

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a scheduled meeting on Sept 20, 2021 at 6:00PM with the following present:

Recreation Department: Jessica Reynolds

Public Speakers: John O'Daniel, Rocky Hill, Lisa Cordle

Richlands Town Council Members: Mary Ann Strong, Jeff Hurst

Recreation Commission Members Present: Corey Whited, Craig Earls, Tony Cordle, Grace Stuart, Mark Gillespie, Frances Meadows

Not Present: Cindy Smith, Chris Hess, Jon Brown

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

New Business:

Public Comments:

Flag Pole at the Recreation Park (John O'Daniel):

John O'Daniel: At a previous Town Council meeting, Logan Plaster brought up some ideas about the flag and putting it over here at the recreation park. We want to make sure that it won't interfere with the possible future work.

Jessica Reynolds: Tom/Lisa Cordle mentioned this earlier this year for the field. We can't attach it to the fence line, but it will need to be a permanent structure. But if we are doing some renovations we may need to wait.

Frances Meadows: What kind of renovations?

Mary Ann Strong: Jeff hopes to come up here and talk to us about the turf soccer field project. He is looking to put in a multi-use field as he presented a few years ago.

John O'Daniel: We are also looking at working on the tennis court and we want to bring it to this group.

Grace Stewart: What is the budget for this?

John O'Daniel: This would be raised money from multiple sources, including possibly the ARPA money.

Tony Cordle: Getting back to the issue, I think we should do it once and right.

Lisa Cordle: We enjoyed playing over here for middle school, and we hung a flag on the fence.

Mary Ann Strong: You guys did a great job on the field and you need a flag.

Group: The group decided to table the item and re-visit after it is known if the multi-use field will be budgeted. If not, a location will be discussed at a future date.

Recreation Volleyball (Lisa Cordle):

Lisa Cordle: We want to thank you for letting us use the softball field, and if not, they would not have had a middle school season. If we are allowed to use it next year, I have a commitment for more brick dust. We have people willing to sponsor to build 2 dugouts. I am not for sure what the plan is, but we would like to if we can do it. Volleyball had 121 girls the first season, had to turn away 50 others. I would like to give this program over to the rec park and I could be the coordinator for it. I will help with registration, getting referees, etc.

Jessica Reynolds: She will be donating the equipment that she purchased. We have most of it.

Lisa Cordle: We did get insurance and we charged \$35, and bought all the equipment. If it becomes with the rec park it could make money for the town. It will help the program.

Jessica Reynolds: She ran this between soccer and basketball. We want to end it before January 1st. Basketball will play after Christmas, so that is a great time schedule wise. I think it will generate income for us. We have a lot of boys that want to play as well.

Tony Cordle: I make a motion that we allow the Rec Park to take over the youth volleyball program and start the volleyball season on Nov 1st and end by January 1st.

Corey Whited: Seconded the motion. I think this will be good for the recreation.

Tony Cordle: Any further discussions?

Grace Stewart: How much to get in?

Lisa Cordle: We charged \$5.

Craig Earls: I think it is a great idea as long as staffing wise we are fine.

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, I think we will need one paid staff to man the doors. Lisa used volunteers, but we may not be able to do that. We need start advertising it now and get the forms out if approved.

Tony Cordle: Vote for the motion. Passes 6/0

Field of Dreams (Rocky Hill):

Rocky Hill: I want to thank you for letting us use fields and we had to cancel a few due to Covid. The ultimate goal is the field of dreams. Kingsport Brickyard Park has the miracle field for special needs kids. It is a 100-foot field and it is all turf. They don't limit it to just special needs and they use it for other groups as well, like T-ball. For the field for Gods Rockstar's we would like to have a field like this. I have been practicing soccer over at Lake Park, and it is beautiful. I would like to build this field at lake park. I do have fencing and funds to hire equipment to put stuff down. We may be able to get some grants for the turf. he playground I have seen before used ground up tires for mulch. It could be less expensive. We do need to update the bathrooms, but it could be used for some of the possible grant money. We do see dogs over there a lot and it would be great to have a small dog park. We also would like to have a small shelter and possibly a small splash pad. It is a really nice area and with the right vision could do a lot with the field. I also would like to have cameras put up.

Grace Stewart: I think this will benefit the community. Have you polled the citizens there to see how they feel about it?

Rocky Hill: I have asked several there and they have been for it. We have not sent a poll.

Lisa Cordle: I could get a list to poll if needed.

Mary Ann Strong: I think it would be well received by that community.

Jessica Reynolds: AASC did have some uses over there and the funding fell through for the work.

Craig Earls: We did vote to remove the existing field to accommodate that AASC project.

Mark Gillespie: We need to get the distances and see what have distance wise.

