

Sanford Parks Advisory Committee  
Depot Park  
106 Charlotte Ave, Sanford NC  
October 17, 2022

### **Meeting Minutes**

#### **The following people were present**

Bob Bridwell  
Chad Spivey  
Joni Martin  
John Dean  
Alyson Cochrane  
Mark Lyczkowski

#### **Non-Voting Attendees**

Nick Fortune  
Kelli Ladaute  
Charles Taylor

#### **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 began the Administrators Report by giving a brief overview of the parks expenditures over the last month including the visitor count for the splash pad. More quotes have been received for the Depot Park fountain replacement, which is about half the amount of the cost to resurface. A decision should be made sooner rather than later to get the fountain back up and running. Movie series at Kiwanis Park has finished up, and improvements will be made to next year's series. Alyson Cochrane asked for an update on parks employee, Araceli, after snake bite. Nick stated that she has recovered fine and is back to work with no issues.

#### **Old Business**

A brief parks master plan update was given by Nick. So far interviews have been conducted with the top two candidates: McAdams & Withers Ravenel. Waiting to finalize the contracts, pricing and decision on which company to proceed with. Nick stated he feels McAdams came across as very park orientated, and park focused.

#### **New Business**

Nick opened the committee up to questions regarding fee discussion for Depot Park rentals. Chad suggested starting with Kelli to give DSI's thoughts/opinions first. Kelli Ladaute stated that the DSI board agreed with lowering the fees but wanted to think about some structure to that and

how it compares to other places. The first thing the board asked was to define the Depot itself. Kelli stated this park is not like another other park within the city or comparable to other places that have such a great stage that our City Council has put into place. Comparing Depot to another park with playground equipment is not the same. Fee structure discussion amongst the DSI board was more in agreement with a \$500 rental fee instead of the proposed \$300 as they believe it would be easier to move down in price rather than up in the future.

Other things they hoped to include in the fee structure were: having an authorized sound technician to protect the sound equipment, a park attendant, a required cleanup fee, porta john fee, police presence, event insurance, and for DSI and City events taking precedence. Other comments/questions from the board include: which committee would approve these rentals, that DSI would not have to pay to use the Park as they have a contract with the City to provide events and promotions for the citizens and visitors for the community, and lastly the board would like to compare policies for other venues, but not parks. Kelli stated that these are all things mentioned at the board meeting and in emails from the board. Bob Bridwell stated that all of those seemed very reasonable things to consider. Alyson Cochrane stated that she feels Nick has already addressed/researched a lot of these questions and feels like the committee has a good place to start with.

Chad asked Charles Taylor what the City Council was thinking regarding Depot Park. Charles stated that Council was very concerned at the current rate structure that was voted on by volunteer boards, as there is a liability there. There is a need for structure that the Parks department would handle it, so it would take pressure of volunteer boards and commissions. Events being required to apply 90 days in advance to go through multiple boards for approval is not applicable. Currently there is only 89 days till January 15th (when DSI's calendar will be finished) and there has been no participation, which is a large concern for Council. The park belongs to the City and the people. People are not able to use it when there are such large fees in place. There is currently no money coming in to help pay for repairs/services if equipment goes down. Chad stated that what he was understanding is that Council still wants to protect the investment and lower barriers to be able to use it for the public. Mark Lyczkowski stated that he thinks it needs to be a simple fee and not let personalities get involved to complicate it more than it needs to be.

Nick stated he thought this meeting was going to be more of a work session as Joni said, what to put in and what to take out and take it back to Council. There were discussions between the committee members about fees, porta johns, and other items. Mark made a motion to come up with a format, written down, and have Nick to take to council tomorrow and present it. Discussion amongst the committee regarding fee structure, including that DSI would now have to pay the rental fee in the new year. Alyson asked to go over the proposed motion again before a motion was made on anything. The motion would cover: updating the language on the application to say that it is recommended to have porta johns for 0-1000 people, after 1000 people it is required to have porta johns, eliminate the cleaning fee, and eliminate the application fee. The rental fee would have \$150 of it going to a park attendant, and it includes limited sound access.

Alyson made a motion to change the fee structure and the language of the application. It was unanimously approved by the committee. Bob made a motion to recommend to Council that DSI be exempt from the fee structure. Motion was seconded by John Dean. Mark and Alyson both stated that they would need more information before voting. Mark stated that Council should be the ones to decide that, not this commission. John stated that it was just a recommendation to which Mark stated he did not think the commission needed to make that recommendation. Kelli stated that she thinks on behalf of DSI and herself, they are important. The organization is very important to this community. There are people here who look to them for quality of life events. The budget is already tight, and there is no other organization in this community that must go down the list and ask for money every year. Kelli asked for Charles support with adding to DSI's budget from Council. Charles stated that he has always supported DSI.

**Next Meeting**

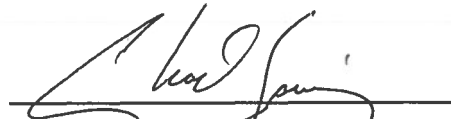
**Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

Chad made a motion to adjourn at 5:24pm and it was seconded by John. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Chad Spivey, Chairman

Attest:

  
Nick Fortune, Clerk