

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a scheduled meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 6:00PM with the following present:

**Recreation Department:** Jessica Reynolds

**Other Attendees:** Rocky Hill, Josh Hammond

**Richlands Town Council Members:** Mary Ann Strong

**Recreation Commission Members Present:** Corey Whited, Craig Earls, Tony Cordle, Jon Brown, Grace Stuart, Chris Hess, Mark Gillespie, Cindy Smith, Frances Meadows

Not Present:

Tony Cordle welcomed everyone to the Richlands Recreation Commission April meeting. We would like to open with a prayer.

### **Welcome New Members, Appointment and Attendance**

Tony Cordle: We had several members who left the Commission and we would like to welcome the new members: Jon Brown, Chris Hess, Grace Stuart, and Cindy Smith.

### **Old Business:**

#### **October 26th Meeting Minutes Approval**

Tony Cordle: For old business, we need to approve the October 26<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Does anyone have any corrections, additions, or deletions to the meeting minutes? Corey Whited made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Grace Stuart seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carries 8/0.

### **New Business:**

#### **Public Comments:**

**Josh Hammond:** Flag Football: Have a few coaches and want to put a football program in the summer. I coached in Tazewell and they do football in pads, but with flags. They play with 7-on-7 players. So, we are thinking about putting something together like this.

Tony Cordle: Time period for the league?

Craig Earls: Most leagues are usually 4-6 weeks.

Josh Hammond: We are getting insurance and we plan to do waivers. We are planning on doing 5-on-5 so we can have more teams. There are a lot of rules but we are working through those.

Tony Cordle: What are the age ranges?

Josh Hammond: 8-10 for boys, 8-11 women.

Jon Brown: What kind of practice schedule?

Josh Hammond: We are working through that as well, depending on the location.

Jessica Reynolds: Where do we recommend having it? We have measured a lot and possibly could do the gym. We do have soccer and softball that is using the fields. A lot of the fields are taken up now.

Josh Hammond: We even tried to go through the school to use RES. They have not called me back, but we are trying for beside of the RES or Raven.

Jessica Reynolds: We also looked at Lake Park, etc. But we are looking at those areas and for grants. If we get the grants, we must start very quickly. So, Lake Park may not be the best area for this league.

Cindy Smith: The first phase (of these grants) will be breaking ground.

Corey Whited: I think having this in the summer will be awesome.

Jon Brown: We have talked about the Midget Football league running flag football early to get the kids in shape. We may be able to team up.

Rocky Hill: We may be able to use the church field (Souls Harbor) for it until I get our baseball field finished. I will ask Joel.

Jessica Reynolds: Are we ok with the league, assuming the fields are worked out?

Tony Cordle: As far as the Recreation Park, I do not think we can accommodate it right now. If you can start it somewhere else, come back and ask later this year for March timeline.

Mary Ann Strong: Another couple of options is to talk to Tony Shrader or Joel for his field. And you will get insurance?

Josh Hammond: We are getting insurance and our season is about a month or maybe a little longer. We want to play twice with a championship. If we do well, we want to add more age ranges next year.

Jessica Reynolds: Right now, we just don't have any fields.

Tony Cordle: I think you can pursue those things and contact the others. I just don't think we can accommodate you.

### **Brian Moore – Amateur Basketball Gym Use:**

Jessica Reynolds: Brian Moore (Twin Valley) is wanting to start, and use the gym, for an Amateur Basketball League. The Covid rules have changed, and starting April 1<sup>st</sup> we can have 100 in the gym at a time. He is wanting to use it in May and June. It does have some overlap with Wrestling. He wants to bring in leagues and split the gate with the Recreation Park. It seems like he runs a good league, and we want local leagues to join as well. He is wanting to use it May 15<sup>th</sup>, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 11/12, July 9/10. If we have a lot of team's we will use the gym Friday and then Saturday before the Rec Park actually opens normally. He does a great job and he will also bring in the officials. The Recreation Park will run the concession.

Tony Cordle: I am 150% behind it, and if we can have 100 people in, we should.

Frances Meadows: Do you have to have a mask?

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, there are rules and social distancing. Brian has agreed to follow whatever rules we need to. He said they will stagger it so that they are not over 100. We are all for it if we can, I am ready. He will have someone run the door as well.

Craig Earls: We need to decide on the 70/30 or 80/20 gate fee schedules.

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, he brought those numbers. And he is good with signing a usage agreement.

Tony Cordle: Any further discussion?

Craig Earls: I propose a motion that the Recreation Park accept a 70/30 split for the gate fees and have Brian Moore sign the facility agreement for the Amateur Basketball League. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carries 9/0.

### **Rocky Hill – Softball Field Use:**

Rocky Hill: I have talked to the Middle School softball team about the field here at the Rec Park and donated a BobCat so this field can get finished. The Gods Rockstar's program is a special needs program for baseball/softball. We will have special needs field that will be built behind Souls Harbor church. The company that is going to do it is behind, and we are behind due to Covid and getting equipment. We are not going to get it in time for this field. We have a lot of excitement and I want to borrow the softball field on June the 12<sup>th</sup> for a big day for opening and have games. We want to have music, and maybe play sandlot for them with a blowup projector screen. They want to have a lot of people come over for this as well. We want to have guardian angels (helpers), but only volunteers that are vaccinated because of health concerns. We are getting color squares for them to stand, and it has bells in the balls to aid in attention. We will also be selling shirts for our non-profit. We would like to have sections marked off. These kids need a good day and right now 9 kids are for sure coming. We will have a

modified game, with modified rules, so it will be fun. One of our kids threw out the first pitch for a Little League game and it was amazing.

Jessica Reynolds: The only issue is that the gym will be taken up, but they should not be down here.

Rocky Hill: That should be ok.