Jessica Reynolds: I think we should get a meeting with Regina (AASC) and see where we are with that. For respect for that project, I would like to meet with them. I do feel we need to speak with them.

Mary Ann Strong: I think we should meet with AASC, and at the October meeting we can decide. After that, I present it to the Town Council.

Mark Gillespie: It would be good to have a diagram as well.

Rocky Hill: Yes, I can do that.

Group: No action taken.

Multi-use Field Complex (Jeff Hurst):

Jeff Hurst: I wanted to update you guys on the prior soccer turn field project. We have some ARPA money through the town and proposing to use some of the money for recreation. I mentioned in the Town Council meeting, and I reach out to the turf company with some a design idea for a multi-use field. It could include tick marks for football and softball. He sent me a few estimates based on the general design. The first set of plans showed. The department of land conservation grants may be available in

the fall to help offset the costs so the town most likely will not have to pay it all. We have a lot of options and some money available. Our scoring is very competitive on these grants.

Mark Gillespie: Do you have to show money spent?

John O'Daniel: Yes, you get 50% reimbursement of the project expenses.

Mark Gillespie: There will be a lot of town work to be done that can be counted towards it?

Jeff Hurst: Yes, we can split this into phases as well to help maximize.

Jessica Reynolds: I get asked all the time about the tennis courts because they have huge cracks. We are hoping get money to help with these as well. We have a lot of daily players. To me that is a huge priority because such a diverse group uses it regularly.

Craig Earls: I think it is important in this work to address the parking and possible road we talked about a few years ago. I think this is included in your plans, right?

Jeff Hurst: Yes, we have looked at what we need to do for parking and address some of the road issues.

Mark Gillespie: Have you asked for other quotes?

Jeff Hurst: Yes, we will be asking others.

Corey White: Do they give you a sweeper?

Jeff Hurst: Yes, we will get a sweeper.

Tony Cordle: With what you have here, where do you think we can put a flag on the field?

John O'Daniel: We can look at putting up the pole in this project. If the project is not approved we can do one temporarily here.

Group: Thank you for the update Jeff and we look forward to seeing how this project progresses. The recreation commission fully supported this project when initially proposed by Jeff several years ago.

Old Business:

April 19th Meeting Minutes Approval

Craig Earls: Tony, we do have one piece of old business to address. We need to approve the April minutes.

Tony Cordle: Does anyone have any corrections?

Corey Whited: I make a motion to approve the April minutes. Frances Meadows: I second the motion.

Tony Cordle: Vote for the motion. Passes 6/0

Recreation Updates – Jessica Reynolds:

Jessica Reynolds: We have a lot going on here. It has slowed down some after the pool closed and we began winterizing the pool. We have the soccer going on and the volleyball coming up soon.

Craig Earls: For volleyball, I do think we need to have the town staff man the doors to take money.

Jessica Reynolds: It is a lot of people, but staffing we should be ok.

Mary Ann Strong: Do you think he plans to transition basketball to recreation?

Jessica Reynolds: I am in the process of setting up online registration.

Craig Earls: I was going to suggest that we need online registration.

Jessica Reynolds: I can see is doing this, we just need more help. We think it will be a great thing. We also have pickleball and other things going on. We even have some free self-defense class here.

Mary Ann Strong: You are having a lot of college basketball players come down?

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, we have quite a few of them come down.

Grace Stewart: Do we have a defibrillator?

Jessica Reynolds: Yes

Grace Stewart: Who is certified, do you have classes for certified for CPR?

Jessica Reynolds: They are offered at the rescue building.

Tony Cordle: If anyone is interested, I will be doing the coal town taps corn hole tournament this Saturday. We used to do those here, but with Covid it stopped here, and hasn't picked back up yet.

Mark Gillespie: We will be having sectional tournaments next year and state tournaments next year for Little League Baseball.

Craig Earls: These tournaments will be huge for Richlands. They always bring a lot of people.

Tony Cordle: I know we have some little stuff we need to get done on the field and parking spaces.

Jessica Reynolds: I do have some quotes from George on the signs.

Mark Gillespie: I think we just need 2, and we talked about extending the parking lot.

Tony Cordle: We really need to address the attendance.

Mary Ann Strong: Yes, we need to make sure we are following the guidelines.

Craig Earls: I will start including an attendance report with the meeting notes to help track it.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further discussion, motion carries 6/0.

Next meeting – October 18th 2021, 6:00PM

Tony Cordle Adjourned meeting.

2021 - Recreation Commission Monthly Attendance

Name	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Tony Cordle									P			
Craig Earls									P			
Mark Gillespie									P			
Chris Hess									NPU			
Frances Meadows									P			
Cindy Smith									NPE			
Grace Stewart									P			
Corey Whited									P			
Vacant												

Legend:

P – Present

NPU – Not Present, Unexcused

NPE – Not Present, Excused