

## **WHITEHALL PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

**August 8, 2018**

The meeting of the Whitehall Parks and Recreation Commission was called to order at 5:58 PM by Mike Adkins. On a roll call, the following members were in attendance: Adkins, Chris Bolich, Katie Quincel, Zach Wright, Director Shannon Sorrell (via video call), and Shannon Werner. Absent: Tiffanie Charles, John Fетters, and Mark Schieber.

Quincel moved, seconded by Bolich, to excuse the absent members and the motion carried 4 – 0.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those assembled.

There were no guests to poll for questions or comments.

Bolich moved, seconded by Quincel, to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2018 meeting and the motion carried 4 – 0.

The Commission reviewed the following items: Employees' wages/ personal service for 6/10/18 through 7/21/18; bills and refunds for June and July 2018; and the Trust Fund, budget, and income for June and July 2018.

Director's Report:

The Commission discussed the Summer Sports Camps and COSI Science Camp. While resident sign-ups were low, the participation of the TANF/ YMCA Campers greatly increased attendance and drove the program's success. Staff agreed that this program is a good foundation to build upon for future summers and the partnership with WCS was also successful.

Next, the Commission discussed possible projects/ priorities for 2019 that should be addressed in the 2019 (and future) budget requests. In looking specifically at Whitehall Community Park, the members identified canoe/ kayak access, path connectivity, and expanding the disc golf course as priorities.

Upon request, Sorrell is researching what it would take to build a dog park in Whitehall as a 2019 capital project. Sorrell invited those present to share their ideas and thoughts. Adkins asked what kind of liability a dog park would present for the City. Sorrell said that she would look into it.

Quincel said she has heard from other residents that a skate park would be a welcome amenity. Sorrell agreed that it was something to look into and that we could start by asking other communities what operational challenges they face with their own skate parks.

Sorrell and the Commission discussed the 3-on-3 basketball tournament in July and how happy everyone was with the outcome. It was agreed that the department would host the event again next year.

Sorrell discussed attendance of the Music in the Park series, and the Movie Night the department hosted in July, as it was the department's best attended event of the year. She asked for thoughts about running 8 concerts in June and July of 2019, then 3 movie nights in August leading up to the start of school.

Quincel suggested moving the concert start time to 6:30, or invest in lighting for the end of the concert, as the bulk of the crowd is coming after the 6:00 PM start time now. Sorrell agreed that an investment in lighting options would be wise, especially if the department intends to start holding programs after dark. She also posited the idea of pushing the concert start time back, and adding an hour of family activities ahead of the concert.

Adkins agreed that would be nice, especially if the department could increase event awareness, and feels that the flyers and direct mailers were very effective this summer.

The Commission agreed to continue the neighborhood park parties, in a similar fashion, in 2019.

Quincel would like to see improved communication between the department and the schools to ensure access to the school facilities for Yoga. Sorrell added that the department has starting talking to Officer Hollyfield about teaching a fourth Yoga class, possibly in the morning.

Bolich said he would like to see significant capital improvements to the amphitheater, especially in light of the department's expanding programming. Sorrell agreed that this should be a priority, and perhaps updating the 2014 Parks Master Plan, too.

Sorrell informed that Commission that the \$100 deposit system for shelter rental implemented this year has been very successful, and the department has not had cause to withhold a single deposit. However, problems have increased at the shelter at Lamby Lane Park. Huge messes are left at this shelter, from birthday parties and family picnics, on a regular basis. Also people attempt to guard the shelter, or tape it off, to secure its use later in the day. Sorrell asked if the Commission would like to see this shelter continue as a first come, first served facility to ensure accessibility; or to change it to a rentable/reservable amenity.

Adkins agreed that it would be best served as a rental facility, so long as the fee was nominal. Sorrell said the department would update the rental policies and add a \$25 (plus deposit) rental fee for the shelter at Lamby Lane Park.

There being no further business, Bolich moved, seconded by Quincel, and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

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

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Chairperson

Prepared by:

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Shannon Werner