



**Town of Holly Springs
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, March 14, 2024
7:00 pm
Town Hall – Council Chambers**

Call to Order Time: 7:00 PM

Committee Members Present: Jodi Carey, Susan Smith, Mel Walker, Val Atkinson, Jason Guetgemann, & Gwendolyn Morehouse (TRAC)

Members Absent: Craig Kessler, Scott Warner, Len Lloyd. Sarah Larson will arrive late due to participation in the Town of Holly Springs Citizens Academy.

Staff Present: LeeAnn Plumer, Adam Huffman, Matt Beard, Kristin Denton, Julie Tew & Justin Burcham

Council Members: CM Forrest

Motion to Approve Minutes of February 9th: Mel

Second: Val

Vote: Unanimous

Discussion/Action Items:

PEV/e-Bike policy considerations - presented by Matt

With changing technology there's a balance of keeping residents safe and happy.

Currently policy - We do not allow "motorized" on greenways

Issues:

- No major issues reported surrounding the use of PEV's or E-Bikes
- Growing interest in PEV's for the "last mile" transit and recreation
- Increased market share in higher speed E-Bikes

Terminology: E-Bikes

Class 1 electric bikes - assistance only when the ride is pedaling; cuts off when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 mph

Class 2 electric bicycle - motor may be used exclusively to propel the bicycle; cuts off when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 mph.

Class 3 electric bicycle - Assistance only when the rider is pedaling; cuts off when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 mph

Terminology: Personal Electric Vehicles

One-wheels, E-scooters, Hoverboards, Electric skateboards, Monowheels/Electric Unicycles, Hovershoes/Gyroshoes, Segways.

Big Picture:

- E-bikes open countless new recreational opportunities to those not physically able to ride a conventional bicycle very far.
- Speed & control are the primary safety concerns when sharing space with pedestrians.
- PEV's & E-bikes can provide alternatives to automotive transportation.

Policies:

- Raleigh - E-bikes (1750 watts or less) that travel less than 20 mph (class 1 & 2) are allowed on the greenways, but PEV's such as Electric Scooters are not allowed on Greenways. Speed limit on Greenways is 10 mph.
- Cary - E-bikes with pedal-assist only are allowed on Greenways but are limited to 15 mph on greenways. This means Cary is 1 only.
- Charlotte - class 1 & 2 allowed on Greenways.

Public Safety:

- Ability of E-Bikes/PEV's to reach max speeds very quickly is a concern from HSPD in areas of blind corners, down hills, bridges, etc.
- Use of speed limits is common, but enforcement is difficult
- Education and signage is important
- Not many reported incidents on out greenway or others such as Cary

The topic was tabled for more discussion in the fall.

Senior Programming - presented by LeeAnn & Justin

Participation Data: A comparison of population to participation was given, as well as demographics

Programming Data Trends:

Due to Covid, there was a decrease in FY19, with the exception of childcare & camps. Athletics continues to make strong gains due to the growing population. Programming for Senior Adults, Nature & Outdoors, Fitness and Special Interest are also increasing. Cultural Arts saw a decrease in FY23.

Senior Adult Programming for Clubs and Social Activities has an average weekly participation of 140. Health and Fitness is 171. Senior Trips and Social Events is 602.

Looking Forward Action Steps:

New Multi-Generational Recreation Center will be built at Eagles Landing Park with indoor & outdoor courts, innovative spaces for expanded/changing interests, and

more equitable access; HR Efforts for Staffing Recruitment & Retention; Shared Team Approach to Programming & Resources; Marketing and Outreach Improvements - awareness and feedback.

Discussion/Feedback

Senior programming is an area that will be expanded. It was suggested to have a focus group of seniors who can provide feedback. This topic will also be further discussed in the fall.

Hot Topics

PRAC Round Robin

Val reminded the group that the programs for the seniors are important, but it's the relationships that are important.

Reports:

Council Update - CM Forrest complimented LeeAnn and the team, and also thanked PRAC for our efforts and recommendations. (SEE BELOW)

TRAC Report by Gwendolynn - There are some new members of the committee. They have some middle school students.

Police Community Advisory Group - Val will attend the quarterly meeting next month.

Tree Advisory Committee Update – Sarah & Susan

Tree pruning event in February had a good turnout. The next meeting is in April.

Project Updates - Adam

- Jones Park Greenway has been completed. The ribbon cutting was today @ Cost of \$300,000
- Horseshoe Pits at Womble Park have been completed @ cost of \$5,500.
- NC State contributed toward the Tree/Streambed Restoration. Cost of \$36,000. A fence will be installed.
- Womble Park Water Fountain and Shade - Shade delivery in March @ cost of \$31,000; Fountain design TBD. Completion expected mid spring.
- Oak Hall to Ting Greenway - RFQ ready next week. Cost TBD. Completion TBD.
- Sugg Farm Community Gardens - Status - In review. Cost
- Hunt Center Lobby Renovation - Working with the lowest. Cost \$250,000. Starting in August, after summer camp. Completion late fall '24.
- Bass Lake Landscaping - The status is on-going. There will be cleanup where it is overgrown.
- Middle Creek Greenway is under construction @ cost of \$6M. Completion Fall '24.

Director Report by LeeAnn

- ❖ Community Satisfaction Survey - P&R areas
- ❖ Kicked off CAPRA Accreditation (2 yr. process)
- ❖ Resignation of Billy Helton, Production Tech
- ❖ Hosting the HS Citizen's Academy on March 21st at Ting Park "The Parks and Recreation Experience"
- ❖ Working on first projects with Bond Funding - 2024/2025. Theater seat replacement; Dugout replacement at Womble Park

Old Business

Eagles Landing Park Naming - Guidelines had been put forth by the Town about the importance of naming parks and facilities. There has been disappointment by some residents with the naming, and not allowing community involvement. The community voted to pass the bond, and some felt they should have had input on the name via a survey. There may be a sponsorship opportunity for the recreation center.

The Eagles Landing Recreation Center Layout has been proposed. The town is mindful of the budget for the space to be built and evaluating potential changes with the new rec center. Renderings for the All wheels Park were shared, there are some tweaks. Moving forward with Public Art. They are working through the final numbers with the artist.

Announcements / Information Share

Dates TBD for Tours in Downtown Cary Park in April & Pleasant Park, Apex in May.
Reminder - PRAC New Committee Member Recruitment April 1st deadline

Motion to Adjourn at 9:26 by Jason

Second: Val

Vote: Unanimous