

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular meeting at the Richlands Recreation Park on July 16th, 2018 at 7:30PM with the following present:

Recreation Department: Fred Phillips, Jessica Reynolds

Other Attendees: Tim Taylor

Richlands Town Council Members: Mary Ann Strong

Recreation Commission Members: Craig Earls, Jeff Hurst, Ronnie Cordle, LaRhonda Lindsey, Anthony Cox, Frances Meadows, Tony Cordle

Ronnie Cordle opened the Richlands Recreation Commission meeting and welcomed everyone to the July Meeting.

Old Business:

June Meeting Minute Approval

Ronnie Cordle: Do we have June minutes to approve?

Craig Earls: No, we did not have a Quorum for an official meeting. No business took place.

Mary Ann Strong: During the last meeting we discussed if we have policies and procedures for employees here at the Rec Park.

Fred Phillips: Yes, we do have those in place. However, I don't think it is an issue. If they are late, or if we have issues, we write them up and we take care of it. We have fired others, but not life guards.

Mary Ann Strong: Dave Ascue said that we didn't have policies and procedures on file.

Tim Taylor: We do have these things on file for the town and we have policies and procedures for these types of things. Being timely, doing their jobs etc. These apply to all the town employees.

LaRhonda Lindsey: We did talk about the code of conduct as well.

Jeff Hurst: And a list of duties for the employees here.

Fred Phillips: Yes, if they are not busy we do have check lists and we assign tasks for this. You can have it spotless and then someone messes it up. We have a great staff, some will go the extra mile, some we need to push. We did cut down on life guards to save money. It has been busy here at the pool, but we have staff to handle it.

Tim Taylor: We don't want to put the town at risk. If we need to put more on we can within the budget.

LaRhonda Lindsey: We talked about making sure we are covered for all the people that come to the pool.

Jeff Hurst: The lifeguards were great at the Luau event, they did a great job.

Tim Taylor: We have this employee manual if anyone would like to see it. Fred you may need to adjust slightly for the seasonal workers, but we have that material available.

Fred Phillips: Ok, Great. Also, the health department comes in and checks the pool, bathrooms and concession stand regularly to make sure everything is good as far as guidelines.

New Business:

Field Usage at Williams

Tony Cordle: We don't need to discuss a lot, but discuss a solution. After August we need to figure out how the fields are reserved for teams. We seem to have a lot of teams that are requesting to use the fields. We just don't want to get in a situation like before where we have one controlling access to them.

Fred Phillips: If it is ok with the commission, I would like to talk to the Little League board.

Jeff Hurst: I think that is a great idea. Can you report back to the commission the meeting?

Fred Phillips: Yes, I can. We are thinking that it may be a good idea for us to take the fields in July and have people reserve them.

Craig Earls: What about if All-Stars needs them? We need to make sure they have priority. It us usually only one or two teams though, so there should be plenty of time for others even in July. They are usually finished by the first week or so of July.

Fred Phillips: Yes, all-stars would have priority.

Tim Taylor: We could draft up a Memo of Understanding to the Little League about taking the fields over if that is the route we want to take.

Craig Earls: Please invite Mark Gillespie to the next meeting as well after you discuss with the RAL board. We also want to make sure that Rusty's group is mowing the inside of the fences. We had an issue last year where they were not getting mowed.

Fred Phillips: I will go to the next meeting and start the discussion with them.

Clinch River Soccer

Jeff Hurst: We are looking to submit the land disturbance permit to the county. After the planning commission it will then to the State for approval.

Tim Taylor: We should ask to get a waiver for the fee.

Jeff Hurst: I talked to Travis Hackworth about this. We talked about grant money to the conservation board. There are some grants available.

Tim Taylor: Kevin Blankenship has the plans ready for the field lighting. Moving the polls is the easy part, but using the old lights may be hard. Even relocating them will be costly. To move will take quite a bit of time and the electrical system will need to be updated to support them.

