

**MINUTES
RECREATION COMMITTEE
MAY 13, 2016
1:00 P.M.
UPSTAIRS CONFERENCE ROOM**

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

1. Call to order.- Chairman Merritt

A. Recreation Projects

- a. Current- Chairman Merritt had a list of projects that had been completed 2012-2015.

City Park equipment was painted and improved for tomorrow's Park Hop.

The septic tank has been replaced at Sunset Park. It was put in incorrectly when it was first installed. The wooden steps were removed. The land was graded and a new handrail installed.

Civil engineering is being done at Springfield up to the post on the football field so that we will be ADA compliant.

The new roof was installed at the Senior Center and so far there are no leaks. Suzanne is working on sending notices via email. Chairman Merritt said constant contact is being looked at. Councilman Matney said mail chimp does the same thing and is very simple to use.

- b. Proposed- Councilman Matney said he has been getting questions about batting cages for Springfield so that the players can warm up. Van said that has already been marked off and is being worked on.

Chairman Merritt talked about playground equipment at Sunset Park. Councilman Matney asked if we should create that as an exercise center. There are boot camps and cross fit. Stations could be set up to take advantage of the track. Kids age out of playgrounds quickly. These stations could be used by adults. Stations cost \$1,000-\$3,000 per station. Councilwoman King said

she runs at AnMed four days a week and they have stations that are hardly ever used. Councilman Matney said at Cleveland Park they are used, so it depends. Trey said Van found some fitness stations for a reasonable amount of money. We could create a fitness station area and put up three or four for less than \$10,000 and monitor them to see how and if they are used. If they are utilized, we could also put some on the cultural center grounds. That could accommodate the sports center classes and police academy kids.

Councilman Matney said the installation of new programs and tournament spaces creates hospitality and accommodations funds, which helps us pay for more things.

Trey said the SFA/SFM study has been discussed and will be an important part of our decision making to give us directions and priorities.

Chairman Merritt said that we can hold tournaments, but there are no hotels for people to stay in. We have some restaurants, but most people from out of town stay in the Pelham Road area. We need to start with little pieces and grow our program.

Councilman Matney asked about rescheduling the meeting with the developer. Trey said the executive summary should be in next week. Jack Shaw and Trey talked this week and Mr. Shaw feels good about the hotel possibility. A couple of hotels have made inquiries. Restaurants will likely come in shortly thereafter.

- c. Future Recreation Expansion- (Jay Martin will attend the first part of the meeting to discuss MCC parking improvements and playground location)- Jay Martin was present to discuss the cultural center projects. Arbor Engineering has been looking at the parking lot and making a connection to the front which allows access around front and allows for more parking. The storm water permit is still open from past work. There is another place on the grounds with mature trees that can also be parking.

There is a place where the playground can be placed. Restrooms need to be placed so that people can stay and play all day. If there are no restrooms, people won't stay. A sidewalk connection for the Swamp Rabbit Trail can also be incorporated into this plan. If a connection is put between the cultural center and sports center, 11 spaces will be created in addition to the 9 that will be there already.

Trey said when the sports center was built, there

was a design for expansion for installation of a pool. The pool is not going to happen. Fitness classrooms are a priority. Kids' programs are a priority. He does not want to see something put in that will nullify the expansion. Jay said also pools are the most expensive thing. Councilwoman King said she is over the pool in her neighborhood and it is a money pit.

Chairman Merritt asked about a sitting wall. Jay said they can absolutely have a wall installed.

Jay said areas are created for playgrounds and then a playground company comes in and builds it. This helps with liability. Playgrounds are extremely expensive. You provide the budget and they build what they can with the money. Chairman Merritt said this area solves the concerns regarding line of sight and separation from areas with alcohol consumption.

Chairman Merritt mentioned a few more things for the future. City Park- replace fencing, sandlot volleyball, exercise stations, tying into Swamp Rabbit trail.

Springfield Park- seating on visitor's side. Councilman Matney said we have a problem with parents acting troublesome. Councilman Matney said on the fencing, he thought we were going to replace what needs to be replaced in all parks to make it more uniform.

Playground equipment in all parks is needed. Some equipment is available like balance beams or ropes that are challenging and also provide exercise. Chairman Merritt said his priorities are playground equipment at Sunset Park and the cultural center. He said we need swings.

Chairman Merritt said he would like the committee to come up with a list of priorities and take them to council instead of stopping and starting. He said this is the strongest Recreation committee we have had in a long time. Each member is passionate about recreation.

B. Recreation Discussions

- a. Mauldin as a DESTINATION discussion- Nothing makes Mauldin a destination. We need to work on changing that. Chairman Merritt said the Sports Center could make this place a destination; we just need a direction. Recreation helps economic development and brings a lot of revenue into a City.

Trey said he is excited by this discussion. There are some factions in the City that do not want the City to spend money. This committee is clearly passionate about recreation and developing a plan is the key to getting things done.

b. Recreation Funding Options discussion:

- a. Normal Budget funding- Money is not the issue right now for Recreation. We have some money coming from the County and we also have hospitality and accommodations money.
- b. Public/Private Funding with Naming/Dedication Rights, Memorial/Honor Policy for Parks and Fields- Chairman Merritt said we don't have enough space for every child who has been impacted by our recreation program. You also cannot give naming rights unless the donation is substantial. Chairman Merritt said L.S. Green has contributed a lot to this community and should be honored.

Councilwoman King said she has a problem with not doing something for the family talked about last month. They have been approached by the City already and hinted to about what we want to do. Van said he has developed some verbiage for a plaque or whatever the City wants to do. Chairman Merritt said we could mount a marble stand at the incline and that would have room to do several dedications.

c. Greenville County Millage Allocation.

c. Recreation/ Sports Facilities Study

SFA/SFM could do a study to help us get some recreation things started. They will also help us with suggestions for the sports center and other recreation options.

Councilman Matney made a motion to forward this item to council with Councilwoman King seconding. Councilwoman King asked how we picked this company. Chairman Merritt said through Van Broad. The vote was unanimous (3-0).

2. New Business

3. Request for Executive Session pursuant to SC State Code Section 30-4-70 (a) (1), that council go into executive session for a personnel matter pertaining to discussions on a Recreation personnel issue.- Committee did not go into executive session.
4. Public Comment
5. Adjournment. – Chairman Merritt adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Miller
Municipal Clerk