Corey Whited: June 19<sup>th</sup> may be better, so that you do not have to worry about it.

Tony Cordle: Yeah, I think that is best and you won't have to worry about having them go up to the gym.

Mary Ann Strong: This is great for our community. I think you will have a lot come out to support this.

Jessica Reynolds: Does anyone have any questions about the movie?

Tony Cordle: Do you need to drive vehicles on the field?

Rocky Hill: No, we will not need to drive on the field.

Jessica Reynolds: If we have a food truck, then we want them on the side.

Rocky Hill: We just want to be able to feed them.

Craig Earls: Ramey's may be able to help.

Mark Gillespie: Yes, they will probably help you out.

Tony Cordle: Any discussion before we vote?

Corey Whited: I put a motion to allow Rocky Hill with Gods Rockstar's to be able to use the softball field on June 19<sup>th</sup> with the field usage agreement form filled out. Grace Stuart seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carries 9/0.

### **Handicap Parking at Critterville**

Tony Cordle: How are we on the handicap parking spots at Critterville?

Jessica Reynolds: George just needs to know the spots, we can meet one evening and look at the spots.

Mark Gillespie: Are we talking 2 each field? Do we have some at the playground?

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, we can use those for Tball field.

Tony Cordle: We could put them in left field (majors field) and right field (minor field) for the softball fields. I think we designate one or 2, maybe in even in center field. We need to put it where they can pull in and easily pull out.

Mark Gillespie: I think we should post a sign instead of hanging it on the fence.

Tony Cordle: It is something we need to do.

Craig Earls: One of the things I have noticed over at Critterville is a lot of people are parking in behind the majors field in the grass. I don't think it has been an issue, but in the past we have marked that area off from being parked in due to messing up the grass etc. It hasn't been muddy, so I don't think it has been an issue. I also know in the past we have players warm up in that field.

Jessica Reynolds: We have not had any complaints.

Mark Gillespie: The coaches also park over there sometimes. We have not seen any issues.

Craig Earls: Would it be worth looking into for the parking lot to be extended 20 feet or so?

Jessica Reynolds: I think it is worth checking into.

### **Larry Johnson Donation – Tony Cordle:**

Tony Cordle: I have called and left him a message, but he has not called me back. There was some work, but it didn't look complete.

Jessica Reynolds: Adriene has the \$100 check, so we still don't know what to do with it.

Mary Ann Strong: He mentioned using it for a kiosk, maybe it was for the access point.

Jessica Reynolds: I have a few scouts that need a project and has called me. That is for eagle scouts.

Tony Cordle: I will call him again and get more details.

Frances Meadows: The Critterville kiosk has a lot of flyers for the town and the back of the dragon etc.

Tony Cordle: I am going to ask him to come to our next meeting.

Mary Ann Strong: I bet it is help with a Kiosk at the access point.

Tony Cordle: Yes, I think you are right. The swinging bridge does not really have any work completed.  
Grace Stuart: Having good signs is a great thing.

#### **Little League Annual Field Use Agreement (Tony Cordle)**

Tony Cordle: Mark if you want to discuss the field usage agreement. We have not approved the other.

Mark Gillespie: The league takes over Critterville from March until the end of the season with all-stars usually through July. We have total control of the Flanary field and the boys Sr. League Baseball field.

Craig Earls: The high school, and travel baseball teams have been using the Sr. field.

Tony Cordle: The last time we did this we gave permission to give RAL for full permission and yearly. We want to look at approval and how do we proceed.

Mark Gillespie: I think that the key situation is now taken care of over at Critterville. I would like to go 5 years on the agreement.

Craig Earls: I think we should have annual, with auto renewal.

Tony Cordle: We can vote next meeting and something we should think about.

Craig Earls: I think the field at Critterville was meant to be secured for baseball etc.

Tony Cordle: It is a great spot for other things and locking it in limits it. I played flag football there and wanted to get a men's league sometimes. I think we do need to think outside the box. Putting kids on the field and possible making some money for the Recreation Park. When I played at Princeton, we played in the outfield of the baseball field.

Jessica Reynolds: We did discuss having cameras outside the bathroom for vandalism. The police are locking and unlocking them, so it can help. We have had a lot of damages over there.

#### **Tennis Courts – Mary Ann Strong:**

Mary Ann Strong: The outdoor tennis courts need repairing. I would like your blessings and approval to proceed with fundraising for renovations through grants and fund raising. I have an estimate for the surface and lining, and it is about \$15K for per court. If it is funded, can we name it Bob Nassif court? If I have approval, I can then take it to council for approval.

Jessica Reynolds: It is well used by the community. It will be great for us to renovate them.

Mary Ann Strong: Also, Jeff Hurst talked to Ms. Moir and Charles Stacy. RHS does not have the funds to help currently.

Corey Whited: I think it is appropriate to name the courts after Mr. Richlands, Bob Nassif. A great man for our community. I make a motion to allow Mary Ann to proceed with fundraising and to name the renovated courts after Bob Nassif. Craig Earls seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carries 9/0.

#### **Recreation Updates – Jessica Reynolds:**

Jessica Reynolds: The pool is drained and we are getting ready for the season. We have no certified life guards who have applied. If you know anyone please send them our way. I hired a front desk attendant as well. The pirate ship is down at the lake park playground and the kids love it. It is a nice addition, and the next phase is moving dirt and the walking trail. We have applied for a grant through AARP. We need to get started by July 1, and be finished by November. We are looking to do a community garden over there, and we would love Grace to help. We meet via zoom, or I can call you afterwards.

Grace Stuart: This sounds fantastic.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carries 8/0.

Next meeting – May 17<sup>th</sup> 2021, 6:00PM

Tony Cordle Adjourned meeting.