

Sanford Parks Advisory Committee

Sanford City Hall – West End Conference Room

225 E. Weatherspoon Street, Sanford, NC

May 17, 2021 – 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The following people were present

Todd Childers	Peter West
Chad Spivey	Susan Patterson
Charles Taylor	Alyson Cochran
Joni Martin	Al Roethlisberger
Bob Bridwell	Nick Fortune
Anna Stinson	Vic Czar
Kelli Laudate	Fedd Walker

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Vic Czar at 3:00 p.m.

Regular Agenda

Committee Organization – Electing Officers

Susan Patterson called for nominations for role of Chairman. Susan stated the role of the Chairman is to sign documents, run meetings. Todd Childers was elected Chairman.

Susan Patterson called for nominations for role of Vice Chairman. Susan stated the role of the Vice Chairman is a fill-in role in the absence of the Chairman. Joni Martin and Chad Spivey were nominated. First vote came in as a tie, second vote came in 4-3 in favor of Chad Spivey being elected Vice Chairman.

Role of Clerk is provided by the City of Sanford; Nick Fortune was elected Clerk.

Al Roethlisberger made the motion to close the nominations. Seconded by Joni Martin.

Committee Meeting Location and Time

Motion was made by Al Roethlisberger to have the meetings scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the West End Conference Room at Sanford City Hall. Motion was second by Todd Childers and approved unanimously by the Committee.

Administrator's Report

Vic Czar started the report going over each park within the City of Sanford. Pictures of the parks and a map were given at the meeting. Susan Patterson gave a little history of parks development: In the 70's the City got out of parks and was they were taken over by Lee County. Late 90's City of Sanford started pocket parks through the planning department. They started as green space and then added playgrounds. City of Sanford is in parks, but not in recreation at this time. City of Sanford parks are maintained by City Employees. Vic Czar added to the history – Bond referendum in 2013 was passed for Greenway, street scape, parks, sidewalks. The City has done survey's asking the public what they are wanting from the parks. Pickleball, skateboard parks, and dog parks are something that were mentioned from the residents.

Vic Czar stated we have a master plan. Master Plan stated the City needed 3 additional parks the size of Kiwanis Park. The Master Plan will be emailed after the meeting to each member of the Committee. Vic stated we need a plan on where we are going. We need a plan for our planning department since they are asking for a "fee in lieu of" from developers to add green space during development. Vic stated we need to create a Mission Statement as a Committee. Charles Taylor stated the number one factor for selecting the vendor for Kiwanis Park was their inclusivity factors in their design. Charles stated inclusivity is a very important factor that the City Council wants to consider as the Parks grow. Vic stated we need to create more in-depth park rules. We have some basic park rules but need to expand them. For example, the Depot Park has a demand for the rental of the park. We do not currently have a rental policy in place unless it is a City event. The building at Depot Park is in a fundraising stage, leaning toward a long-term plan of renovating of the building. Vic stated that our goal is to provide the Committee with the information and data that the Committee needs to make the decisions at hand.

Susan Patterson asked the Committee members to look at the Commission Framework Document they were given at the meeting. Susan highlighted the second sentence in the introduction "The members represent and communicate the needs and interests of park visitors and neighbors to park management and city leaders." Susan stated the members are here to advise Nick Fortune the information that needs to go to City Council. Susan also highlighted under the Commission Roles and Responsibilities section "A Parks Commission has no final authority or responsibility for policy making or administrative control. The Commission acts only in an advisory manner to parks management and city leadership." Susan highlighted the Commission Functions of why the members are on the Committee. The Committee is very important to advise the staff and the council.

Other Business

Vic opened the floor to members to contribute what they think is important to the Committee. Al Roethlisberger asked about the future revenue of the City in relation to the parks department. Vic mentioned the importance of having the Master Plan developed well enough to state the direction of

the parks department, so it is understandable to where development funds are directly going. Alyson Cochrane asked about trying to get information to residents about the parks that are available to them, and the role of the advisory board with that communication. Alyson asked what the parameters are as an advisory board to being able to do these types of things. Vic stated it is very open to interpretation on being able to do those types of things. Charles Taylor added that the City Council is very supportive of the parks and what they offer to the residents.

Next Steps

Vic Czar stated he recommends some of the next steps could be the rules for the Depot Park rentals. Short term goals could be a mission statement. Long term goals could be development fees for parks – what do they go toward. The members mentioned possibly looking at other Municipalities to compare successes – Town of Cary for downtown, and Southern Pines for their downtown stage.

Next Meeting

Bob Bridwell asked for time to review the Master Plan and not meet the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in May. Joni Martin recommended to have a special meeting before the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to discuss the Depot Park rules on rentals. Alyson Cochrane also agreed to have a special meeting to discuss rules and different meeting times. Todd Childers called a special called meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30, in the Sanford City Hall - West End Conference Room.

Adjournment

Todd Childers made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joni Martin, the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Todd Childers, Chairman

Attest:   
Nick Fortune, Clerk