

Department of Community Services

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Gwinnett County Recreation Authority Summary Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 13 – 3:00pm

Best Friend Park Gym, 6224 Jimmy Carter Boulevard, Norcross

Present: Brad Alexander, Lois Allen, Jack Bolton, Steve Flynt, Robert Gates, Charlie Underwood
Absent: Gene Callaway, Glen Williams, Eric Meyer

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome/Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Agenda
{Action: Approved; Motion: Underwood; Second: Bolton. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Flynt-Yes; Gates-Yes; Underwood-Yes}
4. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2017
{Action: Approved; Motion: Bolton; Second: Underwood. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Flynt-Yes; Gates-Yes; Underwood-Yes}
5. Synthetic Fields 101
Glen Boorman delivered a presentation on the benefits and advantages of synthetic turf fields. A significant advantage to Gwinnett County is year-round use of turf fields and the ability to use the fields in most all weather conditions. Brad inquired about the reports of health effects of synthetic turf use; Glen responded that in over 50 studies on the subject, there was no evidence to support a risk factor. Steve asked about manufacturer performance; Glen responded that Gwinnett County has the same specifications for all suppliers, so manufacturer performance hasn't been an issue.
6. Conservation Easements 101
Grant Guess presented on Conservation Easements, which is a method to protect greenspace and open land area from development within certain requirements. Steve asked about the number of sites the RAB holds for Revenue Bonds. Brad asked who owns the land if the RAB is the holder of the easement; Grant replied that the county owns the land. Steve pointed out that the conservation easements are complimentary with the Comprehensive Plan. There was some discussion regarding passive recreation features with a maximum of 15% impervious surface allowable. Steve asked about a cost estimate for quantity and limitations of conservation easements, so the RAB could make a recommendation at future meetings. Lois commented that no one is against it; it's simply the need to determine what "it" actually is.

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7. Staff Updates

- Gwinnett Environmental and Heritage Center: Steve Cannon reviewed the handout
- Parks and Recreation Operations: Tina Fleming introduced Mark Patterson, the new Department of Community Services Deputy Director overseeing the Recreation Fund Divisions. Mark mentioned that Park Operations is currently holding YAA meetings, and is assisting with waterfowl round up in June. He invited the RAB members to upcoming BOC Proclamations; mentioned that GCPR Summer Camps were voted #1 in Gwinnett County; and announced that Tina was recognized by National Afterschool Alliance
- Parks and Recreation Project Administration: Grant Guess provided an update on the George Pierce Gym addition, Tribble Mill Park playground area renovation, the Jones Bridge Park renovation, and the Lilburn Activity Building. Brad asked about George Pierce Park baseball project; Rex Schuder replied that it was combined with another project for more favorable bid.

8. Comments from the Audience

P. Chappell and C. Adams from the audience mentioned concerns about development at Simpsonwood Park and that they wanted to stay involved with the RAB and/or BOC to ensure the site is protected for conservation and habitat. Lois commented that no one is against it; it's simply the need to determine what "it" actually is.

9. Adjournment

{Action: Approved; Motion: Bolton; Second: Underwood. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Flynt-Yes; Gates-Yes; Underwood-Yes}