



Recreation Committee Meeting

Location: Recreation Main Office (1 E. Main St. Thomasville NC 27360)

Date: 8/03/2021

Time: 12:00 PM (Noon)

- i. Call to order/ Welcome
- ii. Approval of Agenda
- iii. Approval of Meeting Minutes from 6/03/21
- iv. Public Forum – Please sign up on the Public Forum Signup Sheet. A two-minute time limit will be enforced.
- v. Agenda Items
 - a) Updates on the Aquatic Center Project
 - b) Seasonal Program Updates
 - c) Comprehensive Athletics Plan Update
- vi. Departmental Reports/ 6 Month Executive Summary
Response from Committee Members
- vii. Adjournment

The Next Committee Meeting Date: 09/07/2021

Recreation 6 Month Executive Summary July, 2021

Overview – 6 Month Outlook/Review

During the month of June our staff met as divisions and at full staff meetings to determine our outlook for the time period between July 1 – December 31, 2021. The first portion of this planning was to review the first half of our calendar year. We were able in mid spring to begin to program as we had in a pre-pandemic world. Staff were also asked to create programming and maintenance outlooks to help guide our department into the second half of 2021. These meetings are held specifically to help our strategic planning within the department, we continue to move forward with the Aquatic Center Project's design and construction as well. The site has almost completely been demolished and the next stages of the first phase are under way which include, the new waterline, UST removal, removal and storage of wood and early site work.

Programming Staff Update

Programming staff meetings continue to be held monthly, meeting at the end of each month to discuss the events and programs from the previous month and the upcoming months. Prior to these meetings staff have completed their MARS reports for review. This has allowed us to review the successes of the previous month while staying on track with our planning for the months to follow.

During the first six months of the year our programming staff were faced with many challenges. Specifically pertaining to personnel our Recreation Specialist Molly Hussey was promoted to our Program Director's position where she continues to thrive. That left a vacancy in our programming department that is still open but is in the process now to be filled. Our Athletic Director Vince Brown was out with serious medical issues from March to May. Upon his return he began training for his Certified Youth Sports Administrator Certificate, this begins the first steps in our comprehensive athletics plan. He has also planned youth tee ball, c-ball and baseball. Our Center Director Jerel Wilson continued to do a great job overseeing the Central Recreation Center as well as running the first youth athletic program (Soccer) since the pandemic started. Caprisha Sanders our administrative assistant continues to do a fantastic job managing the intake of registrations, reservations and website while working to clean up some of the processes as well. We have added the RecDesk software to our department. This will allow us to transition to an online intake for our community for easier registrations, reservations and payment. The system will also capture useful data for our strategic planning.

Programming Update

Athletics

Our programming began with restrictions in January but we were still able to continue limited activities. Basketball Skills camps were run in January and February to supplement league play. In March the restrictions began to lift and we began youth soccer. There were 8 total teams (Four 4-6, Four 7-9) with 116 registrants. Tee-Ball (4-5), C-Ball (6-8) and Baseball (9-12) registrations began following soccer. There are 10 total teams (Tee-Ball: 3, C-Ball 4, Baseball, 3) with 119 registrants. Planning for the upcoming football season has also started. This season we will combine with High Point Parks and Recreation as well as Greensboro Parks and Recreation to play in the RedZone Football League. The league is specifically run by and for Recreation Department teams. Promotion and registrations for the league will begin early July. The season is scheduled to begin September 11th, for ages 8-12. New helmets, jerseys and



equipment have been ordered or have already arrived. We hope to see great participation in this new opportunity to partner with other local cities.

Community Programs

The after school program resumed with the "in person" school schedule in February with a limited total of *20 children* due to restrictions. It operated until the end of the school year. Our Summer Day camp began following the end of the school year and continues through the first week of August with *30 children*. The camp has a variety of trips and experiences planned throughout the summer. During Spring Break a park themed day camp was held at our Central Recreation Center with a total of *20 participants*. Senior events were held during restrictions such as drive thru events and distanced outreach. Senior Club Meetings did begin in person the first week of May. The group has met at the Farmer's Market but will transition back to the Ball Park Community Center in July. The numbers of attendees have bounced back to approximately *50 members* attending weekly. Open gym for basketball and walking is held daily for the public as well as pickleball play. Pickleball play continues to be a popular daily program with an average of over *20 players* daily. Those public hours have been extended at the Center due to the amount of interest. Line dancing and Zumba continue weekly each Tuesday and Thursday.

Special Events were held throughout the past 6 months with Black History Month Trivia, Drive thru Valentines Bundle Give always (*100*), Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Myers Park (*200+ by age group*), two Drive-In Movies with over *60 registered vehicles* per event, Poem Contest with the Thomasville Library, community skate park mural outreach, 9-part fitness video series, we partnered with the YMCA and TFD to help teach the children in Thomasville ages 5-12 about life saving skills near bodies of water for Water Safety Day (*40+*), Fun on the Run began in June we are offering 10 Fun on the Run events this year all throughout Thomasville with a water theme through August.

