



Town of Holly Springs
Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 13, 2025
7:00 pm
Town Hall – Council Chambers

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Jason Guetgemann, Susan Smith, Sarah Larson, Daniel Fenton, Jodi Carey, Val Atkinson, Craig Kessler & Alise Caldwell (TRAC Ex-Officio)

Members Absent: Melinda Walker

Staff Present: LeeAnn Plumer, Kristen Denton, Julie Tew

Council Members: Danielle Hewetson

Call to Order Time: 7:00pm

Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes for November: Jason

Second: Sarah

Vote: Approved unanimous

Public Comment Period No public comment

Discussion/Action Items

Eagles Landing Park (ELP) Update

- On Jan 25th Town Council approved the Guaranteed maximum Price (GMP) for the 2 phases of the park
 - Phase one-site work 20 million GMP (May 1st scheduled groundbreaking)
- The first sale of the park bond was completed in late January. It was for \$50 million to begin site work and utility installation.
- Second GMP to cover vertical development for the park, including outdoor basketball court, splash pad, etc. will be presented to Town Council for approval in April or May 2025.
- BLUM (CMAR) is focusing to secure items early to stay within budget and lock in prices given the uncertainty in the construction market.
- Several park features have been added to an ADD ALT list to meet the estimated project budget. If prices come in lower, items will be added back into the project.

FY26 Budget Request

- The P&R Department base budget is \$7 million in expenditures and a \$2.4 million revenue projection.
- 34% Cost Recovery- Ting, Athletics and Hunt Center; 3 highest cost recovery areas
- Budget Requests (not approved yet)
 - #1 Add 2 new Parks Maintenance positions

- #2 Replace AV equipment at the Cultural Center (currently 8-12 yrs old)
- #3 Bass Lake office conversion
- #4 Hunt Center Program expansion (services & AIR program)
- Other requests-Hunt Center part time salaries, CAPRA funding, Recycling bins (picnic shelters and athletic fields), Guaranteed Performers (cover rising costs)

The focus of the budget is to maintain existing facilities and programs, grow to meet changing demographics and keep up with rising costs due to inflation.

- CIP Requests include: (Not approved, but requested)
 - Bond projects: ELP, Womble baseball dugouts, Womble Basketball courts, Theater seating, picnic pavilion/restrooms Sugg Farm.
 - Ting Park Turf Replacement
 - CC Dance Room Update
 - Bass Lake Conference Center renovations
 - Land Acquisition funds
 - Tennis Court resurfacing

Hot Topics

PRAC Round Robin

- Rec Pass App-How's it going, lots of positive feedback, 1658 downloads as of 3/13/25
- Val spoke on his position on the Police Community Group and wanting to provide more input to the community in an advisory capacity
- Daniel participated in the Race Against the Sun (RATS) event. Thought it was a well run event and had a great time, spoke highly of the Womble Park playground (the blue park). It is his grandkids favorite park in town.
- Jason was asking about the Middle Creek Greenway crossing at Sunset Lake Road. LeeAnn shared that it will be Apex's responsibility to install and island and crosswalk once the complete their side of the greenway. The Committee felt it was important to have a blinking crosswalk included.
- Alise-has questions about the traffic that will come with ELP, esp during peak school hours; road improvements will help with this, and Parks and Rec will not plan any big events/classes during those peak times, a stop light will be added at one entrance as well.
- Susan-Cayman Ave sidewalk was closed and not much communication was shared with the public. She would like to see more of an effort to let everyone know when things like this come up (this is a heavily used sidewalk to get to Jones Park from the neighborhood).
- Sarah -Creek Week clean up sign up is available, Middle Creek Greenway ribbon Cutting March 17th at 11am, Mims Trail it's nice to have a natural trail in downtown. Would like to see an addition of butterfly highway at Sugg Farm Garden.
- Jodi shared that the Apens here in Holly Springs will be hosting our seniors over the summer to continue their senior programs while summer camps will be utilizing the centers. Hope Church will also be utilized.

Reports

Council Update – CW Hewetson

Shared additional information from the TC retreat regarding the future plans for Mims & Ting Parks

- Mims-downtown Festival Street (high impact -lower expense) and Farmers Market area. Cultural Center, outdoor space-Mims Park central location. Want to Keep Mims Park natural. There will be a public input session for the Festival Street as the project kicks off later this year.
- Ting- a new development request is to come to Council soon for parcels across Main St.
- Council learned that after additional structural studies that the Annex building is not able to be repaired safely. Many of the historic features have already been removed during past renovations. Council recommended not to expend funds for repair and that should be removed in the future.

TRAC Report – Alise

Community Outreach this month, the committee volunteered at the Food Cupboard and garden.

Next month for Earth Day they will be going around to parks to help clean up by pickup up trash.

The member list is growing, and they owe a lot of it to Allison and her outreach to the schools and being very involved.

Police Community Advisory Group –

No meeting since the last report

Tree Advisory Committee Update – Mel

Arbor Day Tree Planting - March 22nd at the Cultural Center at 9:30am

Program/Event Updates – Kristen

- Summer Camp-Registration opened March 3rd, a lot of camps filled with in minutes
- AIR Programs will be advertised in the upcoming HURRAHS. The team is developing and intake form to help determine how we are serving the families.
- Summer HURRAHS will come out around April 1st for May-Aug programs
- Senior Spotlight newsletter has been very well received, and has a lot of great information

Upcoming Events

- Chalk of the Town – this Saturday, 1:30pm-4:30pm
- Community Yard Sale – March 29, 8am-noon
- Spring Fling – April 5, 10am-noon
- International Food Festival – May 2, 5:30-8:30pm
 - IFF kick of the new Sip and Stroll

EverClear May 10th at Ting stadium. To date over 1500 tickets have been sold (2600 is max)

New and updated Sponsorship Guide is available on the Website

Director Report – LeeAnn

- Citizens Academy-Parks and Recreation will present to the group next Thursday at Ting
- Updated everyone on the new location of our Admin Team at Town Hall
- Attended NC Parks and Rec Directors Conference in February. Participated on a panel to discuss how to successfully implement Department wide master plans.

Old Business

Announcements / Information Share

- Middle Creek Greenway Ribbon Cutting – March 17, 11am

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Susan

Second: Sarah

Vote: Unanimous