

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Parks Advisory Board

Date: Wednesday, October 11, 2017

WP Jones Park Lodge

Present:

Bob Bennewitz,, Mary Odum, Alexis Server, David Jones, Luke Livingston, Maryanne McCrary, Mike Humphreys, Mark Carter, Sharon Parris

City Reps:

Kathy Marelle, Kelley Kelkenberg, Jim Dugan

Absent:

Jim Hall

Meeting Call to Order at:

7:03 PM David Jones

Agenda

1. Church Street Park Expansion Update

Kathy Marelle and James Riker met with Carol Hassell from Georgia Piedmont Land Trust (GPLT) to seek approval for Right of Entry to the proposed property in order to complete an updated Environmental Report from the previous report in January 2006. Kelley Kelkenberg expressed his agreement with ensuring due diligence is completed regarding an Environmental Report in order to move forward. GPLT will meet Tuesday, October 17, 2017 to approve/discuss city's request of Phase 1 and Phase 2 Environmental study. GPLT's Board will then vote on Development Plan noting that 25% would include impervious surface, i.e. parking, etc. Carol Hassell did not feel that including at least 25% impervious surface in the development plan would be an issue. If all goes well, we can then determine costs to move forward. The location of the land and what it is adjacent to would provide good opportunity for future development; therefore, providing passive activity to connect the neighborhoods on Bunten Road to the downtown Duluth city center, thereby improving safe connectivity.

2. Youth Athletic Programs: Contract vs. In House

We are at a pivotal point to determine what makes the most sense for the Duluth Youth Association. Parks are currently under-utilized, and we need to know where we need to be 5 years from now so that we can start preparing. There are elementary school aged children in the area that either can't afford the program or are involved in other activities. David Jones noted that the football program hit rock bottom last year with decreased participation. Overall, the community participation is extremely low with not enough volunteers to help out. Contract Leagues are I9 sports, Club Lacrosse, Travel Teams, etc.

There are benefits to offering "In house" athletic programs as well as contract athletic programs. In contract athletic programs, the vendor usually provides equipment and staff. In house athletic programs would provide service, partial equipment and staff. Revenue generated would be 100% to city from "In House" program after meeting the staffing expense as opposed to percentage revenue from "contract" programs.

Some of the deterioration of the local youth association is believed to be lack of communication to participants, mismanagement of funds, and lack of participation.

Kathy requested the assistance of the Advisory Board to develop procedures for “in house” and “contract” athletic programs, and formulate criteria for implementing athletic activities at Bunten Road Park.

Board suggested a public citizen survey to determine community needs and interest.

It’s possible that the city could subsidize some youth program expenses, but we have to show value for the community.

Ideas provided by the Advisory Board: a sports league program that includes a “taste of multiple sports”, a survey to Duluth families to determine what sports activities interest them, what are they able to afford, etc.

Advisory Board will provide further feedback at the next scheduled meeting on November 15, 2017.

3. SPLOST Project Update

Bunten HVAC

An October 17th meeting between the City representatives and Pond co. engineer to complete the RFP for the design and construction of HV AC units to replace the antiquated malfunctioning system at the Maxine Garner Activity Building. RFP to be competitively bid in November with recommendation from staff to award bid at the December 11 City Council meeting.

The Lodge

The interior construction to enclose back porch of the Lodge is scheduled to begin within the next two weeks and completion by December 1, 2017.

Matters from the Board

None

Motion to Adjourn by: David Jones

Meeting Adjourned at 8:12 PM

Next Meeting:

W.P. The Lodge

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

7:00 PM