******Attached is a timeline for fall programming***

Maintenance Staff Update

Similar to our programming division, maintenance meetings are held at the end of each month to discuss the previous month and projects and tasks that need to be completed for the upcoming month. Our Maintenance staff this spring were able to fill their two laborer positions. Our Maintenance Superintendent Randy Chase along with the rest of his crew have worked diligently to keep our spaces and facilities well maintained. As with all of our programming and spaces the maintenance staff and their work are the foundation for the previous program update and the following below.

Facility Use

During the winter months' access to many of our spaces were limited due to the Governor's Executive orders. However, we were still able to host city meetings at our centers. Our centers hosted and continue to host the Council Activities, Planning Board, Historical Preservation Committee, Recreation Committee, Beautification Committee, Tourism Commission and PACE Group. Our MIS department have been very helpful updating the AV system at Ball Park for the temporary use for these Meetings. The Central Recreation Center continues to host public open gym/walking, Pickleball and youth programming as well as weekend rentals. We hosted high school and middle school football games from February until May at Cushwa Stadium. Cushwa Stadium also hosted THS Graduation, Senior Class Cookout and THS Athletic

Banquet. The Stadium Area and Veteran's Point hosted the Memorial Day programming for the City, which had a great turnout and will transition back to normal proceedings next May. High school Baseball started in April and ended the first week of June at Finch Field, we coordinated times and schedules with the Hi-Toms. The Hi-Toms lease did begin on schedule on May 1st. Baseball practices have been held at Myers and Doak Park and games will be played at Doak Park. Our Youth Soccer games and practice were held at the Central Recreation Center field. The Thomasville Farmer's Market Association and our department continue to partner together to host the Market throughout May-September. The Market is a *100% producer market* and it operates at the Farmer's Market downtown Tuesday's & Saturday's from 8 am-12 pm. Along with traditional transactions, some vendors are able to accept wic and senior nutrition as well.

Shelter Reservations/ Building Rentals

As expected coming out of the pandemic restrictions for gathering our park spaces have experienced a large increase in use. This is typical of the spring but from our observations the use has increased even more with our residents fitting the trend of gathering outside. Our Shelter Reservations run from April-October, there is no cost to reserve the spaces. From April to June we have had 55 shelter reservations (*actual bookings, the public use the spaces throughout the week*) our shelters have been in use each weekend since the seasonal reservations began. Our weekend building rentals began in June following the removal of many restrictions for gathering. During June we had 16 rentals during that time, essentially all available times were booked for the Central Room, Strickland Center and Ball Park Community Center on Saturdays and Sundays. Currently the Ball Park Community Center is booked every available Saturday through December and the other two facilities are not far behind. PACE Park was also booked in the month of June for Community events for a Hospice Ceremony and the Black Business Expo.

Facility Updates

Over the last 6 months we have had the opportunity to address some issues or add features to our spaces that are out of the purview of our routine maintenance. Overgrowth along exterior of Myers Park Ball field #1 was removed. The Ball Park Community Center exterior was repaired, primed and fully painted. Finch Fields Auxiliary entrance and main entrance were painted. The Basketball goals in the Gymnasium had brackets added (*to lower for younger age groups*) and were reinforced. The roof of the home side press box was replaced at Cushwa Stadium. An aluminum fence will be added around Doak Park's play ground to add a barrier between it and the parking lot. (*it is currently on back order due to the pandemic*). Hand sanitizing stations are being added throughout our playgrounds to encourage use before play.

City council has approved the \$330,000 to enter into contract for the construction phase one for the Thomasville Aquatics Center. The existing facility has been demolished and other items in that contract are being completed now. The second phase is out for bid and will be opened July 20, 2021 we are currently still on schedule for next May of 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cory Tobin

Parks and Recreation Director



PARKS & RECREATION

6 MONTH PROGRAM PLAN

VINCE
JEREL
MOLLY

- Baseball Season
- Football Registrations
- Football Camp with HS
- Baseball (Assistance)
- Summer Camp
- Football (Assistance)
- Cheerleading
- Registrations / Season
- Dine Downtown
- Fun on the Run
- National Night Out

- COED Volleyball
- Flag Football Begins
- Everybody's Day

- Party In The Park
- Community Events
- Outdoor Movie

- Volleyball Ends
- Football Ends
- Basketball Registrations
- Youth Sports Camp
- Craft Fair

- Basketball Practices (Multiple Leagues)
- Christmas Programs
- Outdoor Movie

July/August

September

October

November

December

Football / Cheerleading Season

Afterschool Program

Open gym and Pickleball / Evening Classes / Senior Club