

City of Newton – Recreation Commission

Minutes from February 11, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Kyle Smith

Members in attendance:

Terry Abernethy, Mickie Drum, David Shugart, Marshall Pratt

Members absent:

John Stiver, Sandra Waters

Visitors:

Parks and Recreation Assistant Director Carol Stiles.

A. Approval of Minutes

Commission member Terry Abernethy moved for the Commission to approve the minutes from the Tuesday, January 14th regular meeting, seconded by Commission member Mickie Drum, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

B. Chairman Kyle Smith welcomed everyone.

C. Northside Park Tennis Courts

A Request for Action form for the Removal of (2) existing lower tennis courts located at Northside Park was presented to the City Council during the February 4th council meeting. The City Council approved the request with a 4-1 vote.

The approved project will remove the tennis courts by city staff, install new playground equipment where the courts are, remove the fencing and install it around the basketball court.

D. Jacob Fork Mountain Bike Trail

The Assistant Director told the commission that the Director had responded to the complaint that she received regarding the Mountain Bike at Jacob Fork Park. She suggested that signage as well as mirrors placed in permanent locations on the bike trail would help with walkers on the trail.

E. Northside Park Playground Equipment

Terry Abernethy, Mickie Drum and Assistant Director Carol Stiles had previously met and looked over different playground options for Northside Park. The Director put those ideas on the playground design for the commission to look over. Assistant Director said the \$60,000 designated for playground equipment does not allow for a lot of equipment because of ground cover and borders was included in the price. Carol also mentioned checking to see if that included installation or if it was something the maintenance staff would do.

F. Jacob Fork Park Pump Track/Skills Course

David Shugart put together a book showing pictures with information on pump tracks, skills course and flow track. David also mentioned that Woody Keene, President of Trail Dynamics would be designing the new bike courses at the park.

G. New Commission Member

A suggestion was made by commission member Terry Abernethy to see if Frances Inscoe would be interested in joining the commission, the group thought she would be a good addition but will continue

looking for a new commission member.

H. Activities/Building and Grounds/Cemeteries Report

The 2014 youth basketball season will be ending soon; Recreation Department will be sponsoring the 2014 Western Youth Athletic Association Midget Girls Basketball Tournament being held February 28 – March 2nd; springs sports registration for volleyball, soccer and baseball is still being offered; the Senior Citizens Valentine Dance that was cancelled due to the inclement weather will be held Thursday, February 13th; Amy McCauley from Catawba County used grant money to purchase the “No Smoking on City Property”, signs for the City; two park benches were donated by the Heritage Alliance Committee in honor of Kathy and Tom McAllister and Michelle and Bruce Deese and will be placed at Jacob Fork Park; work will begin on the Greenway in the next couple weeks to repair the damage from the flood last year, Precision Paving won the bid for this project.

I. Restroom Facilities Closed at Parks

The Director had received an e-mail regarding the restrooms being closed at Southside Park. She responded saying that the restrooms are typically open, but due to the very cold weather, the restrooms at the parks are not heated so they were closed. When temperatures are below 20-25 degrees for more than a day we turn off the water in the restrooms and down drain pipes to prevent pipes from freezing and bursting. In the future if the restrooms are closed the information will be posted on the city’s website and signs are put on the bathroom doors.

J. Swimming Pool Grate

Swimming pool grate that was installed in 2009 at the cost of \$10,000 was recalled. An Engineer came in to recertify the grates until May 2014, during this visit the department was informed that a new grate needed to be purchased and the price at this time is unknown. It was suggested by Commission Chairman Kyle Smith to look at the possibility of addressing what needs to be done to the pool at the upcoming council retreat.

K. Parking Lot Lighting @ Recreation Center

The Assistant Director told the commission the Recreation Department will get LED lighting in the front and back parking lots. The lights that are currently being used in the parking lot are metal halide and use more energy to burn, the new LED lights use ½ the energy to burn and are brighter than the current parking lot lights.

L. Other

The Assistant Director talked with the Commission on issues she and coaches have been dealing with during the current basketball season. She spoke with Assistant City Manager Sean Hovis and he asked her to contact Hickory Parks and Recreation and get a copy of their banning policy and replace it with the Recreation Department information. She gave out copies of the banning policy to the commission to look over. A motion was made by Terry Abernethy and seconded by David Shugart and unanimously approved by the recreation commission to adopt the banning policy.

M. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

N. Motion to adjourn from Marshall Pratt, meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.