

**Iredell County Parks & Recreation Department
Recreation Advisory Board Meeting
February 2, 2023 - 7:00 PM
Iredell County Parks & Recreation Office**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Barbara Thorson, Ben Johnson, Bobby Deal, Debra Tatu, Jane Laney, Jeff Cheek, Joseph Cooke, Richard Coleman, Scott Bell, Seth Hathcock

COMMISSIONER Scottie Brown

STAFF PRESENT: Brandon Free, Stacy McGlamery

MINUTES

Jeff Cheek welcomed everyone and asked Barb Thorson to lead the prayer. Jeff called the meeting to order. He expressed his appreciation to be able to meet together in person and to Brandon for stepping up and overseeing things. He said Stacy has gone above and beyond and we have no idea the workload that she has taken on. He said we appreciate that.

There are two new members on the board. Scottie Brown has been appointed as the Commissioner ex officio. Commissioner Brown is unable to attend tonight. Each member took a moment to introduce themselves.

Our new members are:

Richard Coleman is a small business owner in Mooresville, Dynamic Landscape Services. He is also a coach for Power Cross Ministries. He would like to help out where he can.

Joseph Cooke is from Catawba County but moved to Mooresville about 20 years ago. He works for the town of Mooresville. His kids have gone to Camp Iredell and participated in youth soccer and baseball at Stumpy Creek. Joseph lives in the southern end of Iredell County, near the Three Corners project. This park would be about a mile from his house.

Jeff stated the election results. He will remain chair for 2023. Deb Tatu continue as the vice chair.

No requests to speak.



Iredell County Parks & Recreation
 Staff and Park Reports for Recreation Advisory Board

February 2, 2023

STAFF

Sports, Events & Facilities	Programming	Recreation Center	Parks Grounds	Admin
Brandon Free Marty Haneline	Austin Setzer <i>Vacant-Adult Prog.</i> <i>Vacant- Youth/OEC</i>	James Huffman Ronda Benfield Devon Sawyer	Micah Deane Scotty Harris Jordan Lail Ben Liles Steven Beavers	<i>Director - vacant</i> <i>Asst Dir- vacant</i> Stacy McGlamery

HIGHLIGHTS

Administration:

- January 24 marked the return of the county staff luncheon for the first time since 2020.
- January 23, Brandon sent out written assessments for the Adult Programming and Youth/OEC positions.
- Stacy and Brandon attended the Director’s Budget Kickoff Meeting on January 23.
- January 17, Barb Thorson was recognized at the Board of Commissioners meeting for 30 years of service on this board.
- January 12, Stacy and Ronda presented to the Greater Statesville Rotary Club about the AFP grant and inclusive playgrounds.
- January 10, Emily Blackwell and Niha Alahari from Stewart came to the admin office for a Jennings Park meeting with Micah, Brandon and Stacy.

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with Champions in Motion karate instructors about possibility of having classes at the recreation center on 1/12.
- Meeting with Reds Travel Baseball Team about field reservations on 1/18.
- Jennings Park Budget Update Meeting on 1/19.
- Meeting with Sue Falotico about preschool classes at the recreation center on 1/23.

Programming:

- January Newsletter distributed on 1/03
- Facebook profile visits up 123%, New Followers up 227% compared to December
- Marketing Webinar attended 1/26
- NC Chinese Lantern Festival Adult Day Trip 1/5, 12 participants, SEA Life, Civil Rights Museum, BMW Museum, Nascar Hall of Fame trips canceled due to low participation

Recreation Center:

- As of 1/23:
 - 99 membership and 30 community member Health Fair in a Bags reserved.
 - 16 people registered for the Community CPR training.
 - 10 people registered for the Balance Health Talk.
 - January Membership Special is a continuing success with 91 annual membership sold in 2023.
- Started promotion of the February Fitness Challenge.
- Opened the Group Exercise Instructor position.
- Scheduled quarterly blood pressure screenings with Lake Norman Regional.

Recreation Center: Membership & Attendance	December	YTD
Membership Category:		
*Regular Membership		648
County Employees		29
Corporate		13
Insurance		224
Partnered Membership		31
Pool Passes	<i>Closed</i>	
Current Membership accounts:		945
Total Individuals in all membership categories <i>(including children under the age of 14)</i>		1,516
Pool Drop Ins (Including groups, lessons & rentals)	<i>Closed</i>	
\$5 Drop in Registrants	526	3,926
Group Exercise Attendance	756	9,067
Total Check Ins (including pool)	4,223	51,258

**Annual Family County & Corporate memberships are included with Regular memberships due*

Park Properties:

Park Reservations for: December		
Park	Amount of Reservations	Total Participation
Bigleaf Slopes	0	147
East Iredell Lions Club Community Park	5	310
Jennings (Fields only, w/o Ropes Course)	0	0
Jennings (Other/Special Events/Shelter)	0	0
Outdoor Education Center at Jennings Park	0	0
Rec Center Field	1	40
Rec Center Gymnasium	114	756
Scotts Rosenwald Community Building	7	275
Scotts Rosenwald (fields only)	0	0
Stumpy Creek (fields and picnic shelters)	4	410
Stumpy Creek Boat Landing	0	3,190
Stumpy Creek Disc Golf Course	1	610
<i>Totals</i>	132	5,738

UPCOMING DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- FY24 budgets due to Finance on 2/16
- Interviews to be held for 2 vacant programming positions

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Chain Reactions Disc Golf Fall Series #4

Programming:

- Austin to attend Local Marketing Conference 2/20
- Marketing for February-March programs

Recreation Center:

- Trip to brand new exercise equipment warehouse/showcase from Advantage Fitness.
- Scheduling of health talks from the hospitals.
- Installation of water feature pump.

Park Properties:

- Will begin Pre-emergent treatment for Bermuda baseball fields as well as Rec Center & Scotts multi-purpose fields.

PAST DELIVERABLES

Administration:

- Working on FY24 Budget
- Review of applicants for vacant programming division positions completed

Sports, Events & Facilities:

- Meeting with Charlotte Disc Golf Association
- Meeting with 1on1basketball representative about basketball camp.

Programming:

- Attended Marketing webinar 1/26

Recreation Center:

- Over 90 annual memberships sold during January Membership Special
- 129 Health Fair In A Bag's handed out

Park Properties:

- Trimmed/cleaned up brush at Stumpy Creek

CALENDAR: EVENTS & PROGRAMS

DATE	Event	Division
Month of February	February Fitness Challenge	Rec Center
February 5th	Chain Reactions Disc Golf Fall Series #4	Sports/Facilities
February 9	Balance Health Talk	Rec Center
February 15th	Depot @ Gibson Mill Day Trip	Programming
February 16th	Community CPR	Rec Center
February 24th	Southern Home & Garden Show Day Trip	Programming
March 1st	Biltmore Estate Day Trip	Programming
March 9th	Natural Science Museum	Programming
March 25 th	Tarheel Antique Festival Day Trip	Programming
March 28	Blood Pressure Screenings from Lake Norman Regional	Rec Center

Recreation Advisory Board notebooks were offered to each member containing information about the parks and rec department.

Jeff asked if there were any highlights to the staff reports. Brandon pointed out that the staff is still working to serve the citizens of Iredell County despite our staffing shortages.

Jeff pointed out that there are two vacancies under programming and two vacancies under administration. Staff members are taking on responsibilities that are not in their job description. Jeff asked Brandon staff morale is. Brandon said staff morale is pretty good. The three division managers, James Huffman over the rec center, Micah Deane who is over parks grounds, Brandon and Stacy are keeping it together. They work to keep communication open. That allows the team to keep going.

Deb had asked if there was any potential to filling any of the spots. Interviews start next week for the vacant programmer positions. The director position opened for some time in January. It is open again currently. It closes in May. Deb asked where the jobs. Jobs are posted on the county's website., indeed, and the North Carolina Parks and Recreation page.

Staff mentioned that the current Parks and Recreation staff is working together as a wonderful team. Whoever comes on board as director is getting a great team. Iredell is also fortunate to have an active and caring recreation Advisory Board. There are counties that are trying to start a recreation advisory report. Members discussed how much money is not spent in our county for recreation and or libraries. Historically, when cuts need to be made to the county budget, these are the two places they come from. Members can communicate with the Commissioners and tell them how we feel. There are staffing issues everywhere.

Richard asked why someone internally from within the Parks and Rec department has not applied for the director position. If the team is keeping the department together, and has for the past year, why would someone internally not apply. The county is looking someone with director experience. Seth pulled up the job description from the county website. Minimum education requires a degree in a recreation field, 10 years of experience, with five years of experience in supervision, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. A Master's degree is preferred. Salary range is 86,000 to 134,000. Members discussed that the assistant director hasn't been posted, so that the new director would be able to give input into filling that position.

OLD BUSINESS

JENNINGS PARK UPDATES

Brandon has started attending these reading since Jen left in December. There have been several meetings. He attended the meeting on site with Stuart, Edifice, project manager, David Saleeby, Scotty Harris from our Parks Grounds team and two members of the Wetlands and Water team. This group worked to decide where the bridges would go to cross over the wetlands. They identified places to put three culverts, two footbridges and one vehicular bridge to be used by staff. These identified locations should not require a permit. There is also a plan to meet with disc golf professionals at the park soon. Brandon, Micah and Stacy met with the team to go through dugout designs, backstops, and shelter designs.

