

Waynesville Parks and Recreation
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ADVISORY COMMISSION MEETING

**June 22, 2022
5:30 PM**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm.

In attendance were: Dan Schultz, Megan Houser, Nicole Kott, Eva Hansen, Wallace Messer, and Sarah Massie.

Absent: Laura Turner, Regina Zachary, Kim Garner, and David Hyder.

Luke Kinsland, Interim Director, is the assigned staff for the Advisory as of May Advisory meeting.

New Business:

- We congratulated Board Member Sarah Massie for her years of service on the Advisory Committee.
- A playground maintenance plan for the All Abilities Playground was discussed. There was consensus with Luke's recommendations to the plan to fix the drainage of the playground before the fence is installed around the perimeter. This would avoid extra expense and the timeline for installing the fence is within FY23.
- The May Monthly Report was reviewed by Luke. It was decided that could be given out quarterly instead of monthly. An abbreviated report will be shared at the monthly Advisory meetings. He reported the Center is now accepting credit cards and has significantly impacted revenue. Base Camp on the Go's summer camp is doing well. Pool staffing is critical and very much a concern. At this time both the large pool and children's water park area are both open on Friday's and part of Saturdays. This may change if more pool staff leave. The salary scale is the issue. The Advisory expressed concern requesting Luke to address the issue with town management. Park's maintenance is working closely with Haywood Waterways to improve Richland Creek. There are now 5-foot-wide buffer zones along the creek based on best practice recommendations by NC State University and Haywood Waterways.
- Luke presented a director's report highlighting key issues and updates within the department of the previous month. Luke reported the moving of the dog park was brought up to town leadership by a local citizen advocate. The Advisory Commission voted unanimously not to move the dog park, but instead make improvements.
- Nicole Kott discussed various items. She asked about the status of requesting county funding in light of Dan's and the Advisory's request in May. Luke reported town management wants the Aldermen to discuss prior to going to the County Commissioners. There was discussion then consensus that the department gain Board of Alderman support before going to County Commissioners to request county funding for Waynesville Recreation Center. This request is due to the fact there is not a differential in membership fees based on town vs county residency. Since the pandemic has resulted in a significant deficit in the center's revenues the past two years the Advisory believes it's warranted since more than half of the members do not reside within Waynesville town limits. The decision was unanimous.
- Luke provided an update on The Haywood County Greenway Plan. He stated that he had attended the committee planning meetings and will have that primary responsibility instead of Planning Director, Elizabeth Teague. The Advisory agreed that was appropriate since it's part of the Park system. The new greenway bridge has been installed. The completed bridge project is set to be finished by October 15, 2022.
- Chairman Eva Hansen reported the Board of Aldermen will be appointing new Commission members to the vacant positions. Nicole is being reappointed, Sarah's term will end, and Bill's position is vacant due to his ineligibility due to his employment with the town. There have been a couple people who have applied. She recognized the great work Base Camp staff did at the annual Spring Fling June 4th at Recreation Park. Base Camp staff will also be collaborating with Kiwanis in providing children's activities at Folkmoot's Saturday Summerfest Festival on 7/30/22 and will be promoting the Recreation Center memberships. Sources of additional revenue were also discussed.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Luke Kinsland, Interim Director

Chair's signature _____

