

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a special meeting at the Richlands Recreation Park on June 8th, 2020 at 7:30PM with the following present:

Recreation Department: Jessica Reynolds, Fred Phillips

Other Attendees:

Richlands Town Council Members: Mary Ann Strong

Recreation Commission Members Present: Jeff Hurst, Corey Whited, Frances Meadows, Craig Earls, Tony Cordle (phone), and Joe McCall

Recreation Commission Members Not Present: Joel Horn, Mike Webb, LaRhonda Lindsey

Jeff Hurst welcomed everyone to the Richlands Recreation Commission Special June meeting.

Special Meeting Agenda Item: Recreation Facility Opening

Jeff Hurst: This is a closed session to discuss the swimming pool here at the Recreation Park. We want to discuss the Phase 2 Safer At Home Guidelines for the State of VA. The State has put forth these guidelines. The following guidelines are given as on page 23 of the State document. Fred can give us some details on what happened last week with the pool on where we are.

Fred Phillips: Thursday evening, Mr. Taylor called and he talked to the Mayor and he wants the pool open and we need to start tomorrow. He wanted me to get a few of Rusty's men to help with cleaning etc. I called Mary Ann to advise her so she is prepared for the upcoming council member. About 8PM we discussed cleaning only at this point.

Mary Ann Strong: I talked to the Mayor and everyone wanted to open the pool as soon as we can. When we read the actual guidelines we understood that there are a lot of restrictions. We just assumed that if the directive was to open the pool, that it was ok for recreational swimming. The Mayor's opinion is that we should go ahead and open. He is wanting it open for the kids and trying to do it. The life guards can lead them as exercise etc. Our purpose tonight is to understand how we should move forward.

Jessica Reynolds: The life guards cannot talk to the patrons because they have to watch for issues in the pool. With the guidance, we cannot be open for recreational use.

Fred Phillips: If it is ok, I think it is good to go ahead and continue cleaning and draining it. Getting it ready for when we need to spend money so that when it is ready to open we can.

Group agrees.

Jeff Hurst: We have to also have an established set of guidelines. We need training and the staff.

Jessica Reynolds: We also will need additional employees to take temps, clean, give questionnaires etc.

Jeff Hurst: If we open the pool, are we also opening the rest of the park?

Mary Ann Strong: The Coomes center in Abingdon is not opening up.

Jeff Hurst: With soccer, there are so many rules that has to be followed. At this point, we are not open for the parks.

Corey Whited: We have strict guidelines that has to be followed and people are watching to make sure that we are doing the right things.

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, it is about doing the right things.

Mary Ann Strong: Jeff can you come tomorrow to the meeting?

Jeff Hurst: The general consensus is that there is not a safe way to open under the Phase II guidelines.

Fred Phillips: Everyone wants the pool opened.

Jeff Hurst: We need to also understand the parks is not opened under the current rules.

Jessica Reynolds: Tazewell's pool is not ready, but they can get it ready when the Governor moves us to Phase III.

Fred Phillips: I will call the Health Department to see if they can come and check it out.

Jeff Hurst: At this point, we are good to continue cleaning and only open if we move to Phase III.

Anyone have any other comments/concerns? Can we have a motion to adjourn? Joe McCall motioned to adjourn meeting. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion carries 6/0.

No further comments.

Next meeting – July 20th, 2020 7:30PM

Jeff Hurst - Adjourned meeting.