be around 7,000 square feet and we know some of the pieces we would like to have in the playground. We know the general placement for the playground in the park. The general contractor is going to do the rough grading and get it level. The playground contractor will do the fine grading. We went the route of and RFQ so we would know the company is qualified to build a playground like this. Jeff asked how the information is disseminated for an RFQ. Stacy said that all the playground companies she spoke to when she was working on the grant were sent a copy. It was on the county website. Finance has places where they advertise RFQ's. There were two men at one of the public meetings who work for a playground company related to the grant. Jeff asked if they would have received that information. Stacy said yes. Ryan said there were some really good proposals in what was received.

Tate has meetings scheduled with Troutman and Statesville parks and recreation directors for collaboration ideas. We will continue to see how we can work with our neighbors to enhance quality of life for everyone. Richard asked if we reached out to Mooresville. Ryan said he was not sure if we had reached out to Mooresville yet and agreed they would be a good agency to reach out to.

Brandon Free who was our Sports, Events & Facilities Manager has accepted a position with another agency. That position has been posted. Applicants have been returned to HR. We will be scheduling interviews for this position as well as the part time Rec Assistant position in the next two weeks.

We are developing partnerships with Lake Norman State Park and Calvary Baptist Church. We are working with HeartStrings. Stacey Ulaszek will be holding a number of programs at that facility starting in August. We are excited about that. Austin and Ryan have identified 15 community partners they plan to talk to try to create a volunteer group, donate to our events, and come out to our special events. Many of our new programs will be held at the Rec Center. James and Ryan are figuring out how to maximize the space at the Rec Center for afterschool and kid's night out programs.

Our first pickleball tournament was held July 22. It turned a profit and we had good numbers on it. It was a good event. We got good feedback on it. Big Rig Day was held at the Rec Center on Monday.

The parking lots were full and people were parking on the grass. There were 300 or 400 people here during the event on a Monday. Jane asked where the pickleball tournament was. Ryan said it was in the Rec Center with three courts.

Richard asked about background checks for the counselors or anyone that work with children and how often the background checks are done. Ryan said background checks for volunteers are done yearly. Stacy said that all employees go through background checks when they are hired. We would need to check with HR to find out when they are done aside from that. It has been a while since we had volunteers, probably since before COVID. Richard helps with security at his church. His church runs a background check every 30 days so if something new happens, the church will get an email. Ryan said he will check on it and get back to Richard.

OLD BUSINESS

Lighting at Stumpy Creek

Should start in the beginning of September. We do not have a date for completion yet. Musco lighting is lighting all the fields that do not currently have lights.

There is an osprey nest on a pole at Stumpy Creek. Jane said that the nest may be able to be moved when the birds are not nesting. We should check with the NC Wildlife to find out for sure.

Jennings Park update

The groundbreaking was last week. Ryan thanked everyone for coming. There were a lot of citizens and staff there. It was a good event. We are excited to see how this progresses.

NEW BUSINESS

Staffing updates

Candidates are in for Brandon's and Rec Assistant positions.

Programming updates

Ryan gave everyone a folder with information from the programming division. Included was a trifold that tells about ongoing activities put on in our department. It provided a QR code that can be scanned to take them to our website for a full list of our programs. Upcoming programs include: kid's night out, goat yoga, fall family fest, sports clinics (disc golf and archery), arts and crafts, adult programs and trips, preschool and toddler programs, afterschool program, PE for homeschool, and school day out at the Rec Center with a discount for Iredell County employees. All of these flyers will be share on our social media.

We are in negotiations with Soccer Shots. They use our field at the Rec Center for \$10 an hour. We lose programming space and opportunity to do programs of our own so we can bring in revenue of our own when Soccer Shots pays \$10 per hour. They are meeting on the 14th to talk with them about hosting events for us to allow us to generate revenue for us.

Ryan is excited about upcoming goat yoga. He was able to negotiate a lower rate than their normal rate. There will also be a free coffee truck.

Bobby said it would be good to have the flyers at the open houses at the schools next week.

Rec Center Open House is Tuesday, August 29. James' staff will be giving tours of the facility. Tables will be set up for our programs. Rec Advisory, county commissioners and the community are all invited.

Jane said we need to set up at the open houses for Troutman and Celeste Henkel. Bobby said it would have been nice if we had a booth set up at Troutman's National Night Out. Bobby mentioned the welcome packets and adding out information to that, if they are still being done. Jane mentioned real estate companies. Richard mentioned the model home in the new communities. Joseph said we could share the QR code and we may not need to send multiple flyers to these places. Barb mentioned putting the QR code and information in Iredell Free News. Ryan said if anyone had any ideas to feel free to send the information to him.

Tate has an upcoming meeting with Iredell County Planning Department concerning fourth creek greenway. This is the greenway in connecting Bigleaf Slopes to the Statesville Greenway. Ryan said Tate will be able to elaborate on this more at the next meeting.

Richard asked if there were any food truck events. Ryan said we are talking about doing one at the fairgrounds but we cannot use that facility just yet. We will be creating a food truck event for the fairgrounds that will bring people in. Bobby said Troutman held a Party in the Park in June and July. At each function there were around 1,000 people to attend and 8 to 10 food trucks. It was packed.

Stacy added one item that was not on the agenda. At the last meeting, this board passed a motion to name the playground at Jennings Park after Commissioner Marvin Norman. Amy Anderson, Clerk to the Board of Commissioners, asked that we write a letter to the board asking the Commissioners to ratify the motion passed by this board. It will be presented at the August 15 Board of Commissioners meeting. They are going to try to get Juanita Norman to attend and have this be a surprise.

Barb said that Godfrey Williams was a commissioner when we started looking for a park in north Iredell. His daughter would appreciate some recognition for Godfrey also. He was on the school board. Then he became a commissioner. He helped us obtain the first piece of property on Bustle Road. He worked really hard to get that going. There were a lot of meetings. Barb said she thinks we need to do something. Jeff said that his daughter is on the Jennings Park Focus Group. Jane told everyone that he started out on the Rec Advisory Board because she and Godfrey were on this board together. Jeff said this is something that is worthy of discussion. Jane said there may be other people. Perhaps we get a big plaque for Jennings Park like they do with schools when they open. Bobby said a plaque could be put at the concession stand.

Stacy read the letter aloud to everyone.



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August 3, 2023

Iredell County Board of Commissioners
Melissa Neader, Chair
Bert Connolly, Vice-Chair
Scottie Brown
Brad J. Stroud, Sr.
Gene Houpe

RE: Naming of playground at Jennings Park

Dear Madam Chair and fellow Commissioners,

At the July 13, 2023 meeting of the Iredell County Recreation Advisory Board the topic of naming the new inclusive playground at Jennings Park was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to name the playground in honor of the late Commissioner Marvin Norman. Many of the members served on this board with Commissioner Norman. They remember what a proponent of recreation he was and how important the children of Iredell County were to him.

On behalf of the Recreation Advisory Board, we are pleased to present this motion and ask that this motion be ratified and approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Cheek".

Jeff Cheek, Chair
Iredell County
Recreation Advisory Board

Members:

Debra Tatu, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Scottie Brown, ex officio
Scott Bell
Richard Coleman
Joseph Cooke
Bobby Deal
Seth Hathcock
Ben Johnson
Jane Laney
Barb Thorson

Richard Coleman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Barb Thorson. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, September 7, 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