

City of Duluth Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

January 11, 2017

Members present: David Jones, Luke Livingston, Paula Bender, Randy Marcus, Mike Humphrey, Mark Carter, Sherry McCann

Members not present: Wanda Bennewitz, Sharon Parrish, Kirkland Cardin

City Representatives: Kathy Marelle, John Keating, Kelly Kelkenberg

The meeting schedule for 2017 was given to the board with the dates, times, and location for the boards meetings.

SPLOST Project review:

To identify opportunities/needs for SPLOST funds, Kathy Marelle asked the Advisory Board to visit the six City Parks and list 3 or more things they would like to see for SPLOST capital improvement park projects. City Park staff will also make a list of needs they feel the different parks need. At the February meeting, the lists will be combined and prioritized according to the funding that is available.

John Keating presented a power point presentation to the board on the condition of Taylor Park playground. The nineteen playground 6x6 support pressure treated posts are all in a stage of decay. The wooden structure was built in 2009. A certified playground specialist is scheduled to inspect the playground and will document the condition of the playground structures.

This report will also be taken into consideration when prioritizing the needs for the six city parks.

Rogers Bridge Park Bridge:

The stake holders involved with the Rogers Bridge have been identified. A meeting will be scheduled with stakeholders to discuss the design for the rebuild/ renovation of the Bridge over the Chattahoochee at Rogers Bridge Park. The stakeholder meeting will be scheduled sometime in February.

ACGO Tractor:

Parks and Recreation department representatives will be meeting with ACGO to finalize the purchase of a new tractor. The tractor being considered is bigger than the current tractor, but will fit into the city's budget, thanks to ACGO's commitment to supporting their local community.

Chattapoochee Dog Park:

Kathy Marelle is coordinating an advisory committee of concerned citizens to help monitor the dog park and advise the City staff on dog park operating procedures. Kathy has been contacted by concerned citizens. The Chattapoochee Woof Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for January 26th at 5:30 p.m. Bunten Road Park. The purpose of the meeting will be to organize a governing body to encourage a community sense of belonging, and to make a park experience more of a positive experience for all. She would also like to begin a discussion on re-establishing the Chattapoochee Dog Park Mayor program.

John Keating and Craig Corley have made receptacles to be placed in parks to allow citizens to store plastic bags for the use of dog owners when they walk their dogs in the parks. Local Girl Scout Troops will decorate the receptacles. This will save the City thousands of dollars a year.

State of the City:

The State of the City will be January 23, 2017, 7 p.m. at the Red Clay Theater.

Matters from the Board:

It was asked if the memorial markers for children will be ready to be displayed soon. The plaques are ready but the department is waiting for better weather before they are put out.

Kathy Marelle also shared that in February, she will have a request put on the City Council's work session agenda to discuss naming the Bunten Park Building after Maxine Garner. The Advisory Board is invited to attend that evening to support the request.

The next meeting will be at Bunten Road Park on February 8, 2017.