

## WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

September 14, 2022

MEETING LOCATION: COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:06 PM by Mike McQuate

On a roll call, in attendance: Chris Bolich, Gerald Leka, Mike McQuate, and Katie Quincel, Nathaniel Stewart Absent: Mike Adkins and John Fetters. Staff members Director Shannon Sorrell, Katie Girts (admin) and Guest Rainy Smith, Senior Resource and Engagement Specialist from the Whitehall Senior Center were also present. All absences were reported ahead of the Commission Meeting date/time and therefore excused without motion.

Mike McQuate made amendment to the agenda that the item for review this evening will be the Shelter Rental Form and not the Field Rental Form as stated on the agenda.

No guests to poll for questions.

Motion by Chris Bolich to approve Minutes for Commission Meeting from July 2022, motion second by Leka. Vote passed 5-0

Discussion was presented to review bylaws about letting guests late to the meeting speak out of the meeting agenda time frame and adjust procedures accordingly. This will be looked into for future meetings.

Shannon Sorrell Introduces Rainy Smith the Senior Resource and Engagement Specialist for the Whitehall Senior Center and the newest full time hire for the Parks and Recreation Department. Rainy Smith presents the increasing participation statistics for the Senior Center for the past 6 months. Partnership programming with Senior Dining and Walk with a Doc are showing great increase in attendance and have become platforms for community outreach.

Jazz on the Green, September Social and Archery are included in the upcoming events that are rounding out the month of September.

The next commission meeting will be moved to October 12<sup>th</sup> at the YMCA to support the Latino Night held by the Whitehall High School. Parks and Recreation staff will act as a support and conduit for upcoming community events.

Director Sorrell introduced new website created by Parks and Recreation to channel information used by the department that does not have to be behind a firewall so the employees and the Commission have quick informational access to training videos, print outs, strategic plan and master planning, and census information.

Discussion was presented on the existing amphitheater versus an amphitheater in the new development and what roll each will serve as far as entertainment and use for community. It was agreed to revisit this in future meetings that tie in with the parks and recreation strategic and masterplan.

The City has collaborated with a mural group that October 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be getting 3 murals at John Bishop Park on the buildings front and back of the Senior Center, south facing side of the baseball shelter, 3 sides of the cellphone tower by the basketball courts. The artists will be painting the week prior and finish up on the 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5-7 there will be a family festival with food and live music.

Director Sorrell's I.T. update included the security issues that we had over the summer has pushed back many of the on going projects including updating and additional cameras. I.T. is working with PD on grants for cameras to route back to the PD. The wifi is slated to go live in Whitehall Community Park in spring of 2023 assuming all back ordered parts are in with John Bishop Park to follow.

Director Sorrell has reached out to resource officer Showalter to pair with a high school student to start attending Commission meeting as initiative of introducing a teen program, or outreach to high schoolers that may be interested in Parks and Recreation or local government.

Review of the Shelter Rental Agreement for Parks and Recreation for 2023. The only change will be a slight price increase due to the staff responsibility per shelter rental and comparable prices to the surrounding communities as well as increased credit card processing fees.

Chris Bolich, motion to approve the increase in prices for the rental agreements for 2023. Motion was passed 4-0.

Budget: We are evaluating cost per participant for future programs and budgeting. This year summer camp was subsidized \$25.00 per camper. This year's camp model was new and very successful serving 80+ kids per week for 4 full days a week. We are looking at cutting camp back to 3 weeks and increasing cost some due to staffing and work load that goes with camp. Rainy is looking at modifying programs and pricing at the senior center as well to ensure attendance. In reviewing the submitted budget for 2023, it reflects the allowed three and half percent increase for staff.

Last year due to the last minute addition of baseball/ softball we had to ask for a supplemental in part time staffing. The, 2023 part time staffing amount, submitted is enough to run at an adequate amount of staff to operate all positions efficiently. Discussion was presented: Bolich asked how the YMCA is looking in operations. Sorrell noted that she is in contact with the Director of YMCA and that they are currently running and bringing things up to speed as far as their staffing and operational hours. Parks and recreation is still working within the building to help add program elements and increase community outreach including nature programs and soccer. Turn over in staffing at the YMCA considers to be a concern.

Most operational budgeting amounts staying roughly the same amount as 2022. One of our bigger increases submitted was the significant increase in recreation miscellaneous this is to cover our goals to increase effective marketing and diversifying programming as well as continued increased participation

at the Senior Center and its programs. The rest of the budget reflects routine maintenance and up keep of parks and facilities so that in the next few years we are not cleaning up years of differed maintenance. Operationally, the contracts were cancelled on our generator and our truck because of the unavailability of products. We are still looking at alternative energy options for the department. The capitol budget submitted covers investment options for three to five year maintenance including asphalt, new splash pad features, concrete tee boxes for the Frisbee golf course and pricing out swings, art and shade features for Kelly Green Park to add dimension to the park.

Discussion was presented in replacing the football scoreboard after this season and the replacement scoreboard should be multi-sport score board. Discussion was presented about running the concession stands for future youth sports programs with the absence of volunteers what replacing with vendors model would look like.

The future meeting schedule for Commission in December will have an executive portion for evaluation. Meeting closed at 7:26pm