

Sanford Parks Advisory Committee
Depot Park
106 Charlotte Ave, Sanford NC
September 19, 2022

Meeting Minutes

The following people were present

Bob Bridwell
Chad Spivey
Joni Martin
Alyson Cochrane
Mark Lyczkowski

Non-Voting Attendees

Nick Fortune
Kelli Ladaute

Call to order

Meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chad Spivey.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made to approve the minutes from last meeting by Joni Martin, unanimously approved by the committee.

Administrators Report

Nick Fortune started the administrators report by giving an update on parks employees. Supervisor Tim is back after his accident with some work restrictions. Parks attendant, Araceli, was bitten by snake while changing trash bags at a park and was taken to hospital over the weekend. She was released after being monitored and is expected to be ok.

Depot park fountain is still not in operation. Have received a few quotes to repair the tank due to the concrete deteriorating on the inside. There are two options: either resurface or replace. Estimated \$22,000 for resurfacing, no quote for replacement yet.

Movie series at Kiwanis Family Park is continuing with the second movie coming up this Friday at 7:30pm. Nick stated that this has been a learning process for all. Some issues that have come up have been other community events for the same time, parking lights and daylight affecting the screen, and length of the movie. Kelli Ladaute stated there has been low attendance at Depot Park for movies too. She thinks it's because people are just getting use to the idea of watching moves in the park again and maybe branding better all-around would help.

Alyson Cochrane asked if the future stage at Kiwanis will have a screen to show movies like Depot. Nick stated he wasn't sure yet because currently it is still in the planning process, waiting on survey information, budget, and engineering for flood plain.

Rails to trails update included that the railroad has been taken out at Main St and Nash St going towards the proposed sports complex and now just waiting on DOT to finish project.

Nick stated that committee member, Todd, has missed three meetings in row now. Brief discussion amongst the committee about procedure/by laws to see if he has resigned or will be removed. It was decided that Nick would send Todd an official notice and report back to the committee.

Chad stated that there was a lot of people interested in the Endor Iron Furnace and he thinks it would be a good idea to sit down and talk about it. Bob Bridwell mentioned the long-term strategy and said we need to know more. He said that we are all Lee County citizens and on the Parks Commission for Sanford. We have an interest in this, for economic development and to restore the furnace.

Alyson asked the committee if there was a need to host a meeting between all the interested parties and discuss since we know there is high interest. Nick stated that he felt SAGA has a good spin of what could be for City and County from that standpoint and it was a good place for it to be at. Suggestion was made by Nick to wait for John at the next meeting and discuss with him and see what his recommendations are.

Joni Martin suggested the committee send a letter to the State stating interest to get more information. She said this was not making a commitment it was simply stating interest.

Mark Lyczkowski asked what the vision was with the property: just walking trails or access to the river? Nick stated that with what he knew, this property is non-developmental.

Bob said that he agreed with submitting the letter of interest, and to cc SAGA. Joni made a motion for the committee to write a recommendation letter in what happens with the Endor Park and the land and the need for more information. Motion was seconded by Alyson and unanimously approved by committee.

Old Business

Nick gave a brief Parks master plan update stating the committee has been selected and now just waiting to make their choice. David in planning is assisting in choosing a contractor. More progress by next month is expected.

New Business

Council passed rental policy for depot park in April. Policy wasn't fully supported by council and was mentioned after fact the fees needed adjustment. Since April there has been between 10-20 rental inquiries, but not actually rented. Over the last month Nick gave a presentation at a council workshop for recommendation on updating the fee schedule. Some of the words mentioned were equality and accessibility for all.

Current rental fee is \$1500, with a \$500 deposit. Projected fees reduced to rental fee of \$300 and deposit of \$120 on the lower end. He said he has researched for similar/comparable venues fee schedules. The need is for a uniform policy for all parks, not just Depot Park. End of council workshop resulted in the need of feedback from parks commission and DSI.

Bob suggested the committee find balance and be reasonable about protecting the asset that is Depot Park. Joni suggested that downtown events take priority as it is the home to downtown and cannot be treated the same way as other parks. Mark asked if it was possible for DSI to fill out it's calendar in advance to allow other people to fill in the gaps throughout the year. Kelli Ladaute stated DSI does plan their events a year in advance. Chad asked if there could be a policy that stated DSI has to submit its schedule a year in advance. He stated that he has received some push back from others about not being able to rent because they are being priced out. Discussion on deposit fee schedule amongst the committee.

Joni said there is a need for more information before a recommendation can be made, need to see it written out. She also suggested that the next meeting should be a work session. Kelli wanted it noted that the depot building will be under construction for the next 2 years and that should be kept in mind. Alyson requested a copy of the current application for next month.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be October 17, 2022.

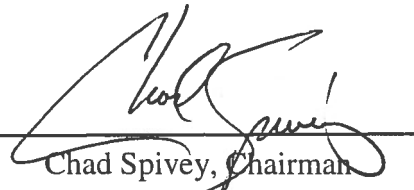
Comments

None.

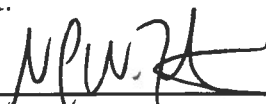
Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 5:03 by Chad.

Respectfully Submitted,


Chad Spivey, Chairman

Attest:


Nick Fortune, Clerk