

## **MINUTES: PARK BOARD MEETING 1/4/2024**

**Date and time:** 1/4/2024 5:15 p.m.  
**Present:** Shane Clines, Rick Shiverdecker, Larry Doyle, Jerra Hedges, Cecil Brandt, Robert Wilson, Council Liaison Bob Washington, Mayor Steve Myers, Director of Administration Courtney Doyle, Parks and Rec Director Clay Caswell, Assistant Parks and Rec Director Tara O'Shea, and City Clerk Kathie Ratliff, Councilwoman Lauren Nelson, and many Pickleball Players from the Fulton area.  
**Absent:** Wayne Bill, Brenna Kemp, Michael Shindler, and Chief Financial Officer Dustin Dougherty  
**Location:** Legends Rec-Plex

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER.**

Shane Clines called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. Roll call was noted.

### **2. COMMENTS FROM VISITORS**

There were none. All visitors in attendance were present for the latter Pickleball discussion.

### **3. MINUTES**

Motion was made by Robert Wilson and Seconded by Rick Shiverdecker to approve the minutes for the November 27, 2023 meeting. All in favor, three absent (Bill, Kemp, Shindler).

### **4. REPORTS**

CFO Dougherty was unable to attend the meeting to deliver the financial report.

Director Caswell provided a comprehensive review of the year, citing positive numbers until the impact of COVID19. He expressed optimism about an upward trend and highlighted the golf course's record year. The Legends facility also saw increased activity, and Tanglewood marked its third consecutive profitable year. He anticipates a successful year ahead.

### **5. OLD BUSINESS**

Park Assignments to Board Members

Director Caswell reviewed the proposal of having park board members choose specific parks as a personal assignment to enhance feedback and additional oversight. While not mandatory, it is seen as beneficial. Members shared their choices with everyone in attendance.

### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Pickleball Court Discussion – Eric Boyd

In a conversation led by Eric Boyd, he invited all Park Board members and City Leadership to join in and play a few games of pickleball and presented a petition from pickleball players in Fulton. Boyd highlighted the significant growth of pickleball nationally, reaching nearly 9 million players in 2022. He emphasized its popularity across genders, ages, and physical abilities,

making it an inclusive and enjoyable sport. Boyd expressed the need for open access to pickleball courts in Fulton, as currently, it is only available to members at Legends or the YMCA.

Discussion revolved around the best location for public access to pickleball courts, with Boyd suggesting that he believes that building courts in Fulton would attract visitors and boost local business. Concerns were raised about the preference for indoor or outdoor courts, with Boyd indicating that either option is well-loved. He stated that for tournament hosting opportunities, having 16 courts would be optimal.

Questions about potential grants were raised. Mr. Boyd mentioned a significant grant that may be available from Land and Government. The conversation continued on, touching on membership numbers, local business involvement, maintenance, and the potential for tournaments.

Lively conversation then followed regarding league play, court capacities, and limited play in certain rooms due to height constraints. The length of a pickleball game, cost estimates for court construction, and financial considerations were also discussed. The group suggested potential locations for pickleball courts, including the soccer park and a partnership with Westminster for their tennis courts, although parking issues were noted.

In conclusion, the conversation focused on the enthusiasm for introducing pickleball opportunities in Fulton, exploring potential partnerships, and addressing logistical and financial considerations with the conversation ending at 5:57 p.m.

#### B. Program Ideas

Assistant Director Tara O'Shea encouraged board members to collaborate on generating ideas for upcoming events and programs. She emphasized the need for diverse suggestions, covering various aspects such as marketing initiatives, family-oriented activities, physical fitness programs, and educational opportunities.

The objective was to come up with a variety of program ideas that would interest different groups of people in the community and enhance the overall experience.

The discussion shifted towards marketing opportunities. Caswell stated that the intent to return to creating a program guide and newsletter is there. Conversation regarding digital signage as a strategic tool for promoting and highlighting city events and information took place. Recommendation was made to look into pricing for this initiative and present the proposal to the city council.

#### C. Board member Profiles

The idea of featuring board member profiles on Facebook and showcasing one member each month was discussed. The plan involves distributing a questionnaire, with the completed forms to be returned at the next meeting for those willing to participate.

### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next Park Board meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2024, at 5:15 p.m. It will take place at Legend's Rec-Plex, and the main agenda topic will be the Carver Park Improvement Plan.



**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

**Decision** Motion was made by Rick Shiverdecker and Seconded by Robert Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. All in favor, three absent (Bill, Kemp, Shindler).

Respectively submitted,  
/s/Kathie Ratliff  
City Clerk