

January 17, 2019

Attendance: Mark Ferguson, Brandon Thompson, Travis Gatling, Daniel Brown, Nic Palmer, Alan Swank

City Staff: Terri Moore, Mayor Steve Patterson

Guests: Rob Delach, Tracy Kitts

### **Call to Order at 5:35 pm**

**Approval of Minutes:** Alan made a motion to accept the December minutes with Brandon seconding. The motion was approved.

### **Guest Presentation:**

Tracy Kitts was introduced to the group. Tracy attended the meeting to get updates on the skateboard park. He has recently moved back to the area. He was instrumental in the skateboard park planning and other related activities when the park was first built. He'd like to get involved as needed in the future.

### **Old Business**

National Girls and Women in Sports Day: To be held on February 2 from 9am – 12 pm. Terri provide the planning status for the event. She acknowledge that all panelist and the keynote speaker were confirmed. She indicated that there have been a number of in-kind sponsors and that they were still looking for sponsors. She acknowledged partnerships with OU, Pepsi, Dirty Girl and others.

Park/Facility Signage (Tobacco Free): Terri provide information about the partnership with the Athens City/County Health Department to get the new signs for parks and facilities. She indicated that the signs had been delivered, and that the maintenance team will start installing the signs soon, stating that all signs will be installed this spring.

Scholarship Program: Terri stated that the objective of the program is to subsidize participants that can't afford to pay. The development has been delayed, but she would like to develop the program over the next few months to have in place before summer programs start. Terri will send a model of the program to the board members to review.

Sandlot Agreement: Terri started the conversation by recapping the steps she took last year in an attempt to get a MOU agreement signed by Sandlot. She provide the board members with a copy of the 2017 MOU. Terri requested the board provide comment and suggestions to resolve this ongoing issue. Alan commented on the necessity of having a workable agreement, and recommended that the city law director review the agreement and make a determination – especially for the purpose of liability. Mayor Patterson provided a brief history of the relationship, and stated his concern for the impact on park operations and management to include liability, taxation, and use of city resources. Nic commented on the amount of time that has gone by since Sandlot last invested in the park, and suggested capturing all city operational and maintenance cost for past services, then starting negotiation with the cost outlined. He stated "consistency is key in dealing with groups", and suggested % or incremental increase in fee.

Daniel commented that \$500 dollars was not that much money to charge for facility use. Mark suggested clearing defining “who’s doing what”.

The idea was presented for the city to run the youth league program on these fields. Terri stated that the department could run the youth league (recreational) but the best leagues are collaborative with the city and league working together. It was agreed that one of the goals should be to work in a collaborative manner with Sandlot. Alan stated that Sandlot had evolved from a recreational league with tournaments held at the end of each season. Brandon agreed, then suggested not imposing fees this year but working with the league to establish a fee schedule for next season. Mark suggest that the department clarify in policy and procedure the operation and management of all open spaces and athletic fields for all user groups; including fees for field use and governing rules. There were other comments on parking, vending and concessions, and sponsorship and signs/banners – these need to be clearly outlined in new agreement and policy. It was agreed that the city would not impose fees this year, and continue to look at what other cities are doing to manage operation and maintenance of their programs. Alan would like APR to capture all associated investment to the development of the West State Street Park to determine the financial value. Terri agreed try to determine all investment by Sandlot and the city cost, and to review agreements and fee structures in an attempt to consider best practices for youth leagues. The Mayor stated that he would meet with the law director. Terri indicated she would contact Todd Zorn (Sandlot President) to have a preliminary conversation, to let him know that that department and the advisory board are working toward terms (policy and procedures that will benefit both the city and the league).

### **New Business**

Skate Park: Terri reported on the upcoming Skate Camp over spring break and the projects currently related to the skate park; evaluate repairs and make recommendations for work to be done to include the capsule. Tracy reported that there is a crack that needs to be fixed.

### **Staff Report**

APR Department Report: Terri reported on the status of all active programs, indicating that the numbers were up in youth basketball.

Project Update: Terri identified the projects that were closed; arts west. She gave a status report on the community center projects; security system and multipurpose room dividers, and reported on the plan to install electric vehicle charging station(s) at the pool this spring.

### **Other Items**

The Mayor reported on the OU property (16 acres) that the city will lease behind the community center along the river. This project will be a joint effort with the city, ODNR, OU and HAPCAP - working together to assess clean- up of the area and identify a plan to remove invasive plants.

## **Adjourn**

Alan made a motion to adjourn with Nic seconding. The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

\*Clarification: A conversation was had by the members of the board, noting that while there are no inaccuracies for content in the January meeting minutes, who is attributed for saying which things reflected in the minutes was not clearly defined.\*