

MINUTES: PARK BOARD MEETING 11/27/2023

Date and time: 11/27/23 5:15 p.m.
Present: Shane Clines, Rick Shiverdecker, Larry Doyle, Michael Shindler, Jerra Hedges, Cecil Brandt, Wayne Bill, Council Liaison Bob Washington, Mayor Steve Myers, Int. Director of Administration Courtney Doyle, Parks and Rec Director Clay Caswell, Assistant Parks and Rec Director Tara O'Shea, and City Clerk Kathie Ratliff
Absent: Robert Wilson, Brenna Kemp
Location: Legends Rec-Plex

DISCUSSION

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Shane Clines called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll call was noted.

2. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS

There were none.

3. MINUTES

Motion was made by Rick Shiverdecker and Seconded by Larry Doyle to approve the minutes for the October 24, 2023 meeting. All in favor.

4. REPORTS

Parks and Recreation Director Caswell updated the board with his department reports. Friday, December 1, is the Festival of Lights and Field of Joy tree lighting. Legends, he continued, had received 60,000 visitors as of the end of October. Tanglewood achieved a record-breaking year, and despite the wintertime slowdown in golf activity, some guests continue to partake. Additionally, he disclosed that a new administrative assistant had been engaged.

He then updated the members about a column at Memorial Park that was destroyed by a drunk driver in the early morning hours of Thanksgiving. He said staff had successfully cleared the site. The city is planning to engage a contractor to reconstruct it, anticipating a substantial project due to its century-old construction. Originally erected to honor World War I veterans, this structure has never suffered such extensive damage before, with some lights being the only previous issues.

5. PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGET REPORT:

CFO Dougherty was not available to present the budget report at this meeting.

6. OLD BUSINESS

Wayne Bill asked about the \$199k ARPA funds allocated for Tanglewood. Caswell clarified that the funds were received during the COVID period and were earmarked for irrigation, categorized as "tourism" funds. Councilman Washington questioned when this decision was made, and it was part of the first round of ARPA funding distributed by the county. Int. Director of Administration Doyle recalled that the decision was likely made in the spring of 2022, and the irrigation project was implemented in the fall of the same year.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Park Assignments to Board Members

Director Caswell and Clines discussed with the board the process of assigning specific parks to individuals as a means of promoting vigilance and shared responsibility. Clines emphasized that this approach would not only enable better communication with parkgoers but also facilitate comprehensive reporting back to the board. This method is expected to enhance our collective engagement in various aspects of park management and community involvement. The board will discuss assignments in January of 2024.

B. Park Improvement Project Discussion

To address financial constraints in the capital improvement budget, Caswell and Doyle explored using sales tax funds for park enhancements. They propose allocating \$200k for priority projects, supplementing others with grants, and maintaining strict adherence to this guideline.

Caswell reviewed the prioritized list of park improvement projects. The board agreed that the initial focus should be related to safety concerns. The Park Board reviewed and discussed the park improvement projects which are: repairing the retaining wall on the trail near the 7th Street bridge, replacing Ingle Shelter, addressing a set of stairs and brick walkway at Tanglewood, and replacing a basketball court in Carver Park. Additionally, two facility-related projects involve replacing the HVAC at Tanglewood's kitchen and refurbishing the Pro Shop floor. All projects will be subject to the bidding process.

Decision Motion was made by Larry Doyle and Seconded by Rick Shiverdecker to recommend to the Fulton City Council to prioritize the projects as follows:

1. Repairs to retaining wall on Trail near 7th Street Bridge (Est: \$15,000)
2. Replace Ingle Shelter at Veteran's Park (Est: \$40,000)
3. Stair and Brick Path Replacement at Tanglewood Golf Course (Est: \$15,000)
4. Replace broken HVAC unit at Tanglewood Golf Course (Est: \$14,000)
5. Basketball Court Replacement at Carver Park. (Est: \$125,000)

If after these projects are finalized and money is available the final project of replacing the Pro Shop flooring in Tanglewood (Est: \$9,000) was recommended.

All members in favor, two members absent (Kemp, Wilson).

C. Park Programs and Events

O'Shea is seeking input to develop programs in various community areas, believing that the community desires increased accessibility in additional parks.

D. Meeting Date

The board agreed to meet on the first Thursday of every month at 5:15 p.m.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next Park Board meeting will be January 4, 2024, at 5:15 p.m.



9. ADJOURNMENT:

Decision Motion was made by Rick Shiverdecker and Seconded by Wayne Bill to adjourn the meeting at 5:56 p.m. All in favor, two absent (Kemp, Wilson).

Respectively submitted,
/s/Kathie Ratliff
City Clerk