

## WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

March 10, 2021

### VIRTUAL MEETING

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:09 PM by Katie Quincel.

On a roll call, in attendance: Chris Bolich, John Fetters, Geral Leka, Mike McQuate, Katie Quincel, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Absent: Mike Adkins and Nathaniel Stewart.

Bolich moved, seconded by Quincel, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 5 – 0.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Quincel moved, seconded by Bolich, to approve the meeting minutes for February 17, 2021 and the motion carried 5 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Invoices, Trust Fund, budget, and income for February 2021.

#### Director's Report:

Sorrell shared the recent comprehensive update that was provided to City Council.

Staff has been running bi-monthly public programs at the YMCA, bi-monthly youth programs for the TANF after-school program, providing 100-200 "Rec2Go Bags" to need-based organizations every 6 weeks since the fall, and is hosting "Tuesdays with Cory," a bi-monthly virtual program.

The department has partnered with Lowes again this year. Lowes has committed to providing many program supplies in April and May and will be attending the farmers market with more giveaways.

The COSI Science Festival will be held virtually again this year. The department will host an online program and will facilitate the distribution of 500 "science kits" for school-aged children.

Shelter rentals will continue to be suspended as long as the current Governor's Orders are in place. Picnic tables will be strategically placed in limited quantities to discourage large gatherings. Trashcans are also limited and strategically placed because – contrary to popular belief – more trashcans result in more ground litter. Portajohns are forthcoming for the parks and restroom buildings will only be open for staffed events and programs due to vandalism.

The department is in the process of hiring park rangers, and seasonal splashpad and maintenance staff. Rangers shifts will be fully staffed on evenings and weekends by May. Rangers will start opening and closing the gates at Whitehall Community Park.

There are 5 softball tournaments on the books. The tournament organizer will still be responsible for following and enforcing current safety guidelines.

Construction on the Dog Park will begin in late spring/early summer (after the contracted company completes the street projects). The park will not open until 2022, allowing strong turf to grow.

The Splashpad will continue to operate on the same reservation system as it did in 2020.

The Senior Center remains closed; it needs to be staffed in order to reopen as to meet current stringent reporting requirements. The department has posted a job listing for an Active Living Coordinator to reopen the center and run limited programs. AARP is using the facility on Mondays to run their free tax prep program (the general public is still not permitted inside). A new generator for the facility will happen later in the year.

Community events are planned for May through August and the department is continuing to plan the details of those events. Planning for the Market on the Green is going well and is currently recruiting vendors and setting up the market to accept SNAP benefits.

There will be only one park party this year, at Lamby Lane Park. This year it will be more like a community picnic, with resources going toward meals and music (versus bounce houses and activities).

Summer sports camps are moving forward in partnership with the High School Athletic Department. This year the camps may need to be broken into small groups.

Sorrell urged the group to tune into the 2021 State of the City Address on March 18. The pre-recorded address focuses on the growth and progress of the City over the last 10 years.

The group discussed potentially holding the next Commission meeting outdoors at Whitehall Community Park (weather permitting) to see the creek improvements.

OPRA's annual conference was officially canceled. No word yet as to how the awards presentation will be modified.

Andy Duncan passed his turf maintenance certifications.

There being no further business, Bolich moved, seconded by Quincel, and the meeting adjourned at 6:54pm.

Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission March 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

To the best of my knowledge, these minutes are true and correct.

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Chairman John Feters

Prepared by:

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Shannon Werner