

Sanford Parks Advisory Committee
Sanford City Hall - West End Conference Room
225 E. Weatherspoon Street, Sanford NC
June 7th, 2021 - 3:30pm

Meeting Minutes

The following people were present

Todd Childers	Al Roethlisberger
Bob Bridwell	Kelli Laudate
Chad Spivey	Fedd Walker
Nick Fortune	Alyson Cochrane
Joni Martin	

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Fedd Walker at 3:30pm. Brief description of the agenda for today was explained.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from May 17th, 2021 approved - motioned to approve by Bob Bridwell and seconded by Chad Spivey. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Old Business

Todd Childers asked to establish a time and place for monthly committee meetings. Previously agreed on the 4th Monday of the month. Chad Spivey stated that due to conflict of interest with meeting times with Lee County Parks and Recreation at the same date and time, it was asked to move meetings to the 3rd Monday of the month instead.

Motion to hold meetings on the 3rd Monday of the month at 5:30 pm in the West End Conference Room at Sanford City Hall by Chad Spivey. Motion was seconded by Bob Bridwell, and unanimously approved by the Committee. Motion made to skip June 21st meeting made by Chad Spivey and to convene July 19th at 5:30pm, seconded by Joni Martin. Approved by committee members.

Fedd Walker brought examples from Wake Forest's Facility Rental Agreement and Town of Cary to highlight some of their rules and regulations for the renting of their park facilities. Fedd Walker stated that according to these documents it was pretty wide open on who could rent the facilities (residents, nonresidents, profits, and nonprofits) and the fee schedule. Fedd Walker pointed out that each of the facilities had different policies on collecting funds for events. Fedd also stated that on the back of the agreement for the Town of Cary it states the Town gives priority to Town of Cary sponsored events and activities.

Al Roethlisberger proposed a decision be made soon about Depot Park rentals due to summer activities being planned, and stated that waiting until July would be too late. Bob Bridwell asked that everyone keep in mind that private group rentals of Depot Park would diminish the unique stature and exclusiveness of Depot Park. Kelli Laudate stated that the Depot Park Building would soon become a visitor center operated by Downtown Sanford Inc and Visit Sanford. Kelli also stated that future state of the art renovations to Depot Park and Depot Park Building would make it more of an amphitheater instead of just a park. There was general discussion about upcoming summer events and local artists.

Alyson Cochrane asked what the qualifications would be to qualify as a City or County sponsored performer or event. Kelli Laudate stated that in the past larger groups have known how to reach out to local authority's and make requests. Kelli Laudate suggested in the future, effort will be made to try to advertise the parks and inform the public on how to rent or reserve the park.

Al Roethlisberger asked Fedd Walker what kind of wording or documentation is needed to provide about Depot Park being used for City or County sanctioned events. Fedd Walker stated that staff would have to recommend it to Council, and get approval.

Bob Bridwell stated that a policy statement would be needed first. Fedd Walker stated that he or Nick Fortune would present the policy statement to Council for approval.

Fedd Walker said he would feel better about the policy to be reviewed by the committee members before it was presented to Council. Bob Bridwell made a motion to direct staff, including Kelli Laudate, to develop a policy statement that defines the use of Depot Park for City and County sanctioned events and the means of making application for that use. Seconded by Alyson Cochrane, the committee approved unanimously. Motion was made by Joni Martin to amended the previous motion to include - Until the policy is established and approved by the Council, Depot Park is to remain for only City or County sanctioned events. Seconded by Al Roethlisberger. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Al Roethlisberger made a motion to establish the parking spaces at the Railroad House be for handicapped accessible parking only during scheduled events for Depot Park. Seconded by Joni Martin, and unanimously approved by committee.

New Business

Lee County Parks and Recreation has about 4 new projects in progress at this time per Fedd Walker. Information and updates will be provided at the next meeting.

Alyson Cochrane stated she had questions about the Master Plan. Alyson requested updates on the 4–5-year projects and bicycle plan at the next meeting.

Al Roethlisberger stated the Master Plan is from 2017 and questioned if this is too outdated for today's Sanford. He stated the growth estimates of Sanford had changed tremendously and was not as predicted in 2017.

Bob Bridwell stated that the infrastructure is vastly changing in Sanford and it is imperative that the City of Sanford be prepared and adapting. There was general discussion about the future is estimates and guessing. Committee members all agreed that the old and new park plans need to be reviewed.

Next Meeting

Todd Childers stated the next meeting will be July 19, 2021 @ 5:30 pm.

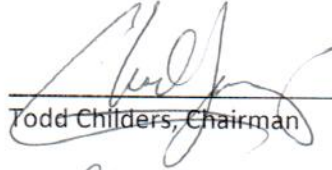
Comments

Al Roethlisberger stated the committee needs to look at how all City and County plans mesh together for the future.

Adjournment

Todd Childers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:28pm and it was seconded by Al Roethlisberger.
Unanimously approved by the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,



Todd Childers, Chairman
Chad Spivey

Attest:



Nick Fortune, Clerk