

Town of Richlands  
Recreation Commission  
January 16<sup>th</sup> 2023

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

Craig Earls	Tony Cordle
Rocky Hill	Frances Meadows
Jared Horn	Mark Gillespie

Members Absent: Freddie Elswick, Corey Whited  
Town Council: Jordan Bales, Gary Jackson, Laura Mollo, Doug Ratliff, Jan White,  
Rick Woods  
Recreation: Jessica Reynolds  
Other:

Jan White opened the Richlands Town Council meeting, and gave the invocation.

Tony Cordle opened the Recreation Commission meeting.

Public Comments:  
None

Old Business:  
Frances Meadows made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting.  
Jared Horn seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 6/0.

New Business:

Joint Public Hearing:

Tony Cordle: We have an open position and requested the Council to approve Jeff Hurst.

Laura Mollo: We are going to advertise this and allow others to apply and have a full list.

Rocky Hill: When will this happen? We hope this will be dealt with quickly.

The group discussed the process for getting volunteer applications. The Recreation Commission will continue to put forward recommendations to the Council. Going forward, the Town Manager will advertise these and they will post up a form for anyone who wants to join. The group also discussed possibly getting Tazewell County to help with expenses. We have a lot of kids that use the facility that are outside of Town Limits. Tony agreed to go back and ask our representatives if they can provide any funding.

Doug Ratliff: For several years, we discussed moving the recreation department to a down town location. As a suggestion, I would like to have a three-year plan to include this. If we have the center in down town, we can more easily serve the children and adults in town. This could be located near the current police station.

The group discussed the potential for a 3-year plan for a new recreation building.

Doug Ratliff: I would like this commission to come up with a 3-year plan to include this.

Laura Mollo: We have received questions from citizens on why we need to spend at the Recreation Park, but not the water treatment plant that is needed.

Tony Cordle: I have a responsibility as the chairman to pass along the things that need to be addressed, and that have been neglected over the years.

The group discussed the benefits of where we can put money to help and to keep a balance between the other competing priorities.

Jan White: I see this is as a two-fold issue due to safety issues, and then other items to support the vision for a new location.

Doug Ratliff: For these repairs, we are looking for a source of the money and it could be part of the opium settlement money. Fifteen percent can be used for the recreation out of that money, but we are still looking at it.

Jessica Reynolds: I have been working with the grants at the conservation board, but they are only outdoors. I did apply for the Skewes Family Foundation for help with the tennis courts.

Rich Woods: What is the highest priority?

Tony Cordle: Due to safety, the slides are the highest priority item.

Laura Mollo: We have 2 board of supervisor meetings.

Jessica Reynolds: I will check to see what our out-of-town rate is. I can look at the volleyball and basketball registrations.

Doug Ratliff: If you guys go to the supervisors, and ask for opium settlement money, you may be able to get it.

Laura Mollo: Each supervisor will have money that they can discretionary give.

Jessica Reynolds: Discussed the income from volleyball and the basketball programs, and if we had additional help (staff) we could do a lot more.

Gary Jackson: We need a priority list of what we need completed.

Jessica Reynolds: This has been provided to Council. She described the priorities and the issues with slides, and the potential safety issues. One of the slides is broken, and they both are very steep. We don't have time now to purchase new ones, so the best course is to remove them, and replace them next year.

The commission discussed, and we will make sure the list of priority items is returned to council after further review at the next meeting.

Gary Jackson: I will take a look at it and estimate the materials for them.

Jessica Reynolds: Gave the participants the Sales by Category for each fiscal year.

The group discussed the revenues and the how the proceeds are accounted for.

Rick Woods: Do you know how much is left in your budget this year?

Jessica Reynolds: We are right on track budget wise for 50% left. I would love to have one more employee. We have a lot of volunteers that are helping. The wrestling tournament was held, with 400 kids and we had over 1000 people attend. This was the most people we have seen. We do charge a host fee and we made total of \$1,652 (host fee and concession).

Rick Woods: Looks like you have money in your budget for a part-time worker.

The group discussed the importance of anytime the Recreation Park is purchasing anything, like mulch from Richlands Home Supply, it should be brought to council.

Doug Ratliff: Jessica told me that she heard in the past that the council wants to close the Recreation Park. We never wanted to do that. I believe it a treasure, and great for the kids. I

would like for you all to focus on the Board of Supervisors meetings and the opium settlement money to help out.

Tony Cordle: We to start doing more things, but a lot of times we don't have the equipment. This commission used to have money in an account to help with these expenses. We would like to have these types of funds set aside so the Recreation Commission can do more.

Doug Ratliff: With the new budget, we can help.

Tony Cordle: Will the Recreation Commission nominee forms go out, and will we get the commission to vote on them?

The group discussed, and the council would like us to continue to provide our recommendation to them.

Jan White: Gary, you are going to check the flooring costs?

Gary: Yes, just need to work out the time. Jessica needs a part-time person over there with all you do.

No further discussions.

Craig Earls made a motion to adjourn the Recreation Commission meeting. Jared Horn seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 6/0.

Gary Jackson made a motion to adjourn the Town Council meeting. Jordan Bales seconded the motion. No further comments. Motion carries 6/0.

Next Meeting February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M.