



Parks and Athletics Council Meeting

October 6, 2020 6:00pm

Present: Vonnie Tharp, Debbie Pinchok, Kami Darakshani, Mark Geller, Jeff Ullian, Bill McAdams, Scott Russ, Dylan Carroll, Sue Stuhl, Lauren Cox, Bob Brock.

Absent: Jeff Devlin, Randy Armstrong.

Bob Brock called the meeting to order. Asked for members to review minutes.

Dylan Carroll, new student representative , introduced himself.

Lauren Cox then introduced herself to the new members and explained her role.

Jeff made motion to approve minutes, Debbie seconded.

Volunteer Opportunities- Lauren asked for more volunteers for the Freaky Friday drive through event. Jeff and Bill offered their help.

Tuesday, November 24 parks and recreation will be passing out cookies from 6-8 pm for the Light the Nights event. Lauren will send an email/signup sheet closer to the date of the event to see who on the parks and athletics council can help. Other organizations in the town are being asked to participate during the Christmas season, doing various activities each night. A calendar is being populated with all the events happening that the community can participate in. The lights will be on by Tuesday, November 24, but the exact date/time will not be published to avoid a large crowd that may gather. Social distancing, masks are encouraged, and Grab and go items are required. Everything will be prepackaged. The letters to Santa will still happen. A new addition to the park will be a walk through Christmas story that you can see during the day. There will be a new story each week for 4 weeks.

There will be additional lights purchased and a grant has been applied for to cover the cost.

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No smoking in play area ordinance- Sue explained the main points of the ordinance which bans smoking in the Town of Farragut playgrounds. It was noted that vaping is not included. Athletic fields could be removed from the regulation as well as the 25 foot boundary. The ordinance doesn't allow smoking in play areas. Enforcement is difficult, but if staff sees smokers, they will ask folks to stop. The Town of Farragut works closely with the City of Knoxville so that the ordinances that are passed by both are the same. The City of Knoxville has the legal resources to approve the wording. Once the City of Knoxville approves the ordinance, it will be taken to the Town of Farragut board of Mayor and Alderman for a vote, hopefully in November. After that, signs will be posted.

Scott Russ made a motion to approve the ordinance. Kami seconded. Motion was voted on and passed.

2021 Goals-Bill McAdams talked about the goals sent out, and wondered if goals should be more measurable. Example: the number of people participating in x event or program. He asked if should have goals that are targeted and more measurable.

Sue said that counting and evaluating programs was done already for town staff and is published with the budget. Athletic field usage hours, rental hours, participants in classes, etc. are all being counted currently. It is reported to administration quarterly.

Community center goals will be set once data is known more, especially post-Covid. It was asked if Sue and Lauren would possibly get the council feedback on the numbers that are reported. Is there a place for p and a council to help identify deficiencies?

Sue clarified that the P and A council charter states that the council deals with parks, field use, and facilities, NOT programs. She said if the council was to be involved in programming, it would involve many more volunteer hours and time spent managing the programs by the council.

Lauren said they base programming decisions on the numbers as they evaluate them quarterly and yearly. Example, they eliminated the competitive volleyball league because of dwindling numbers and filled courts with the recreation volleyball league because it made more financial



sense. The staff looks at cost ratio versus participation. Fishing rodeo was costing 10\$ per child, so revamped.

Goal: Plan the 40 for 40 community walking program which is a fitness event. Sue and Lauren will look at the calendar and bring it back to the council.

Goal: Master plan survey will probably happen in spring 2021/summer 2021. Want as many folks to participate in the community survey as possible. The council's goal would be to help push that out.

Goal: The council will help make decisions based on the results of the master plan survey. The council will have the first opinions on the results of the survey. There will be a public hearing as well. The P and R council will prioritize the facility needs for the master plan. The process is a prescribed process that happens. All needs will need to be put in the budget and the master plan would be approved in November 2021.

The p and a council could help at parks to pass out survey link or to help with intercept interviews as well as pushing the survey out to as many folks as they can.

The last survey that took place was 6-7 years ago. Survey Monkey, social media, intercept interviews at parks, and public hearings are used. Incentivizing citizens to fill out the survey with a prize drawing for free party, etc. might increase participation. Consensus is that the committee will help push out survey.

Goal: For the council to help make good decisions with facilities or usage. Also, fees, choosing the grand marshal for the July 4 parade, allotting field usage are examples of what the council does.

Goal: There is a critical staffing issue currently. Council is asked to assist in getting word out. The basic requirements for an applicant are age 18 and up, \$11 per hour, nights and weekends. Need is critical.



Goal: if council members know someone who can teach a class, send them to Lauren and Sue. The instructors set the price and get a percentage of the proceeds.

The Sudanese International Soccer Tourney will be in Farragut the weekend of Thanksgiving. They will be bringing Sudanese teams from many states and will use all synthetic fields at Mayor Bob Leonard Park. Free food for anyone watching games. 500 + folks will be participating. Coordination with Visit Knoxville, and Farragut Tourism. Lauren is the point person.

Other Business: no other business

Meeting adjourned: 7:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Vonnie Tharp