May 31st is the deadline when all are OK county items need to be off of the Jennings Park property as far as equipment and anything we want to keep or reuse. Jane asked if baseball would be able to play through May 31st. Brandon said. Yes, spring baseball will happen at Jennings Park. As soon as spring baseball is completed, the park will be turned over to Stewart and Edifice for construction. Jane asked about the plan for Babe Ruth and where they will play. Brandon said they will need to start playing at some of the school sites. Representatives from Babe Ruth and Iredell County Parks and Rec staff are working together to identify school sites. Iredell County will prepare the school

fields for Babe Ruth to play on them. Bobby has had some conversations with Wayne Harwell from Babe Ruth. Bobby said there are some school fields that need repairs made on their fields. Talk about. Not only that. There are some principles that do not want work done on their fields. Richard also mentioned using the fields available at Power Cross.

Joe asked there would be hesitancy from the principles to allow these associations to use their facilities. Bobby explained there have been instances of damage or unclean facilities at the schools after recreational use. Then principals do not want people to use their facilities inside or outside. Iredell Parks and Recreation will be setting up and maintaining the fields for Babe Ruth recreational play at school facilities. Other concerns mentioned about using school facilities were related to people bringing their pets and not cleaning up after them and the amount of trash left after games and practices.

THREE CORNERS/CRTPO UPDATES

Brandon let the group know that we did not get the CRTPO grant.

STUMPY PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The Brody Thompson Memorial Playground is open at Stumpy Creek Park. The groundbreaking and opening celebration was on December 31, 2022, which is Brody's birthday. The park staff said that children are always on the playground and enjoyment. Brody Thompson passed away at the age of two in a drowning accident. The family and community wanted to create a space where his memory could be kept alive. They chose Stumpy Creek Park because Brody spent a lot of time there.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW REC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

New members introduced themselves at the beginning of the meeting. Brandon thanked everyone for the time they volunteer on our board.

STAFF UPDATES

Interviews begin next week for the two open programmer positions. We were 15 applicants for each position. Four candidates made it into the most qualified. Written assessments have been received. The next phase is basically face to face interviews. Summer camp staff will be opening up soon as well. Several staff members from last year planned to return.

BUDGET

Division managers have been meeting with Stacy to get budget put together. Budget is due to Stacy by February 9. Final budget is due to finance by February 16. Barb asked how much of an increase we were seeing in our budget preparation. Stacy replied that many of the items related to the OEC or camp would be the same as FY23. Departments will have the option to present their request to Commissioners themselves.

Richard asked if Parks and Rec had an ongoing wish list of items. Stacy said there is an informal wish list. Micah Deane, Parks Grounds Manager, meets with Facility Services to go over any large projects. This year, there are several ADA projects that were approved. For instance, the walking trail at Stumpy Creek Park is going to be paved. This address is one of the ADA deficiencies at that park.

Jeff recommended that everyone take time to check out the Three Corners project near Abersham Park. This would be a great opportunity to save some property from development and place it in a conservatory status. Please talk to anyone that you can to try to move this project along and encourage. This purchase.

STUMPY CREEK FIELD LIGHTS

Currently at Stumpy Creek Park, we have one soccer field out of three with lights and one baseball field out of three with lights. We have gotten approval for all unlit fields to get lights. The county's purchasing department did let Musco know that they have the go ahead to present a bid. Musco hopes to return the bid by the middle of next week. cow hopes to return the bid by the middle of next week.

Richard asked about converting all the county lighting over to LED. There was talk about exploring grant opportunities to help cover some of the cost of converting to LED's. The new lights will be LED.

There was some discussion about turf versus grass on Jennings Park ballfields.

Stacy asked Richard if there were things that he had seen in our parks that he thought needed to be addressed. He said when his kids played ball at Stumpy Creek for a couple of years, they had a hard time finding drink machines that had drinks in them and the concession stands were not open. The new Moor Park in Morrisville will have places for food trucks. We have had an issue in the past with drink machines at Stumpy being empty. Several staff members have had conversations with our Pepsi vendor. Bobby said if we can't get someone to work the concession stands on the weekends, the other option would be to allow the space near the concession stand to be rented by a food truck and bring in revenue. The challenge with running concession stands goes back to workforce and finding people to work. Jennings Park is covered for food trucks for the spring. Brandon is working on coverage with food truck Stumpy Creek.

Next meeting location

Park and Recreation admin house, 123 Grannis Lane, Statesville.

Deb Tatu made a motion to dismiss, seconded by Jane Laney. Meeting adjourned at 8:20.

The next Recreation Advisory meeting will be on Thursday, March 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Parks and Recreation Conference Room in the Administrative Offices (located at 123 Grannis Lane).

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy McGlamery

Recreation Advisory Board Secretary