Jeff Hurst: Moving it will free up a lot of space for us.

Repurpose of Rec Park Field

Ronnie Cordle: I looked back at our past meetings and motions and I don't see a motion for us to move forward with the soccer complex.

Craig Earls: We had a motion to go talk to the Town Council about it, but not to officially move forward with the project.

Ronnie Cordle: I would like to make a motion to officially move forward with changing the complex to a soccer field by moving forward to remove the softball field. First Ronnie Cordle, second Tony Cordle.

Mary Ann Strong: Any further discussion? No further discussion. Motion carries 7/0.

LaRhonda Lindsey: Can we proceed with grass if the turf falls through for the soccer field?

Jeff Hurst: We are worried about maintenance and keeping up with all the work. It will be a lot of work to keep up the grass etc. We want turf if we can raise the money.

Recreation Park Weight Room Update

Ronnie Cordle: We talked a little about this before. The weight room is looking good.

Fred Phillips: The Shot Foundation turned us down for help. We are still fundraising and we want to engrave tiles to help raise the money. We will have samples this coming week and they will go down stairs on the wall. I would like for each member of the commission to help sell these in the community. We are also applying for some other grants.

Jessica Reynolds: They are sending us samples and we will have it ready for what it will look like. We can offer the signature or the typed version for the names.

Jeff Hurst: What is the goal?

Fred Phillips: We need \$150K, but this will probably get us \$20K.

Upcoming Events: Fred Phillips/Jessica Reynolds

Fred Phillips: Here are the upcoming activities that we are doing over the next several months. Jessica does our Facebook page and these are all listed on our website. She does an outstanding job. I can't say enough great things about her. A lot of people are sharing the events etc.

Jessica Reynolds: The all sports camps are going really well.

Fred Phillips: We had 21 here for Basketball today.

Mary Ann Strong: You guys are doing a great job in getting these events out to the public. Are we going to stop the swim lessons?

Fred Phillips: We only have a few that come and we have just a few lifeguards.

Jessica Reynolds: We had a great response for it. There is a lot of interest in the pool events.

Fred Phillips: Some of these other events were suggested by Ginger Branton. Brian Beck is going to arrange to transport the day care to here for 10 bucks and we will feed them. Mike Webb with the Rogers Group, he gave us 80 tons of gravel (est) and sand. He is looking to help us resurface the tennis courts. He wants to be on a board of directors for some organization.

Jeff Hurst: We can add him to the RYBL board.

Mary Ann Strong: Thank you for putting all of these wonderful events together.

Other

Jeff Hurst: Last month we talked about having a short and long term strategic plan for the recreation park. Here is the short and long range plans that were discussed. Short Term: Weight Room Renovation, Banquet Room Improvements (lights, ceilings, flooring), Additional parking lots, Bleacher renovation, Updated field lighting system, Kids Splash Zone.

Long Range Plan of Improvements: Field Turf project, Tennis Court Renovation, Re-design of traffic, Picnic Shelter for pool area.

Take some time to think about these and let me know if you have any more suggestions to add to the strategic plan.

Mary Ann Strong: The Town Council voted to upgrade the playground and to name the park after WC Fields at Lake Park (former mayor).

Tim Taylor: With the concert series are we doing those again (with Joel Horn).

Fred Phillips: Yes, we are charging for this.

Tim Taylor: Maybe we can video it or utilize the access channel. Maybe we can add this to long term items. The fiber optic line is long term as well.

Jeff Hurst: Great ideas Tim. Also, Dave said we will need some pool work eventually. This could be added to long range plan.

Mary Ann Strong: For our next meeting can we discuss archery and a new ordinance?

Ronnie Cordle: Yes, we can add that.

Fred Phillips: I am good with it, just need the ok.

Tim Taylor: There is an ordinance about shooting a bow in town limits.

Other Comments

No further comments.

Next meeting - August 20th 7:30 PM at the Richlands Recreation Park

Mary Ann Strong - Adjourned meeting.