

Sanford Parks Advisory Committee
Sanford City Hall - West End Conference Room
225 E. Weatherspoon Street, Sanford NC
January 23, 2023 4:00pm

Meeting Minutes

The following people were present

Bob Bridwell
Alyson Cochrane
Carson Wilson
Joni Martin
John Dean
Mark Lyczkowski

Non-Voting Attendees

Nick Fortune
Charles Taylor

Call to order

Meeting was called to order by Alyson Cochrane.

Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Mark Lyczkowski to approve the minutes for the last meeting, which was in November, and it was seconded by Joni Martin. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Administrators Report

Nick Fortune distributed copies of the Sanford Parks annual report to the committee. This is the first year an annual report has been created and it is by the City's fiscal year. The report will be made available online as well. Any suggestions or comments for what the committee would like to see different are accepted and will be considered for next year's report.

Nick gave an update on the weather station that was installed at Kiwanis Splash Pad. The weather station now offers an app for park goers with a QR code to scan to see the weather in real time. This will be listed on the parks website and hopefully people will take advantage of this new tool. Charles Taylor asked what the radius is set to for alerts to which Nick replied 8 miles. This is the standard recommended by the National Weather Service. Another update included that there has been some inquiry for the rental of Depot Park, but so far nothing has transpired.

Nick stated that Sanford Parks is going to host an Egg Hunt Event this year in partnership with Lee County. This event is still in the planning stages and more details should be available in February. Nick suggested that this would be a good event for the community and improve the relationship with Lee County. Location has yet to be determined.

Old Business

An update on the previously discussed Rails to Trails program was given to the committee by Nick. He stated that the Planning Department is now involved with this program. Surrounding property owners are trying to obtain the land from Department of Transportation. Program is on hold awaiting results. Brief discussion amongst the committee regarding the program and property lines.

Alyson asked Nick to speak about "Year of the Trail". He stated that Sanford Parks is working with Lee County and Downtown Sanford to align and plan some events in relation to the monthly theme established by the State. Nick stated that planning is still ongoing and hopefully the schedule of events will be finalized soon, including having the Mayor make a proclamation. Charles Taylor stated it may be a good idea to let the community know that this is from the State level, but we are working on local events that correlate. Joni Martin said it would be good to have a list of the local trails included too.

John Dean talked briefly about the Back to Dirt Conservancy Non-Profit Organization whose goal is to increase new trails for mountain biking, hiking, and water way across Lee County. They are working with private land owners and partnering with the Triangle Land Conservancy to create trails across the county. They are actively working on Endor Furnace right now. John stated he thinks there is opportunity to connect efforts on multiple projects, including the partnering with this nonprofit for the PARTF grant.

Nick stated that he was still waiting on a few committee members to submit paperwork for the member pay process. A form needs to be submitted whether or not payment is to be accepted.

New Business

Parks Master Plan update included a questionnaire that was presented in a meeting with McAdams. Nick asked the committee for feedback on the questions. Nick asked one of the questions: "what would you like to achieve through the project"? Charles Taylor stated that he thought of inclusivity, to which Bob Bridwell agreed. John Dean said to tie inclusivity with revitalization. Discussion amongst the committee regarding inclusivity, signage, and connectivity. Suggestions for a new park include activities other than playground equipment: shuffle boards, pickleball courts, and horse trails.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be a joint meeting with Lee County Parks at the Bob Hales Center February 27th at 5:30pm.

Comments

None.


Adjournment

Motion was made to adjourn meeting by Joni Martin, seconded by John Dean.

Respectfully Submitted,

Attest: 

Nick Fortune, Clerk



Chad Spivey, Chairman