

WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

July 8, 2020

The online/virtual meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 6:01 PM by Chairman John Fetters.

On a roll call, in attendance: Chris Bolich, Tiffanie Charles, Fetters, Mike McQuate, Katie Quincel, Mark Schieber, Director Shannon Sorrell, and Shannon Werner. Absent: Mike Adkins.

Bolich Moved, seconded by Charles, to excuse the absent member and the motion carried 6 – 0.

There were no guests to poll.

Charles moved, seconded by Bolich, to approve the meeting minutes for June 10, 2020 and the motion carried 4 – 0 (with Quincel and Schieber abstaining).

The Commission reviewed the following items: Invoices, Trust Fund, budget, and income for June 2020.

Director's Report:

Due to the ongoing public health orders and rising Covid-19 cases, all summer concerts and movies have been canceled.

Cory Ollie returned to work on Tuesday and will be operating the Splashpad when it re-opens on Friday. In the fall he will probably be helping with operations/maintenance until programming is able to pick up again.

Staff will be applying for a small OPRA grant to do "programs in a box".

The new flag poles have been installed. The water line replacement at WCP has been pushed to August when the YMCA camp has ended. The dead trees on Etna Rd. have been pulled. It is unlikely that all will be replaced, as some were not in good growing locations. In the fall, staff will replant with a new species. Schieber suggested a white fringe tree in lieu of dogwood.

A video about the Splashpad reopening and its new policies and procedures can be viewed on the City website and Facebook page.

The Splashpad opens on Friday. Residents will make reservations online for 1-1/2 hour time blocks. Four households may be accommodated per time block, and each household will be assigned a table and a restroom. The facilities will be sanitized between blocks.

Bolich moved, seconded by Charles, to waive non-resident fees at the Splashpad and the motion carried 6 – 0.

Andy Duncan is overseeing the mechanical operations of the Splashpad. Sorrell has increasingly been pushing ownership of projects to maintenance staff in an effort to prepare a succession plan. Sorrell said the new park and exercise equipment will not be installed until things are more certain. Plexiglass has been installed at the concession stand as WYAA starts an abbreviated season. Trashcans will continue to stay out of the parks at this time as the parks are staying clean and there is not enough staff to ensure they are emptied in a timely manner.

In the course of the COCF-13 creek access project, mussels were found during an environmental review. The mussels will have to be relocated, but it is expected that the project will stay on budget even with this additional cost.

Three (likely online) classes are being planned with FSWCD. The paths and lot in Norton Field Park and the paths in Lamby Lane Park will be resealed this summer.

As a matter of new business, Shieber spoke to Liz Zingale at the YMCA who reported reasonably good attendance at the YMCA day camp. He suggested there could be a coordination between City employees and the YMCA if schools do not resume 5 days per week in the fall. Schieber also said that Cory could possibly coordinate archery or similar activities with YMCA camp. He suggested getting some water on the new trees at WCP and said the meadow is looking great.

There being no further business, Charles moved, seconded by Schieber, and the meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM.

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

Chairman John Feters

Prepared by:

Shannon Werner