

Sanford Parks Advisory Committee  
Depot Park  
106 Charlotte Ave, Sanford NC  
January 24, 2022 4:00pm  
**Meeting Minutes**

**The following people were present**

Chad Spivey  
John Dean  
Al Roethlisberger  
Joni Martin  
Alyson Cochrane  
Anna Stinson  
Bob Bridwell

**Non-Voting Attendees**

Keli Laudate  
Charles Taylor  
Nick Fortune

**Call to order**

Chad Spivey called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by John, and second by Joni to approve meeting minutes from December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, unanimously approved by the committee.

**Administrators Report**

Nick Fortune gave an update on splash pad repairs, the Depot fountain electrical updates, seasonal leaf removal, and working on a plan to take down Christmas decorations. Nick stated there was some personnel changes in the parks department after another employee left earlier this month. New employee starting later this month. Al Roethlisberger asked Nick how covid has delayed or impacted any future park plans. Nick stated that with support from other public works departments, nothing has been put off schedule so far and day to day operations are being completed. There are some things on the greenway that will need to be addressed before the splash pad opens this summer, but they haven't over committed for the off season.

**Old Business**

Nick started by saying the subcommittee task groups need to move forward by discussing what everyone likes/dislikes about the groups. Kelli Laudate stated that 2022 planning has begun for Downtown Sanford and with that some ideas like Joni Martins comments about picnicking in the park that could be something the communication outreach committee could start. This would be a series of picnics in the park with themes such as, a day called "picnic for earth day". This group or staff can encourage people to come to the park and get lunch from a food truck and/or local restaurants and sit in the park for lunch.

Kelli also suggested the idea would be a book walk around parks with help from Partnership for Children. This idea would help with cross promotion and getting people in the community involved. The need for funding for signs and books could come from a grant from the Elks club grant for literacy.

Charles Taylor questioned what the committee was trying to communicate to the people as a collective body? It is very important to get some type of structure on the sub committees. Charles said he loved the ideas, and the brainstorming but structure is needed going forward.

Alyson Cochrane stated that these activities would bring families to the parks because it gives them something to do if they don't want to kick a ball around and allow them to be creative together. This would give the parks more purpose than just a playground or splashpad.

John Dean asked the committee as a commission what is our role? Is it projects or policies? There is a need to establish what inventory we already have, find out who uses the parks, what are the opportunities that lie ahead and as a commission find out where we want to go in the future. Al stated that there was a parks program road map, or "master plan", created several years ago and maybe it needs to be revisited as it could be outdated now.

Chad asked for clarification if what was wanted is an inventory of parks within the city and to go over the policy and rules for each park? Charles stated that that would be the purpose of the policy committee and everyone needs to decide which one they want to serve on to get things going.

Subcommittees were then decided as follows: Outreach/Communication: Chad, Kelli, Alyson, Joni, Anna. Safety/Resources: Jon, Bob, Al, Chad, Alyson, Anna, Joni.

#### **New Business**

Presentation of McIver/Sunset Park delayed till next meeting due to technical issues with tv.

Jon stated he wanted to ask the committee about the opportunity to purchase easement for an abandoned A&W railroad bed that is going to be decommissioned soon. He stated that this was a great opportunity and there is a sense of urgency to become a city project, if wanted. Bob Bridwell said that it was possible the city could purchase the easement, and agreed it was a great opportunity. He suggested to get with city attorney to see about legal purchase.

#### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will be February 21<sup>st</sup>.


#### **Comments**

None.

#### **Adjournment**

Al made motion to adjourn at 4:57 pm, seconded by Chad. Unanimously approved by the committee.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Todd Childers, Chairman

Attest:



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Nick Fortune, Clerk