

Recreation and Parks Commission Meeting – April 11, 2022

ATTENDEES:

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Anita Jones-McNair (Town employee), Maggie Funkhauser (presiding), Chris Colvin, Jeff Laufenberg, Danny Nowell (Town Council), Leyla Aydin, and Makeda Ma'at

Funkhouser called mtg to order at 7:08pm

Colvin move to approve March minutes; Laufenberg seconded

Makeda abstained (3 approves, motion passed)

Communications/Speakers from the Floor:

No speakers from the floor.

NEW BUSINESS

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1) Vacancies and Terms of Commission Members; were all well in our terms. Follow up report on staggered commission members' tenure

No expirations this year except for Brian (rolled off) and Chris to extend.

4 vacancies currently on R&P Commission (Brian's slot + 3 other openings)

No action needed on this item, other than to track/review applications.

Funkhouser to invite the applicants to the next mtg or two, and follow up with them on their continued interest.

Push from Council for diversity (broadly defined, but should be considered in our selection of candidates)

Has there been any discussion of using the email list for comprehensive outreach plan, to broadcast to those participants, on the assumption that they may be more engaged? >> Staff will reach out to Town Clerk about question/suggestion.

2) Tour of Parks Facilities - going to different parks in lieu of our monthly meetings; need to consider daylight hours.

Staff recommended to consider tour(s) later in the year when it's still light out; or consider an extra 30 minutes earlier (6 or 630pm perhaps); how would we like to take that tour? ride the van? or drive separately? meet at each site? meet in the back of Century Center;

It was also recommended if by van, split into two separate months? we will have up to 8 individuals in attendance, at present levels and align the tours to the onboarding of new members.

Discussion and support around visiting half the facilities in June and half in August; have a little more time in various parks; R&P staff potentially attend as well.

Staff reminded the commission that the racial equity/diversity lens will be applied (begins next week and will inform the work of department); normally don't have a Commission meeting in July (due to volunteering at 4th of July event), but if we choose to have a July meeting, we can certainly do so, facilitating park tour in June and in August. Will confirm if van is available and report back on this item in May meeting; potentially start meetings in those months at 6 or 630pm. something to consider/vote in the May meeting, as well as identification of appropriate reps from R&P team.

OLD BUSINESS:

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1) Carrboro Parks Project - dog park shade sale, staff reached out to CPP and received an email last week (Q1: whether a commission liaison had been selected? and QA2: if estimate for shade sale had been considered?); Susan Stone reported that's how she remembered it, but not how staff remembered it; there were quite a few things to do to get up and active again (tax returns filed, identifying funds, creating a website) Staff's understanding was that they were going to get those items completed before circling back with us; go to Council for approval to raise funds; there was not a definite timeframe involved, but usually lasts 6-8 months but has been several months since we last spoke with her; has not heard back from Susan Stone yet about what would be the purpose of the liaison and were they up and running and ready to take on this fundraising role, which needs to go to Council approval? Update in May.

2) Comprehensive Plan Update - Council in late March considered draft and requested to incorporate comments from various commissions, residents, and community orgs; Board and Commission feedback has been incorporated two drafts ago, expecting no "surprises" in terms of adoption; study of cemetery plot replacement plans forthcoming. Staff will send notification when it's on Council agenda.

CHAIR REPORT:

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No new news to report.

DEPT REPORT

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1) in person activities and programs; Carrboro Day will be in person, first Sunday in May (1-5pm); Freight Train Blues Series (every Friday from mid May to June, total of 5 sessions; typically done at the Commons); Juneteenth event (teamed up with CH and school district), youth event to be held at Town Commons (several dates still under consideration) and 4th of July event.

2) Intergovernmental Park Workgroup - selected officials from each jurisdiction + town staff from each Parks/Recreation/Open Space commission + nonprofit groups + school board members + private entities (UNC campus recreation, Arboretum, etc.) meet quarterly to bi-annual communicate/coordinate on various projects; opportunity for partnership and program coordination within the County; Colvin representative for Orange County Parks and Recreation Council and staff will confirm our representative

3) Carrboro Open Streets - last Sunday, very fun, joyful occasion along with Crop Walk, CD record show.

4) Summer Activities brochure coming out soon

5) Comfort level of Commission about the May meeting (Virtual)

Motion to have May meeting virtual; with June and August meetings in person (tour); and in August revisit what we want to do in Sept (all in favor; none opposed; motion passes)

Motion to Adjourn at 8:10pm; motion seconded. Vote was unanimous.