



Recreation Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 8th, 2022

Present: Jarrod Dunbar, Hunter Thrift, Tony Vizzini, Colon Starrett, Bill Tagliaferri, Kevin Leake, and Kathleen Saratte

Staff Present: Cory Tobin, Molly Hussey, Vince Brown, and Caprishia Davis

Next meeting: April 5, 2022 at the Recreation Main Office

Announcements

Jarrod Dunbar called the meeting to order. Jarrod made a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting. The motion was approved by Kathleen Saratte and seconded by Bill Tagliaferri. Jarrod made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and motion was approved by Tony Vizzini and seconded by Kathleen Saratte. The motion was carried unanimously. There was no one who signed up for the Public Forum.

Agenda Items

- a. **UPDATES ON THE AQUATIC CENTER PROJECT** – Aquatic & Community Center project is moving forward and the building is coming up. We are about to start installing mechanical and electrical lines on the site. The permit delay and weather issues will make it difficult to swim this summer but we are predicted to fill the pool on our current timeline in the beginning of August which is an issue because when building a pool, it has to sit for about a month with water in it to regulate plaster and pH levels. However, the building itself will be available and ready for the public with our meeting rooms, council chamber, and parking area. We are also having to staff the entire facility and it will make it very hard to operate without the correct number of lifeguards that have to be hired. The building itself releases the ability for a pool permit to be allowed but we have to have the building and pool open and ready in order for it to be completely finished. We are being impacted with the supply chain and not being able to get equipment as quick as we would like due to covid-19 and we understand that this is a nationwide problem. We are giving Council members and Recreation members a chance to sign a beam before they go up in the ceiling, and we will be put them up until the sand filter is retrieved. We do have a pool heater because we do plan to hopefully be able to cover the pool so that it can operate year round. We do plan to have our Water Themed Fun on the Run program since the pool will not be operating this year. We have been looking at multiple ways to staff the new facility and pool, such as contracting AquaTech, partnering with the YMCA and getting our local kids to take training classes to be certified to be a lifeguard because we will need to have 7 lifeguards on duty at all times to maintain the pool.

1 East Main St., Thomasville, NC 27360
T: 336.475.4280 W: www.thomasville-nc.gov

- b. **DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES & 2022 Q1 & Q2 OUTLOOK** - There is a 6-month outlook that the department plans to do from January to June with all the programs and Youth and Adult Sport activities that is set to happen as we get into the warmer weather. Shelter reservation will start back up from April until the end of October and we are continuing to rent the facilities during the weekends. There is a lot of upcoming programs that are in place and we are looking for individuals to volunteer and pass the word to the community that we are still programming. Jarrod would like to find the time for the committee and the Council to take another tour of the facilities and park spaces just to get everyone re-familiarized with each area.
- c. **MISSION & VISION STATEMENTS** - In December, we presented a mission and vision statement to the committee to review and agree to change it and simplify it to what the department does. The mission is all about exactly what we want and it is *“Our mission is to provide quality recreational opportunities to better our community through people, parks, and programs.”* And the vision statement is *“To provide a sustainable park system and services that contribute to a high quality of life through recreational program, parks, facilities, and service.”* The new mission statement will be going on all of our email signatures and we will be branding it more in the future. Bill Tagliaferri made a motion to approve this mission and vision statement change as written and seconded by Kathleen Sarette. The motion was carried unanimously.
- d. **FY 2023 FEE SCHEDULE** – The city is taking a new approach with handling the budget process. There was discussion in October about personnel needs and capital improvements. We submitted our expenditures and operational money to be able to do what we want to do with programming. We noticed that our fee schedules had not been changed and comparing the costs to different cities in our areas and considering the amount of people in each city compared to ours. We are implementing RecDesk and we are currently working with Paymentus to make sure that each transaction goes to the correct account and that is taking some time but we are getting closer to being able to take online payments. There is a \$2.95 charge to submit payments online through Paymentus so we are adding an additional \$5 to all programming fees such as, Youth Sports Registration Fees, Afterschool, Spring Break Camp, Summer Camp, Pickleball and Open Gym Entry Fees, etc., and we are adding \$25 base increase to all rental fees. When looking at all of the rentals since June of 2021, we’ve had 141 people rent our spaces and 33% of that was individuals outside of the city limits so we presented a Non-Resident fee as well and even when increasing all facility prices we are still the lowest at 44% below the average cost in the triad. Most communities operate hourly and do not offer as much as we do such as, a 4-hour rate, access to full kitchens, having tables and chairs already at the facilities and having the option to do either 4-hours, adding hours and an all-day rental fee. We also added a Special Request with the new Aquatic Center for individuals wanting to shut the pool down for a private party at \$1,000 and this is an all-inclusive fee. City Council had no problem with this fee change and approved us to move forward. This will go in effect July 1, 2022. Jarrod made a motion to approve the fee changes. The motion to approve the fee changes

was approved by Tony Vizzini and was seconded by Kathleen Sarette. The motion was carried unanimously.

After no further business, Jarrod made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved by Tony Vizzini and was seconded by Kathleen Sarette. The motion was carried unanimously. The next meeting will be held on April 5th, 2022 at Recreation Main Office at 12:00PM.