

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee
5-4-15

6:00 pm
Council Chambers

Minutes & General Account

Parks & Recreation Committee Members Present: Lawrence Straughn, Chair; Lynn Tice, Vice-Chair; Charles Dowdy, Steve Owen, Robert Pickett

Staff Present: Chuck Smith, Carrie Spencer, John Crowe, Martha Wolfe

Visitors Present: Carol Brooks of the Jamestown News, Hugh Cates

1. Call to Order – Lawrence Straughn called the meeting to order.
2. Approval of minutes from the January 5, 2015 meeting – Charles Dowdy made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Lynn Tice made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
3. Update report on renovations to the Jamestown Park Golf Course – John Crowe, Parks Superintendent, presented the following updates on projects:
 - Improvements to the baseball field
 - Bunker renovations at #3
 - Repaired sink hole at #3
 - Moving ahead with Greens Renovation in 2016 to convert to Bermuda grass. We are looking at some designers for the greens. We are waiting to hear about the awarding of the PARTF grant.
 - Last winter was extremely cold and wet. The course experienced what is called “winter kill”. It really took a toll on the greens. At this point, we are waiting to see how well the grass will come back.
 - There is tree work to be done in the future. We hope to do this in-house. Lawrence Straughn volunteered to help with hauling wood off the site.
 - All courses are struggling with greens condition.

Lawrence Straughn thanked Crowe for being on top of the golf course situation and doing such a great job.

4. Update report on Town of Jamestown sidewalk project – Carrie Spencer, Town Planner, introduced herself to the committee. She said one of the items the Planning Department is responsible for is long range planning. The Parks & Recreation Master Plan is the long range planning document for the Parks & Recreation Committee. She stated one of the reasons to have an approved Master Plan is that it is a requirement for most grant submissions. Most grants require any plan to be updated every 10 years. She said based on that, we have scheduled an update to our Parks & Recreation Master Plan for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Lawrence Straughn is the Town's representative on the Guilford County Parks & Recreation Committee. He said they mentioned at the last County meeting smaller towns that apply for a PARTF grant, may do so through the County. By being a part of the County Master Plan you get a higher chance of being awarded the grant. Lawrence said Bernie Myers is the Guilford County Parks & Recreation Commission Chair. Staff consists of; Thomas Mashburn, Robert McNiece and Dwight Godwin.

Spencer reported that the Department of Transportation has regional planning offices. Jamestown is a member of the HPMPO. The HPMPO will be doing a regional bike plan. She is waiting to see what input Jamestown can have into the plan. The Parks & Recreation Committee members agreed that they would like to be involved if possible. Straughn volunteered to assist. Spencer will keep the committee informed.

Spencer said the two biggest projects right now are:

- E. Main Street sidewalk (aka Lydia Tunnel)
- E. Fork Rd. pedestrian bridge & sidewalk

Both of these projects are State & Federally funded. There is a June 30th, 2015 deadline.

Smith said the Town has secured easements on E. Main St. However, the sidewalk will cross over E. Main to the southern side and will still need to secure those easements. For the most part, the sidewalk is planned within the right-a-way, but temporary construction easements would allow area for grading, construction, equipment, etc.

The Town has asked for an extension of the June 30, 2015 deadline. NCDOT was late in getting the municipal agreement to us. Other towns/communities are in the same situation. Smith said we started the design in-house months ago prior to receiving the agreements back. We submitted our first plans/design to the perspective agencies. Duke Energy, Norfolk Southern RR, NCDOT, NCRR. Those first comments have been very slow coming back to us. Once received, Paul Blanchard is making revisions. Then will resubmit for final review. We are still waiting for comments from the first review.

Charles Dowdy asked when the sidewalks would be extended on Oakdale Rd. Also, discussed the Town's regulation of a developer being required to install sidewalk along their road frontage. Smith said the E. Main Street sidewalk that is being funded this year was first proposed 20 years ago through the Transportation Improvement Project. Smith said in 2017 there should be CMAQ funding available to extend existing sidewalk at Dillon's Automotive (Oakdale Rd.) to Chimney Ct. The next phase after that would be to extend to Jamestown Oaks.

5. Update report from Town Planner – Spencer asked everyone to review the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. You may download on the Town website or the Town Clerk will make you a paper copy upon request. In the future we will start making recommendations for revisions.

6. Recommendations for approval of new Parks & Recreation Committee member and alternate members – Wolfe presented as an active member, Bob Wilson and as alternates; Paul Craft & James Pendry.

Steve Owen made a motion to approve the members as presented. Robert Pickett made a second to the motion. The motion passed by unanimous vote. Wolfe said she will present these appointments at the May 19, 2015 Council meeting.

7. Suggestions from the Parks & Recreation Committee members for future community events and programs:

Robert Pickett suggested a public presentation updating about the greens project and the clubhouse renovation project. He suggested also once the clubhouse is completed, have an open house for the public.

Smith said at the May 19, 2015 Town Council meeting we are having a presentation on the clubhouse renovation project and receive comments from the public. Smith said the greens renovation project is moving forward. Now have RFQ in hand for hiring a designer.

Smith announced the Likewise Jazz Band is putting on 2 concretes this summer in July & August.

October 3rd, 2015 the Town will be holding an Oktoberfest event. We are partnering with JBA on this event. Plans are to have live music, beer garden, crafters. Similar to the former Jamestown Day event. This is a build up to the 100th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown which will take place in 2016. Things are still in the planning stages.

Smith announced the Community Craft & Yard Sale the end of May. Memorial Day Parade on May 24th, 2015.

Wolfe said a jazz group; The Storytellers Band, approached her about doing a community event. Still working on details.

Smith said UNC TV is doing a complete segment on Jamestown. "NC Now" show. They have been in town all day filming. It will take 6 weeks of editing. He will let everyone know when it will air.

Dowdy said "Our State" Magazine is going to do an article on the Veterans Monument.

Hugh Cates suggested a professional storyteller perform at Wrenn Miller Park.

9. Public Comment Period – No one registered to speak.

10. Other business – Wolfe said due to the July 4th, holiday, we will not have a July meeting.

Steve Owen suggested holding a 5K event. Have the event tied into some other events/charities.

Still under other business: Straughn mentioned a while back that the County Commissioners were going to dissolve the Parks & Recreation Board. They dissolved the Open Space Committee. The Commissioners voted that each Commissioner would have voting power to approve 2 appointees to represent their district. There are now 18 members on the Parks & Recreation Commission. Alan Pardue appointed Lawrence Straughn to serve another 3 year term. Lawrence said if there is any business regarding Jamestown that you would like taken to Guilford County, please give to him.

Charles Dowdy made a motion to adjourn. Robert Pickett made a second to the motion. The meeting ended at 7:03 pm.