

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a special meeting via Zoom on May 18th, 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, Craig Earls, Mike Webb, LaRhonda Lindsey, Tony Cordle, Frances Meadows

Recreation Commission Members Not Present: Joel Horn

Jeff Hurst welcomed everyone to the Richlands Recreation Commission May meeting.

Old Business:

January 20 and April 24 Meeting Minutes Approval

Jeff Hurst: For old business, we need to approve the January 20th and April 24th meeting minutes. Does anyone have any corrections, additions, or deletions to the meeting minutes? LaRhonda Lindsey made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further comments, motion carries 6/0.

New Business:

Reopening of the Recreation Facilities (Jeff Hurst)

Jeff Hurst: The governor is relaxing some of the rules around gatherings. We are looking to see if we can open some of the areas. They cover a lot of items at the recreation, we have lots of playgrounds, tennis courts, fields, etc. that are governed by the recreation department. We had a meeting with the Tim Taylor for the status of the fields to inform the public about opening facilities. We want the citizens to know that the facilities are closed and will remain closed until the ban is lifted for group activities. The recreation park has been closed for several weeks and all facilities are all closed. Several has asked me about using them, but the walking trails are open with social distancing. The shelter and Critterville playgrounds are still closed. Kayaking and fishing are available as well, with social distancing with 6-10 feet and masks where appropriate. Fred anything else?

Fred Phillips: No, that pretty well covered it.

Jeff Hurst: As we work into June 10th phase II, the restrictions may change and we agreed to meet again to discuss it afterwards and possibly easing restrictions. We will provide guidelines as these unfold.

Recreation Budget (Jeff Hurst)

Jeff Hurst: Mary Ann, we talked a little about that this morning do you want to give some background.

Mary Ann Strong: We really appreciate Adrienne Cordle joining and she manages the financials. Our budget has been substantially reduced. With the proposed budget, the park will not open until September 1st, and only open 3-9PM M-F, after school hours. Saturday and Sunday regular hours 9-9PM, and 1-9PM respectively. That trimmed the budget a lot and we hope that if the governor allows we can open earlier. Do we have any questions?

Jeff Hurst: How is it impacted if we open earlier?

Mary Ann Strong: If we open earlier, it would be 62K, but that is with pools. We doubt that the pool will be allowed by the Governor, but we want to do anything possible to help the kids. It will have to make sense.

Adrienne Cordle: If you do not open the pool, which would reduce it quite a bit.

Mary Ann Strong: My concern is that if the pool sits will it be a problem next year? I was assured by Mr. Taylor, and Fred, that we should be fine with next pool season.

Jeff Hurst: When will the budget will be approved?

Adrienne Cordle: The public hearing is June 9th, and they will have the option to vote. Ususally, it takes a week later. Council has until June 30th because we need the budget before the fiscal year.

Mary Ann Strong: Yes, that will be 5:30 on the 9th. We will have arrangements so that people can make comments.

Jeff Hurst: If we get to a point where the governor is allowing the pool. What is the procedure to open early?

Mary Ann Strong: My plan was to ask as part of approval to adjust by 62K.

Jeff Hurst: Can we give our opinion on this?

Mary Ann Strong: Yes, and we would like a date that it would be opened if allowed by the Governor. What is the latest date?

Fred Phillips: Will the people come even if it opened? Some people are rightly scared of this.

Mike Webb: It would help if we know when the school comes back, that way we could keep it open later.

Mary Ann Strong: We did discuss that at the last meeting, and if the weather allows, to keep it open longer.

Jeff Hurst: Can you talk about the weight room Fred?

Fred Phillips: If you are talking people, max is 20 people. If the Governor puts restrictions down to 7/8 people, take temperatures etc. Is it worth it to keep it open? I think it is worth it, but the budget is a concern.

Jeff Hurst: We have to make sure the process is followed for any kind of reopening. Extra cleaning, signs, etc.

Fred Phillips: I think the Governor will give guidelines.

Jessica Reynolds: How will the hours work in that case?

Mary Ann Strong: No, it would be full hours.

Frances Meadows Joined the call:

Fred Phillips: The way I understand it, it would be me, one assistant, Jessica and one part-time permanent.

Mary Ann Strong: What time do they actually get there after school?

Fred Phillips: About 3:30

Mary Ann Strong: Would coming in at 2:30PM work?

Fred Phillips: We are doing a lot of things and that may not work because cleaning and we are also mowing and cleaning over at Critterville.

Jeff Hurst: Does anyone have any questions about the budget?

Tony Cordle: IF we open the pool, do we have the people available?

Fred Phillips: Yes, we would be able to use the lifeguards.

Jessica Reynolds: We are having some ask already if they will have a job.

Mary Ann Strong: Thanks to Adrienne for also getting us the concession numbers, and I was able to clear up a lot on our last council meeting. This year we are around \$7300 to the positive, right Adrienne?

Adrienne Cordle: Yes, you are correct.

Mary Ann Strong: We need to understand the capability we have. We have a new inventory program and it is very specific.

Jessica Reynolds: We do shop a lot a Sam's and we do track it very closely. It was hard to learn, but it is a very good system.

Mary Ann Strong: I did have a lot in the community ask about running concession, but due to liability we are not able to bring in other groups to run concession. I also brought up food trucks and people may like that.

Jessica Reynolds: We do have ServSafe certifications as well.

Jeff Hurst: Where would we put them at if it is full? But we have made good this last year

Craig Earls: Yes, we made \$3,221, and \$7,316.

Jeff Hurst: What is the Recreation budget out of the overall?

Adrienne Cordle: We have about 6 million on the Governmental side, and this is 262K

Mike Webb: Mary Ann you do a great at giving facts, and if you look back 30 years, you won't find anything as improved as our Recreation center. Outside, bathrooms, courts all are looking great and thank you.

Mary Ann Strong: We do have a large amount that use it from outside of our town as well. Someone asked how we can help the recreation park. One thing I want to mention, is that it is important to buy meals in Richlands, and that meal tax is a big difference.

Jeff Hurst: What percentage of the overall budget is Recreation? When you talk about budget it is always tough, but a lot of people use the services and are very happy with it.

Mary Ann Strong: Recreation is very important.

Jeff Hurst: Anything else we need to do about it?

Additional:

Frances Meadows: What is the overall percentage we are looking to cut?

Craig Earls: I don't think it is fair to ask Fred to mow if we are open full hours.

Jeff Hurst: Yes, that is important and we have talked some about that. It doesn't need mowed as often, but Mr. Taylor has a plan if it needs mowed regularly.

Craig Earls: Thank you.

Adrienne Cordle: Frances that is about a 44% reduction.

Mary Ann Strong: We will have the budget meeting at 5:30 and we welcome the public's comments.

Jeff Hurst: Thanks to Mary Ann for working with us and the council so that our voice is heard, and Frank for setting up the zoom. Just a reminder that all the facilities are still closed, but the walking trail at is open Critterville, kayaking with social distancing.

Frances Meadows: I wanted to thank Fred Phillips and Jessica Reynolds for all the hard work and you have found a way to cut the money and my hat goes off to you.

Jeff Hurst: Do we have a motion to adjourn the meeting? Frances Meadows made a motion to adjourn.

Tony Cordle seconded the motion. No further discussion. Motion passes 7/0.

No further comments.

Next meeting – June 15th 2020, 7:30PM

Jeff Hurst - Adjourned meeting.