

Town of Richlands
Recreation Commission
February 20th 2023

The Richlands Recreation Commission held a regular monthly meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the following members present:

Corey Whited	Tony Cordle
Freddie Elswick	Craig Earls
Jared Horn	Mark Gillespie
Frances Meadows	Rocky Hill

Members Absent:

Town Council:	Jordan Bales
Recreation:	Jessica Reynolds
Other:	Lisa Cordle, Tonya Hurt/Brandon Goins – Richlands Little League

Tony Cordle called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Craig Earls made a motion to approve agenda as presented. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 8/0.

Old Business:

Rocky Hill made a motion to approve the minutes of the January joint meeting with the Richlands Town Council. Jared Horn seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 8/0.

Public Comments:

Lisa Cordle: I wanted to come to the Commission to request usage of the softball field for the middle school team. We had the issue with the gate fee last year, but that should be resolved because we will be playing games at the high school. We did have an issue with soccer last year, and that interfered some with practice, but we will work it out.

Jessica Reynolds: We have not heard anything from soccer yet, but we expect them too.

Lisa Cordle: They had our schedule, when we had games last year they used the field. We did work together.

Jessica Reynolds: We just want to be able to address it now instead of having issues.

Jordan Bales: How is the fee handled?

Jessica Reynolds: It is just a field rental fee.

The group discussed the request and advised Jessica that she can handle it under the current process without issue. We also discussed the field fence and making sure that it will not interfere with soccer. The group also advised, with a consensus, that the fence should be put up on Friday, if we have a tournament for the weekend.

New Business:

Commission Vacancy:

Jordan Bales: I authored the application text and gave this to Town Hall for publication. We have other groups that have members to be appointed as well. The town will be putting these up on social media for these vacancies.

The group discussed the application process and the Recreation Commission will still provide Town Council with recommendation(s).

Jordan Bales: Do we have any charity tournaments (basketball, softball, etc.)?

Tony Cordle: We have talked about that, but not currently. I asked for a budget item to help support these types of events.

Jessica Reynolds: We should have a Rec Commission line item for these.

ARPA Funds Update:

Group discussion about the previous Town Council meeting regarding priorities and what was discussed.

Jessica Reynolds: Some of the items are going through estimation for Town Councils review.

Richlands Little League Field Agreement:

Tonya Hurt: I wanted to come and update the Commission on Little League activities for this year. We are on track to beat last year's numbers for players. Opening day will be Sunday, April 2nd at 3pm. We will have the parade and sandlot games. We are also hosting the 11/12 state baseball tournament, which will bring in a lot of visitors to the town. The tournament is July 20-25th. We will continue with the T-Mobile live stream equipment. We did get an extra set for minor league field for this tournament.

Brandon Goins: I have worked with Little League, and most of you, over the years. We have the official field use agreement that was approved in Oct 2019. Mark Gillespie was president at that time. The document was not signed at the Town Hall. We have a new memo of understanding and stipulations for the agreement to get it formalized.

The group discussed the proposed field use agreement and will discuss during our next regular meeting after everyone has an opportunity to read it.

Recreation Director Updates:

Jessica Reynolds: Here are the RYBL updates and profits. We are on track for \$10,000 months (on average.) We are starting tiny tots' clinics, and indoor soccer (futsal). This should help fill in gaps and March-April that are usually slower for the Rec Park, until the pool opens. We also have a request to use the field for a men's rugby team. No concerns for the request.

I have also worked with Neal Kilgore from VA conservation to get a kayak launch here and working with the land owner to offer a lease and to gravel the lot for 5 years to have more parking.

Frances Meadows: Has anyone asked about trails on top of the mountain?

Jessica Reynolds: Yes, we are talking with Neal Kilgore for this as well.

Rocky Hill: There will be trails from trails from the Cedar Bluff park to the Rec Park. They have secured some approvals, but we may need more.

Jessica Reynolds: We are also looking at trail for here at the Rec Park, maybe a mountain bike trail.

Tony Cordle: We need someone to contact the supervisors to ask for money from them. If anyone can call, and ask them for money out of the local funds.

Rocky Hill: I asked them for the money for the slides and they did not approve.

Tony Cordle: We still need to vote on Chair/Vice Chair/Secretary and volunteer of the year award. I would like to do this next meeting.

Miscellaneous Updates:

Jordan Bales: Gary, and myself, came over here and we determined it will be \$10,700 to fix everything here. We have some safety issues that need addressed. We want to go to Critterville and look at those issues as well. We will bring these to Town Council for review.

Group discussion about these potentiation items.

Craig Earls: When is the town budget sessions? I think we should include any overage over estimated revenues to a separate budget item for improvements.

The group discussed and agreed that this should be something addressed in the budget sessions.

No further discussions.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corey Whited seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 8/0.

Next Meeting: March 20th at 7:00 P.M at the Richlands Recreation Park.