

**Minutes  
Recreation Committee  
April 6, 2015  
6:00 PM  
5th committee meeting**

**Members present were Chairman Terry Merritt, Committee members Bob Cook and Taft Matney. Recreation Director Van Brannon and City Administrator Trey Eubanks were also present.**

1. Call to order.- Chairman Merritt  
Chairman Merritt asked why building maintenance such as gutters had to be quoted. He wondered why this couldn't be done in house. Trey said we follow our procurement policy and things like this and the Veteran's Walk sidewalk have to be done by experts so they are done right. Chairman Merritt asked why he as a department head couldn't call Gutter Guard to come out and fix the gutters. Trey said that is what is happening right now. Chairman Merritt said it took a long time to be repaired.
2. Public comment.- None
3. Reading and approval of minutes.- Councilman Cook made a motion to approve the minutes with Councilman Matney seconding. The vote was unanimous (3-0).
4. Reports or communications from city officers.
  - a. Budget Review- Van said all three divisions were tracking well. The egg drop went well and spring sports are in full swing.
5. Unfinished business.
  - a. Facility improvements- This is the report on the Senior Center and Sunset Park. It is a status report. Most items have already been completed. Chairman Merritt said there is also information about the playground equipment at Sunset Park. The equipment needs to be removed to take care of possible liability. Committee directed staff to get the playground equipment at Sunset removed. Councilman Matney said our parks have been compared to other parks several times lately. He has talked to a Spartanburg County Councilman and can have a carbon copy of one of the Spartanburg parks for a grand total of \$18 million.

Chairman Merritt said Janice Holcombe told him the demographics say that the average age is 37, the median income is \$52,000, we have 2.65 children

between the ages of 8 and 18. The demographics of Springfield might allow us to be eligible for different funding than a Sunset area, which may have different demographics. That will help steer us towards the improvements we can do. Trey said the County is working on a plan and it may include demographics. A lot of our facility user are not just City residents but other members of the community. This summer, they intend to have a County-wide plan. The city administrators have been pushing for the County-wide plan for better planning so facilities will not be duplicated. Councilman Matney said each park services different sports and activities. It is not necessarily for passive recreation, but the activities we have for them.

6. New business

a. Background checks- Chairman Merritt asked if this is a policy or guidelines.

Van said he did some research and everyone calls them guidelines, so that is what ours will be. People voluntarily run through the screening process. The City is starting to do this now. Chairman Merritt asked how much this costs. Van said \$12.00 per person.

Councilman Matney said there were some incidents that happened last year in other programs that highlight the need for this from a public safety standpoint. Councilman Matney said the committee should endorse this.

Councilman Matney made a motion that the Recreation Committee endorse background check guidelines for coaches. Councilman Cook seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (3-0).

7. Public comment.

Councilman Goodson asked if the Chairman could tour the parks with him on Friday at 8:00 a.m.

Councilman Black: Is there any possibility of using CDBG money for the Sunset Park playground equipment? We could word it for underprivileged.

Trey said he would check.

Councilman Black: Just the fencing and new restrooms would be nice. I would like to see those upgrades. Tyger River is so much bigger and has a lot of parking. We can't spend 18 million dollars on a park. It is a nice facility, but no.

Trey said there is a list of improvements made over the past two years to each park facility in the committee report.

Councilman Black: I see the rusted fence. I know we got quotes for painting it and doing vinyl coated posts to keep the kids from getting harmed on it. Since Jerry Frye was here there hasn't been anything done to the restrooms.

8. Committee concerns.

Councilman Matney said he got a couple of phone calls that no one was there for the Lacrosse clinic from the City or coaches. We are relying on established people to help us, but we need to have a city representative there. Kids were arriving for a clinic and someone should be there to take care of it. A few people asked when it is going to start. There has been no communication. Some have said they are going to sign their kids up for other activities in other areas. We have the opportunity to do something special, and we need to communicate better. Tell the parents what is going on.

Chairman Merritt asked when parents sign their children up for events, is there a code of conduct on parent that says that language is not appropriate, or that behavior is not appropriate for public. Van said there is something online and he will look into it.

Leo Joyce asked if we could contact local colleges to see if any of the players would like to help implement the program. Councilman Matney said he didn't see why not. Chairman Merritt said they could be contacted to help after the program gets started.

9. Adjournment.- Chairman Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller

Municipal Clerk