

Department of Community Services

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GWINNETT COUNTY RECREATION AUTHORITY

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 8 – 3:00pm

Bethesda Park Senior Center, 225 Bethesda Church Road, Lawrenceville 30044

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

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome/Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Modified Agenda – Move STEAM Teacher Immersion Program to #6
{Action: Approved; Motion: Underwood; Second: Williams. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Gates-Yes; Williams-Yes; Underwood-Yes}
4. Approval of Minutes – April 13, 2017
{Action: Approved; Motion: Alexander; Second: Underwood. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Gates-Yes; Williams-Yes; Underwood-Yes}
5. Linfield Subdivision Board

Christine Wagner, representing Linfield Subdivision Board, addressed the board regarding ordinance violations in Jones Bridge Park. She commented that things are quiet now while the park is under renovation, but voiced concerns about when the full park re-opens. She distributed photos from the spring of 2016 and said there was a lack of police presence in the park; police did not get out of patrol cars to patrol the park areas on foot; parking along the roadside; amplified sound; dumping of trash and personal grill debris; unauthorized vendors; vehicular speeding; and drug and alcohol use in the park. She said the park is becoming a nuisance and is interrupting neighboring property owners of enjoyment of their personal property. She asked the board to strong arm the police to increase patrols and citations and asked that park staff lock the park gates daily.

Grant Guess mentioned that the property was acquired in the early 1970's and the Linfield residential area was developed in the early to mid-1990's. Brad Alexander inquired about calls into the police 911 center. Glen Williams retrieved the contact information for the PD chain of command for that precinct and offered her the names and contact information. Tina Fleming responded that the gates to the parks were for emergency situations only and that none of the parks will be locked and unlocked daily. She also said when the park re-opens, she would ask Police to increase patrols. Lois Allen commented that there was not staff to support locking and unlocking the parks daily.

Mark Patterson, who was planning to report on the new Volunteer Citizens On Patrol (Vcop) program during his staff report, presented the information in response to the concerns. He said that program is a new initiative with the police department for citizens who have completed the Police Department's Citizens Academy and additional Vcop training. There are currently 19 volunteers who are serving in rotating shifts to observe activities in the parks and report usage patterns and potential ordinance violations to the police department. He mentioned there were several who would patrol Jones Bridge Park when it re-opens. No volunteers can issue citations.

6. STEAM Teacher Immersion Program

Dr. Gale Hey and Randy Dellinger with the Gwinnett Environmental & Heritage Center Foundation, delivered a presentation on the STEAM Teacher Immersion Program. They said the GEHC Foundation takes applications for GCPS teachers to go on trips sponsored by GEHC Foundation. To qualify, the school where the teacher works must have had at least 150 students attend GEHC programs.

The STEAM program began in 2014, and Jason West, the GEHC Program Director, has planned trips to Texas (2014), Costa Rica (2015), London (2016), and Iceland (2017). Approximately 40 teachers have been able to take experiences from these trips and apply them to classroom lessons. Both Gale and Randy elaborated on the excitement they've experienced on these trips and what they have learned.

7. Intergovernmental Agreements

Tina Fleming explained that the city/county projects required review and vote from the RAB for Recreation Fund projects, then the Intergovernmental Agreements would be developed.

City of Snellville is receiving \$1 million for Town Center Trail improvements and Oak Road Neighborhood Park. {Action: Approved; Motion: Alexander; Second: Underwood. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Gates-Yes; Williams-Yes; Underwood-Yes}

City of Loganville is receiving \$141,879 for Destination park improvements. {Action: Approved; Motion: Gates; Second: Underwood. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Gates-Yes; Williams-Yes; Underwood-Yes}

City of Lilburn is receiving \$509,228 for Camp Creek Greenway improvements. {Action: Approved; Motion: Alexander; Second: Gates. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Gates-Yes; Williams-Yes; Underwood-Yes}

City of Dacula is receiving \$18,518 for general trail improvements. {Action: Approved; Motion: Underwood; Second: Williams. Vote: (6-0) Alexander-Yes; Allen-Yes; Bolton-Yes; Gates-Yes; Williams-Yes; Underwood-Yes}

8. Staff Updates

- Environmental and Heritage Center: Steve Cannon reported that the Abracadabra exhibit was closed. A new exhibit on native plants was starting. He said they are working on programs at McDaniel Farm Park.
- Parks and Recreation Operations: Mark Patterson reported that 350 lifeguards have been hired and trained. The GRPA Programmers Workshop at George Pierce Park was a success with many attendees from around the state. He also reported that Summer Camps were in full operation and going smoothly.
- Parks and Recreation Project Administration: Grant Guess reported that the George Pierce Park Gym addition would be complete in about 2 weeks; the Jones Bridge Park pavilion and restroom renovation, the Rock Springs Park-Phase II and McDaniel Farm Park-Phase II were all coming along and will complete soon. The Tribble Mill Park playground renovation is also nearly complete.

9. Comments from the Audience

10. Adjournment