

Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes June 21, 2023

Attendees: Tracy Burnett, J. Stamey, Caitlin Murphy, Tammy Phillips, Joy Hewett, Will Sparrow, Anne Geer, James Fogleman, Commissioner Franklin Gomez-Flores, Keith Shea

Welcome

Minutes

- Approved minutes from 5/17/23 meeting
- Meetings were approved by Anne and seconded by Joy

Grants to Organization Recommendations

- Tracy Burnett went over scores and summarized Descriptions of Requests for each organization.
 - Deep River Park: Highest score overall
 - Sprott Youth Center: Second highest score
 - Bonlee Recreation: Third highest score
- J. pointed out correct amount for Deep River is \$28,656.40
- Proposal:
 - Sprott Youth Center: \$6,300 to fully fund their request.
 - Deep River Park: \$6,500 to repair bridge.
 - Bonlee Recreation: \$7,500 for shelter over bleachers.

James made a motion to approve values assigned to the projects.

Keith seconded the motion.

Joy opposed the motion.

Commissioner Franklin Gomez-Flores asked if the committee thought this line in budget should be increased?

He requested to receive the total amount of funds requested by different organizations over the past 10 years.

Parker's Ridge Park Update

- J. gave update. Had community meeting in Moncure about two weeks ago.
- Met with Stewart Engineering to discuss best layout options for the park.
- Will meet with Stewart Engineering again to go over the final plan when it is ready.
- Submitted for Special Use Permit - could take 4-6 months to obtain this permit.
- Environmental Impact Assessment results should be back any day now.
- We will share the final plan with the committee when we have it.
- There are several more steps to complete before construction can begin.
- Native and all pollinator plants in this park.

NC Connect Bond Project Bynum Mill Update

- County Management has reached out, waiting for a follow-up

Haw River State Corridor Update

- Correction: Haw River Trail Feasibility Update
- Draft should be available at the end of June.
- General public will get a chance to make comments.
- Final draft should be completed in September.
- Feasibility Study should talk about funding, trail alignment, river integration, etc.

Haw River State Trail Authorization Bill

- Haw River Trail has been given state-wide recognition, eligible for State Trail funding for the future.

Other Topics

- Tracy talked about Deep River trail planning.
- Pollinator Week Celebration this Saturday, June 24th from 9am-noon at Northeast District Park.

Commissioner Franklin Gomez-Flores made suggestions for increasing programming throughout the county:

- Family coloring event
- Easter/spring event
- Summer event
- Thanksgiving/Fall event
- Aging Services Collaboration - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
- Partnerships with the Board of Health, Education
- Benefits of walking barefoot
- Partnerships with Local Farms – Pick your own berries, apples, pumpkins, etc.
- Waste reduction, advocate agriculture in the county.
- Walk/Bike Network at county parks. Target high school students, small businesses, economic development – Make sure local communities are first to benefit from economic growth.
- Fishing – Fathers day/Mothers day/Holiday event: Go fishing with your child.
- Want individual groups in the county to feel like they are being represented.

J: All areas of Chatham County are being served. Different municipalities in the county have control over what is offered where. Example: Town of Pittsboro has control over downtown Parks, Town of Siler City.

Franklin's idea: Tournaments in Chatham County – Bring tourism to Parks & Rec. Partner and coordinate to generate revenue.

J mentioned there are staffing, parking, capacity issues to consider.

Sports Alliance with the Pittsboro Siler City Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tracy talked about how this is upcoming to bring tourism to the county.

Tracy talked about different collaborations Parks & Rec has done in the past.

Continue conversation about goals at next meeting.

Next meeting is September 20, 2023 at 6:00pm

James motioned to adjourn meeting.

Joy seconded motion.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:25pm