

RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

September 28, 2022

A meeting of the Recreation Advisory Board was held on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 with the meeting being called to order by Becky Summerlin at 12:03pm.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rodney Lawrence, Sherisse Malone, David Miles, Brantley Pittman, Ryan Stanford, Irene Pate, Jeff Battles

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Carl Brown

VACANT POSITIONS:

District 1, 2, 3

CITY STAFF PRESENT:

Becky Summerlin, Tommy Groce, Ryan McCann, Samantha Thies, Josh Carter, Eli Willard

ROLL CALL WAS COMPLETED by Ryan McCann

STAFF UPDATES:

Park Services- Includes Memorial Stadium and Golden Park (Tommy Groce):

Tommy said the division is still working hard to get everything done despite the ongoing staffing shortages. Fall leagues are starting and they are working to improve communication with contacts. With the shortfall of personnel timely communication is what allows them to get facilities ready for events. Tommy has reached out to Columbus Youth Football about their schedule without a reply. Becky said the existing crews are keeping things going, but it's taking a toll on them. They have worked 41 out of the last 51 weekends. The goal is to get enough crews to rotate weekend responsibilities and prevent burn-out.

Community Schools (Samantha Thies):

Sam reiterated what Tommy said about staffing issues, indicating they are short 35-40 after school workers. Some schools pulled off the City's after school program to start them at the individual schools under MCSD, but now are interested in coming back on the CCG program, but we don't have enough staff to fully meet the need. The after-school STEM program is being well received.

Aquatics (Josh Carter):

Josh stated that the issues with equipment failing at the aquatics center has presented a large challenge to them. The air conditioner, pool heater, and water line have all had issues requiring outside firms to repair them and that has been a challenge. He said it's been difficult to get technicians. In order to offset the lost time for members, Josh has agreed to extend the prepaid and monthly memberships.

Recreation Services- Includes Lake Oliver, Pottery, Seniors, and Therapeutics (Becky Summerlin):

Staffing shortages forced the temporary closure of Boxwood Recreation Center. Additionally, Tillis Recreation Center was scheduled to reopen, but has also been indefinitely closed until staffing improves. The mobile recreation center will come online soon once the trailer arrives and is built out.

Administration- Deputy Director (Becky Glisson):

Becky said that new employee referrals for our various openings are welcome and board members are encouraged to let us know they referred them.

Jeff Battles:

Announced to the board that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Otis Sistrunk Stadium @ Spencer High School will be held October 15, 2022 at 10am. The address is 4100 Cusseta Road and all are encouraged to attend the ceremony. Jeff also commended Tommy and the Park Services Crews for going above and beyond with their efforts.

Rodney Lawrence:

Rodney said it had been brought to his attention that many swings had been taken down at several parks and was wondering what their status is. Tommy advised that the swings had

degraded and did not pass inspection any longer, so we had no choice, but to remove them. The city did not have funding in the budget for replacements, so we are exploring grant options. Rod asked what the cost of a replacement swing set would be. **Tommy said he would get Jared Owens in his division to report back to the board on the cost.** Rodney said he would be interested in a private-public collaboration to replace the swings if that was appropriate.

Brantley Pittman:

Brantley asked the status of the grant info he sent over to Holli recently. Becky said there was no update at the moment. Tommy confirmed that Trees Columbus and City were partnering to do work at Theo McGee Park, but it had not been started yet.

Irene Pate:

Irene said she had a call from a citizen regarding a replacement little library in Heath Park. Did the city have any additional units that could be installed there? Becky said there were no additional units right now, but if some came available, she would advise Irene. Irene reported that the usage rates at Britt David Pottery Studio appeared to be increasing based on her observations. She asked if we felt we had enough funding to continue to support the increased needs for clay, glass, and associated supplies. Becky said the City is continuously looking for additional sources of funding and optimistic we'll be able to keep up with the need.

Adjournment:

With no further discussion, Irene made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Rod and the meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm.

Minutes recorded by Ryan McCann.

NOTE: Any items written in **RED** require follow-up by the party's as indicated in the narrative.